

CHARITY NUMBER: 1127327

THE METHODIST CHURCH, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE DISTRICT
THE NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE (WEST) CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended

31st August 2024

THE METHODIST CHURCH, NEWCASTLE DISTRICT
THE NEWCASTLE (WEST) CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

The Circuit Stewards, who are the treasurers of the Circuit fund:

Mr M Brown
Mr N Bates
Mr A Anderson
Mr D Forrester

The Managing Trustees

Revd. J Sewell (Chair)
Revd. K Albans
Mr A Anderson
Mrs C Armstrong
Mr B Ashford
Mr M Athey
Mr P Ballard
Revd. C Barrick
Mrs A Bates
Mr N Bates
Mrs E Bell
Mrs A Boyson
Revd P Brooks
Revd R Brooks
Mr M Brown
Mrs B Carss
Mrs W Chinery
Mrs G Clennell
Mrs A Cooper
Revd. L Coulthard
Mr A Cowan
Mr G Dent
Mr J S Austen Dodds
Mrs C M Ford
Mr D Forrester
Mrs L Forrester
Miss S Gimson
Mr A Golphin
Mrs R Gray
Mrs P B Groves
Mrs A Harbottle
Mr A Harle
Mr R Harle

THE METHODIST CHURCH, NEWCASTLE DISTRICT
THE NEWCASTLE (WEST) CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

Managing Trustees continued...

Mrs Y Hart
Mrs B Lanyon
Mrs L Lightfoot
Revd M Lloyd
Mr P Michell
Mrs V Myers
Deacon M Patchett
Miss S Renner
Mrs J Scott
Prof. R Stephenson
Mrs K Tapson
Mr M Van Niekerk
Mrs P Varley
Mr R Varley
Mrs R Vickers
Mrs E E Warren
Mr P Willey
Mrs J Wilson
Miss R Wood
Revd T Woolley
Revd G Wynne

THE METHODIST CHURCH, NEWCASTLE DISTRICT

THE NEWCASTLE (WEST) CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

Principal Address

Ponteland Methodist Church
Bell Villas
Main Street
Ponteland
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE20 9BE

Independent Examiner

Mr J Lyall
c/o Willey & Co
379 Stamfordham Road
Westerhope
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE5 2LH

Bankers

Lloyds TSB Bank plc
3 Wesley Court
Blaydon
Tyne & Wear
NE21 5BY

Solicitors

Sintons LLP, Solicitors
The Cube
Barrack Road
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 6OB

Custodian Trustees

The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
Central buildings
Oldham Street
Manchester
M1 1JQ

THE METHODIST CHURCH, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE DISTRICT
THE NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE (WEST) CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31st August 2024

Financial statements

The Trustees submit their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st August 2024. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in 2005 in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the Charity.

Preamble

The Methodist Church is said to have been created after John Wesley's conversion on 24th May 1738, it is a Free Church. The calling of The Methodist Church is;
Worship, to increase awareness of God's Presence and celebrate God's love.
Learning and caring, to help people to grow and learn as Christians.
Service, to be a good neighbour to people in need and challenge injustice.
Evangelism, to make more followers of Jesus Christ.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity's treasurers of the Circuit Fund are the lay Circuit Stewards. Of the Managing Trustees listed above all are lay people excepting the four Ministerial staff all of whom are employed by The Methodist Church. Circuit Meetings are held three times per annum and include representatives of all the Societies in the Circuit. The Superintendent Minister (who supervises the work of the other Ministers in the Circuit) reports to this meeting as do the Circuit Stewards.

The governing body of the Circuit is the annual conference of The Methodist Church. The Methodist Church Act 1976 gives the authority under which The Methodist Church acts. The constitution practice and discipline of The Methodist Church together with The Deed of Union (Act of 1929 adopted 1932) govern the activities of the Circuit.

