

SHEFFIELD METHODIST DISTRICT

England & Wales · Charity number 1129363

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-04-30
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Sheffield Methodist District Office Room 47 Victoria Hall Methodist Church Norfolk Street Sheffield S1 2JB
Phone	01142709990
Email	admin@sheffieldmethodist.org
Website	www.sheffieldmethodist.org

Activities

Objects: The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the date of union the advancement of -(a) the Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church;(b) any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, district, circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church;(c) any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church;(d) any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church.

Activities: Religious activities

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL
- Barnsley
- Derbyshire
- Doncaster
- Nottinghamshire
- Sheffield City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£781,000	£694,000	£1,058,000	13
2024-08-31	£738,000	£446,000	£971,000	10
2023-08-31	£616,000	£523,000	£679,000	8
2022-08-31	£634,000	£612,000	£586,000	11
2021-08-31	£460,000	£337,000	-	-
2020-08-31	£502,000	£487,000	£441,000	10

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Victoria Atkins	Chair	2025-09-01
Amy Ruth RODDAM		2024-03-07
DAVID BURTON		2019-09-14
Dawn Ruth Webster		2025-04-05
Deacon Annabel Lorna Terry		2025-01-23
Erica Margaret Louise Dunmow		2023-04-22
Grace Leigh Perkins		2024-03-07
NEIL HARLAND		2013-09-01
Rev John Paul HENRY		2024-05-08
Rev Julie Coates		2022-09-10
Rev Sean Colin Charles Adair		2014-09-13

SHEFFIELD METHODIST DISTRICT

England & Wales - Charity number 1129363

Accounts



Sheffield Methodist District
Annual report and accounts
For the year ended 31 August 2025

Registered charity number 1129363

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity number: 1129363

Address:

Sheffield Methodist District Office
Room 47, Victoria Hall Methodist Church
Chapel Walk
Sheffield S1 2PD

The following body was the custodian trustee throughout the year and up to the date of this report: The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

The following persons were managing trustees during the year or up to the date of approval of this report:

Rev Gill Newton (Chair) (resigned 31 August 2025)
Rev Vicky Atkins (Chair) (appointed 1 September 2025)
Rev Sean Adair
Rev Jon Bellfield (resigned 13 September 2025)
David Burton
Rev John Henry
Rev Julie Coates
Gill Daly (resigned 5 April 2025)
Erica Dunmow
Neil Harland
Rev Romeo Pedro (resigned 14 September 2024)
Grace Perkins
Rev Claire Rawlinson (resigned 31 August 2025)
Rev Tom Read (appointed 5 April 2025)
Amiee Roddam
Rev John Simms (resigned 5 April 2025)
Deacon Annabel Terry (appointed 23 January 2025)
Dawn Webster (appointed 5 April 2025)

Structure, governance and management

The District's governing document is the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church of Great Britain. The District Leading Team, who are the managing trustees, include key office holders and other members representing the diversity of the district. All members are appointed annually by the Representative Synod, with members appointed by the District Leading Team to fill casual vacancies between meetings of Representative Synod.

Representative Synod meets twice each year. The District Leading Team and other District meetings meet regularly throughout the year. Further authorities to act on behalf of the District between meetings are delegated to the Chair and various District officers.

Objectives and activities

The objects of the District are set out in the Methodist Church Act 1976 (clause 4): advancement of religion and any charitable purpose of the Methodist Church or church organisation.

The main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects are the promotion of Christianity through the staging of events, supporting Methodist and other charities in South Yorkshire, north Nottinghamshire and north-east Derbyshire, and financially, through provision of technical guidance and in prayer.

Achievements and performance

The primary focus of the District Leading Team during the year has been the implementation of our 2020 -25 strategy for resourcing mission, *For Such A Time As This*. This focusses on equipping our circuits, churches and their members to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ, which is their calling and our calling.

We also said a fond farewell to Rev Gill Newton