The Methodist Church was previously excepted from the need to register as a charity by the combined effects of Section 46(4) (A) of The Charities Act 1993 and Paragraph 4(2) (C) of the Charities (exception from registration) Regulations 1996 as amended by Statutory Instrument 2005 No2655. However changes to this exemption mean that on 30th December 2008 the charity registered at the Charity Commission with the reference number 1127327.

The Trustees who have served during the year and since the year-end are set out on pages 1 and 2. The treasurers (Circuit Stewards) are appointed annually by the Circuit Meeting and the Managing Trustees are appointed either by (a) the Societies of which they are members (b) the Preachers' Meeting (c) by being ex-officio (Ministers in good standing or holding a District Office). In practice, up to four Circuit Stewards are appointed who serve for a minimum of 3 years and a maximum of 6. The principal address of the Circuit's advisors are given on page 4. The Trustees are responsible for the detailed examination of the Financial Statements and for recommending their adoption by the Circuit Meeting. The Circuit is one of 12 of the Newcastle District and has 9 Churches, of which 1 is an LEP within shared building. They are contactable via the principal address of the Circuit.

Funds are transferred to the Circuit on a quarterly basis to meet the commitments to the District and the upkeep of the Circuit.

THE METHODIST CHURCH, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE DISTRICT

THE NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE (WEST) CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31st August 2024 (continued)

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

Charity Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its' financial activities for that period together with its assets and liabilities at the end of the period, and adequately distinguish any material special trust or other restricted fund of the Charity. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether the policies adopted are in accordance with the appropriate SORP on Accounting and Reporting by Charities and the Accounting Regulations and with applicable Accounting Standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

and

- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

Manses

In accordance with the recommendations made under Charities SORP 2015 (FRS102) the value of the Circuit manses have been shown at their original purchase cost of £394,479. These properties are currently insured for £1,740,067.

Former Bond Manse

The cost of this property amounted to £726. It is insured for £430,670. This property is regarded as income generators for the Circuit to help with the operation and aims of the charity.

Objectives and activities

The Circuit is constituted to advance the effective deployment of the resources of ministry, which include people, property and finance, as they relate to the Methodist churches in the Circuit, the District and Connexion, to Churches of other denominations and to participation in the communities served by the Circuit and in ecumenical work in the area. The Constitution and Enumeration of Circuits is set out year by year in the Stations appointed by the Conference.

Activities during the year and achievements

The Circuit has continued to fulfil its basic role of providing ministers for the Societies (Local Churches) which make up the Circuit and to support the churches in various ways including providing financial help for their work. We provide ministers with manses and see that, through The Methodist Church of Great Britain, they are paid their stipends and allowances.

There were three Circuit Meetings held, the Circuit Mission Statement is at the centre of the Circuit's mission

'OUR CIRCUIT SEEKS TO PROMOTE THE AWARENESS OF GOD'S LOVE FOR ALL PEOPLE, TO FOSTER AND SUSTAIN THE REALISATION OF THE GOSPEL MESSAGE AND ENCOURAGE ECUMENICAL COMMUNITY LINKS'.

The Circuit Stewards are the Lay Leaders of the Circuit, they are Managing Trustees as are all members of the Circuit Meeting and as stewards they are responsible for managing the day to day operation; of all Circuit affairs in consultation with the Superintendent Minister.

The Circuit continues to be blessed with the continuing ministry of our Supernumeraries.

THE METHODIST CHURCH, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE DISTRICT
THE NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE (WEST) CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31st August 2024 (continued)

To support Our Mission Statement we:

We have been funding an additional Minister from capital reserves but this has now finished as of 31st August 2024.

THE METHODIST CHURCH, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE DISTRICT
THE NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE (WEST) CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31st August 2024 (continued)

Internal financial controls

The Trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that there is in place an appropriate system of controls, financial and otherwise, to provide reasonable confidence and assurance that:

- the Circuit's administration is operating effectively and efficiently
- the assets of the Circuit are properly safeguarded against unauthorised loss or damages
- proper records are maintained, and information produced for management control, fiscal and statutory reasons
- the Circuit complies with the relevant laws and guidelines.

Investment policy

Surplus funds of the circuit are held in a Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church (CFB) deposit account. The Model Trust (previously the 'Circuit Advance Fund') is administered by the Trustees for Methodist Church purposes.

The policies and procedures adapted by the CFB and TMCP are agreed by Conference.

Reserves policy

The definition of "Reserves" is:

"Income which becomes available to the Charity and is to be expended at the Trustees' discretion in furtherance of the Charity's objects, but which is not yet spent, committed or designated."

This definition therefore excludes restricted funds, designated funds, and funds already invested in fixed assets.

The reserves policy of the Circuit agreed by the Trustees is to hold the equivalent of the relevant annual expenditure, plus an estimate of any known fluctuations. These reserves are held in the Central Finance Board deposit account. The unrestricted funds are currently above this limit.

Policy on the Induction and Training of Trustees

There are no specific policies in place for training trustees, although all are nominated by their own churches and have considerable practical experience of church activities.

THE METHODIST CHURCH, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE DISTRICT
THE NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE (WEST) CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31st August 2024 (continued)

Safeguarding, working with vulnerable people

Children: the Circuit has a full policy on work with children and young people, in accordance with the policies of the Methodist church which requires that DAB checks be made on those people who work with children. These checks have been made.

Vulnerable people: the Circuit has reviewed the policy and subsequent to the year under report in these accounts adopted a policy, as approved by the Methodist Connexional body, on the 16th February, 2012. In the policy the

Rev. J Sewell was appointed as Complaints Officer and Safeguarding Officer.

The DAB checks are held in a locked safe under the personal control of the Superintendent Minister.

Risk Management

The Circuit's risk management policy is designed to identify and analyse operational and other risk and ensure that it is controlled, monitored and steps taken to mitigate the risks. The Trustees have examined the main risks and are satisfied

that proper controls are in place for monitoring and mitigating these risks. The main risks the Circuit faces can be categorised as follows

1. Strategic and Repetitious Risks

2. Financial Risks

3. Compliance Risks

4. Operational Risks.

The Trustees will monitor these risks and report regularly to the co-ordinating group.

The Circuit Stewards regularly review the insurances held to ensure that adequate cover is in place.

Managing Trustees

The Managing Trustees who have served during the year were as set out on pages two and three of this report. The Officers, (Circuit Stewards), being the Treasurers of the funds who served during the year were as follows:

Mr N Bates

Mr M Brown

Mr A Anderson

Mr D Forrester

Independent Examiner

A resolution to appoint Mr J Lyall of Willey & Co as Independent Examiner for the ensuing year will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

The Trustees who were in office on the date of approval of these financial statements have confirmed, as far as they are aware, that there is no relevant audit information of which the Independent Examiner is unaware. Each of the Trustees have confirmed that they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as Trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to the Independent Examiner.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 18th March 2025

Rev. T Woolley

Mrs H L Sargeant

T Woolley

H Sargeant

CIRCUIT
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
ACCOUNTS

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

NEWCASTLE WEST	Circuit
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2024

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE	District	Circuit no	02
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1127327

If not a registered charity His Majesty's Revenue and Customs Gift Aid number

(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Ministers:

REV J. SEWELL
REV T. WOOLLEY
REV L. COULTHAARD
DEACON M. PATCHETT

Circuit Stewards:

MR M BROWN
MR N. BATES
MR A ANDERSON
MR D. FORRESTER

Treasurer:

MR R.J. VARLEY

SECTION A		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
a1	RECEIPTS	Note	£	£	£	£
a2	Assessment/Share		219100		219100	209395
a3	Capital receipts					78673
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		6643	7268	13911	11170
a5	Grants					8060
a6	Other receipts		5483		5483	10500
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS		231226	7268	238494 (a8)	317798

SECTION B		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
b1	PAYMENTS	Note	£	£	£	£
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs		177539		177539	173467
b3	Manse Costs		30718		30718	16466
b4	Administration etc		4722	549	5271	5740
b5	District Assessment		59344	7127	66471	55994
b6	Grants & donations		1110		1110	3000
b7						
b8	Other payments		50493		50493	19123
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS		323926	7676	331602 (b9)	273790

SECTION C		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a7-b9)	(408)		(93108)	44008
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	164698	192544		357242 (c6)	316397
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	71998	192136	264134	360405
c4	Transfers and adjustments	28000	(22482)		5518 (c7)	13163
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	99998	169654	269652 (c8)	357242 (c6)

SECTION D		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (these amounts should not be included in total receipts/payments above)						
d1	Balance brought forward from last year					
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations					
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations					
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)					

NEWCASTLE WEST

Circuit

SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATION REPORTING TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING

SECTION E

Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Circuit Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross receipts and payments totals of the Circuit. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold of £250,000, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the Circuit and connected Circuit Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1						
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds					
e9	Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)					
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT					
	238494	331602	(93108)	5517	357242	269651
	(a8)	(b9)		(c7)	(c6)	(c8)
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

Continue on a separate
sheet if necessary and
bring the totals forward

SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2024

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1		
f2	39279	29958
f3		
f4	125419	70039
f5	192545	169654
f6		
f7		
f8		
f9		
	(c6)	(c8)
	(e11)	(e12)
	357243	269651
	(x)	(y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2023	At 31 August 2024
g1	51899	55098
g2	394981	394479
g3		
g4		
g5		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

f5 Include only CFB Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trust accounts this is inserted in line f5)

Name of Circuit NEWCASTLE WEST No 20/2

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2024 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit meeting.

Signature of treasurer R. J. Varley Date 18-3-2025
Name and address of treasurer RICHARD JOHN VARLEY
7 REGENCY WAY, PONTELAND Post Code NE20 9AU

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were/will be* presented to the Circuit meeting held on 18/3/25

Signature of the Chair of the meeting Rev. T. Woolley
Name of the Chair of the meeting REV T. WOOLLEY Date 18/3/25

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

NEWCASTLE WEST Circuit

Charity Number 1127327

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the NEWCASTLE WEST Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages ... to As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Circuit's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Circuit NEWCASTLE WEST No 02


Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

I have ~~have not~~ obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner 

Name of independent examiner JEFFREY LYALL

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FCCA

Name of firm (where appropriate) Willey & Co

Address 379 STAMFORDHAM ROAD, WESTERHOPE

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE Post Code NES 2LH

Date 20-3-2025

* delete or circle as appropriate

NEWCASTLE WEST CIRCUIT

Sheet 1

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 August 2024

	Notes	2023-24	2022-23
GENERAL FUNDS			
RECEIPTS			
Assessments	1	219099.75	209394.75
Property Lettings	2	4000.00	10300.00
Interest		6643.13	5371.32
Circuit Services/Donations		483.10	200.00
Transfer from Circuit Advanced Fund		28000.00	2000.00
Lemington Church Project Donation		1000.00	8060.00
Total received		259225.98	235326.07
PAYMENTS			
Ministerial & Staff Costs	3	172553.49	167502.92
Manse Expenses	4	30717.96	16466.38
District Assessment		59344.00	51870.00
Admin Expenses	5	9707.34	11326.01
Quinquennial Inspections		4300.00	3250.00
Bond Church Insurance		573.63	527.02
Bond Church Hall		0.00	3612.00
Donations		1110.00	0.00
Lemington Church Project		45620.00	0.00
Total paid		323926.42	254554.33
Net Receipts		-64700.44	-19228.26
General Fund at start of the year		164697.90	183926.16
Ministers fund transfer			
General Funds in hand on 31 August		99997.46	164697.90

Sheet 2

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 August 2024

2023-24

2022-23

RESTRICTED FUNDS

Circuit Advance Fund		
Receipts - Interest	7267.93	5798.71
Bond Church	0.00	78673.60
	7267.93	84472.31
Payments		
Lemington Project	10000.00	
Milbourne Church		3000.00
District Levy	7127.24	4123.56
Administration Fee	548.75	377.54
General Fund	18000.00	2000.00
CPF Levy	0.00	11734.72
Total	35675.99	21235.82
Net Payments	-28408.06	63236.49
Balance at start of the year	192544.84	132471.16
Net Payments/receipts	28408.06	63236.49
Sub Total	164136.78	195707.65
Gains/Losses on Investments	5517.19	-3162.81
Balance at end of year	169653.97	192544.84

RECEIPTS

General Fund	259225.98	235326.07
Restricted Fund	7267.93	84472.31
Total Receipts	266493.91	319798.38

PAYMENTS

General Fund	323926.42	254554.33
Restricted Fund	35675.99	21235.82
Total Payments	359602.41	275790.15

Net Payments/Receipts	-93108.50	44008.23
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Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31 August

General Fund	99997.46	164697.90
Circuit Advance Fund	169653.97	192544.84
Total	269651.43	357242.74

Summary of how the Funds are held

Current Account	29958.32	39278.80
CFB Deposit Account	70039.14	125419.10
Circuit Advance Fund	169653.97	192544.84
Total	269651.43	357242.74

Endowment Funds

Balance at start of Year	51899.26	51358.37
Loss/Profit on invstmnts	3198.70	540.89
Balance at end of the year	55,097.96	51,899.26

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 August 2024

	2023-24	2022-23
Note 1 - Assessments		
Blucher	9482.50	8640.00
Denton Burn	26057.50	27495.00
Heddon	14100.00	13277.50
Lemington	10439.50	9829.00
Milbourne	9857.50	9280.00
Ponteland	78062.50	73495.00
Scots Gap	8443.75	8360.00
Stamfordham	2814.00	2676.00
Westerhope	59842.50	56342.25
Total	219099.75	209394.75
Note 2 - Property Lettings		
Bond Manse	4000.00	4000.00
Bond Hall	0.00	6300.00
Total	4000.00	10300.00
Note 3 - Ministerial Stipends		
Ministers	156315.59	152049.09
Supernummerary Fees	1680.00	1950.00
Administrator	13917.83	12886.50
Apprenticeship Levy	640.07	617.33
Total	172553.49	167502.92
Note 4 - Manse Expenses		
Aquila Drive	611.24	1611.88
Cheviot View	9601.20	577.10
Pilton Road	4880.94	1035.91
Rowan Drive	1276.00	390.00
Insurance	2238.00	1889.81
Council Tax	9890.66	8875.49
Water Rate	2219.92	2086.19
Total	30717.96	16466.38
Note 5 - Admin Expenses		
Local Preachers	422.50	0.00
Other	540.00	86.00
Printing & Postage	784.57	633.23
Stationery	602.86	1282.66
Telephone	2286.63	1967.78
Training	85.50	844.50
Travel	4985.28	5964.29
Stationing	0.00	0.00
Removal Expenses	0.00	547.55
Sabatical	0.00	0.00
Total	9707.34	11326.01

CHARITY NUMBER: 1127327

THE METHODIST CHURCH, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE DISTRICT
THE NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE (WEST) CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended

31st August 2024

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THE NEWCASTLE (WEST) CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

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THE METHODIST CHURCH, NEWCASTLE DISTRICT

THE NEWCASTLE (WEST) CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

Principal Address

Ponteland Methodist Church
Bell Villas
Main Street
Ponteland
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE20 9BE

Independent Examiner

Mr J Lyall
c/o Willey & Co
379 Stamfordham Road
Westerhope
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE5 2LH

Bankers

Lloyds TSB Bank plc
3 Wesley Court
Blaydon
Tyne & Wear
NE21 5BY

Solicitors

Sintons LLP, Solicitors
The Cube
Barrack Road
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 6OB

Custodian Trustees

The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
Central buildings
Oldham Street
Manchester
M1 1JQ

THE METHODIST CHURCH, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE DISTRICT
THE NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE (WEST) CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31st August 2024

Financial statements

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Preamble

The Methodist Church is said to have been created after John Wesley's conversion on 24th May 1738, it is a Free Church. The calling of The Methodist Church is;
Worship, to increase awareness of God's Presence and celebrate God's love.
Learning and caring, to help people to grow and learn as Christians.
Service, to be a good neighbour to people in need and challenge injustice.
Evangelism, to make more followers of Jesus Christ.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity's treasurers of the Circuit Fund are the lay Circuit Stewards. Of the Managing Trustees listed above all are lay people excepting the four Ministerial staff all of whom are employed by The Methodist Church. Circuit Meetings are held three times per annum and include representatives of all the Societies in the Circuit. The Superintendent Minister (who supervises the work of the other Ministers in the Circuit) reports to this meeting as do the Circuit Stewards.

The governing body of the Circuit is the annual conference of The Methodist Church. The Methodist Church Act 1976 gives the authority under which The Methodist Church acts. The constitution practice and discipline of The Methodist Church together with The Deed of Union (Act of 1929 adopted 1932) govern the activities of the Circuit.

The Methodist Church was previously excepted from the need to register as a charity by the combined effects of Section 46(4) (A) of The Charities Act 1993 and Paragraph 4(2) (C) of the Charities (exception from registration) Regulations 1996 as amended by Statutory Instrument 2005 No2655. However changes to this exemption mean that on 30th December 2008 the charity registered at the Charity Commission with the reference number 1127327.

The Trustees who have served during the year and since the year-end are set out on pages 1 and 2. The treasurers (Circuit Stewards) are appointed annually by the Circuit Meeting and the Managing Trustees are appointed either by (a) the Societies of which they are members (b) the Preachers' Meeting (c) by being ex-officio (Ministers in good standing or holding a District Office). In practice, up to four Circuit Stewards are appointed who serve for a minimum of 3 years and a maximum of 6. The principal address of the Circuit's advisors are given on page 4.

The Trustees are responsible for the detailed examination of the Financial Statements and for recommending their adoption by the Circuit Meeting.

The Circuit is one of 12 of the Newcastle District and has 9 Churches, of which 1 is an LEP within shared building. They are contactable via the principal address of the Circuit.

Funds are transferred to the Circuit on a quarterly basis to meet the commitments to the District and the upkeep of the Circuit.

THE METHODIST CHURCH, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE DISTRICT
THE NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE (WEST) CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31st August 2024 (continued)

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

Charity Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its' financial activities for that period together with its assets and liabilities at the end of the period, and adequately distinguish any material special trust or other restricted fund of the Charity. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether the policies adopted are in accordance with the appropriate SORP on Accounting and Reporting by Charities and the Accounting Regulations and with applicable Accounting Standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

and

- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

Manses

In accordance with the recommendations made under Charities SORP 2015 (FRS102) the value of the Circuit manses have been shown at their original purchase cost of £394,479. These properties are currently insured for £1,740,067.

Former Bond Manse

The cost of this property amounted to £726. It is insured for £430,670. This property is regarded as income generators for the Circuit to help with the operation and aims of the charity.

Objectives and activities

The Circuit is constituted to advance the effective deployment of the resources of ministry, which include people, property and finance, as they relate to the Methodist churches in the Circuit, the District and Connexion, to Churches of other denominations and to participation in the communities served by the Circuit and in ecumenical work in the area. The Constitution and Enumeration of Circuits is set out year by year in the Stations appointed by the Conference.

Activities during the year and achievements

The Circuit has continued to fulfil its basic role of providing ministers for the Societies (Local Churches) which make up the Circuit and to support the churches in various ways including providing financial help for their work. We provide ministers with manses and see that, through The Methodist Church of Great Britain, they are paid their stipends and allowances.

There were three Circuit Meetings held, the Circuit Mission Statement is at the centre of the Circuit's mission

'OUR CIRCUIT SEEKS TO PROMOTE THE AWARENESS OF GOD'S LOVE FOR ALL PEOPLE, TO FOSTER AND SUSTAIN THE REALISATION OF THE GOSPEL MESSAGE AND ENCOURAGE ECUMENICAL COMMUNITY LINKS'.

The Circuit Stewards are the Lay Leaders of the Circuit, they are Managing Trustees as are all members of the Circuit Meeting and as stewards they are responsible for managing the day to day operation; of all Circuit affairs in consultation with the Superintendent Minister.

The Circuit continues to be blessed with the continuing ministry of our Supernumeraries.

THE METHODIST CHURCH, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE DISTRICT
THE NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE (WEST) CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31st August 2024 (continued)

To support Our Mission Statement we:

We have been funding an additional Minister from capital reserves but this has now finished as of 31st August 2024.

THE METHODIST CHURCH, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE DISTRICT
THE NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE (WEST) CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31st August 2024 (continued)

Internal financial controls

The Trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that there is in place an appropriate system of controls, financial and otherwise, to provide reasonable confidence and assurance that:

- the Circuit's administration is operating effectively and efficiently
- the assets of the Circuit are properly safeguarded against unauthorised loss or damages
- proper records are maintained, and information produced for management control, fiscal and statutory reasons
- the Circuit complies with the relevant laws and guidelines.

Investment policy

Surplus funds of the circuit are held in a Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church (CFB) deposit account. The Model Trust (previously the 'Circuit Advance Fund') is administered by the Trustees for Methodist Church purposes.

The policies and procedures adapted by the CFB and TMCP are agreed by Conference.

Reserves policy

The definition of "Reserves" is:

"Income which becomes available to the Charity and is to be expended at the Trustees' discretion in furtherance of the Charity's objects, but which is not yet spent, committed or designated."

This definition therefore excludes restricted funds, designated funds, and funds already invested in fixed assets.

The reserves policy of the Circuit agreed by the Trustees is to hold the equivalent of the relevant annual expenditure, plus an estimate of any known fluctuations. These reserves are held in the Central Finance Board deposit account. The unrestricted funds are currently above this limit.

Policy on the Induction and Training of Trustees

There are no specific policies in place for training trustees, although all are nominated by their own churches and have considerable practical experience of church activities.

THE METHODIST CHURCH, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE DISTRICT
THE NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE (WEST) CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31st August 2024 (continued)

Safeguarding, working with vulnerable people

Children: the Circuit has a full policy on work with children and young people, in accordance with the policies of the Methodist church which requires that DAB checks be made on those people who work with children. These checks have been made.

Vulnerable people: the Circuit has reviewed the policy and subsequent to the year under report in these accounts adopted a policy, as approved by the Methodist Connexional body, on the 16th February, 2012. In the policy the

Revd. J Sewell was appointed as Complaints Officer and Safeguarding Officer.

The DAB checks are held in a locked safe under the personal control of the Superintendent Minister.

Risk Management

The Circuit's risk management policy is designed to identify and analyse operational and other risk and ensure that it is controlled, monitored and steps taken to mitigate the risks. The Trustees have examined the main risks and are satisfied

that proper controls are in place for monitoring and mitigating these risks. The main risks the Circuit faces can be categorised as follows

1. Strategic and Repetitious Risks
2. Financial Risks
3. Compliance Risks
4. Operational Risks.

The Trustees will monitor these risks and report regularly to the co-ordinating group.

The Circuit Stewards regularly review the insurances held to ensure that adequate cover is in place.

Managing Trustees

The Managing Trustees who have served during the year were as set out on pages two and three of this report. The Officers, (Circuit Stewards), being the Treasurers of the funds who served during the year were as follows:

Mr N Bates
Mr M Brown
Mr A Anderson
Mr D Forrester

Independent Examiner

A resolution to appoint Mr J Lyall of Willey & Co as Independent Examiner for the ensuing year will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

The Trustees who were in office on the date of approval of these financial statements have confirmed, as far as they are aware, that there is no relevant audit information of which the Independent Examiner is unaware. Each of the Trustees have confirmed that they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as Trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to the Independent Examiner.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 18th March 2025

Revd T Woolley

Mrs H L Sargeant

T Woolley

H Sargeant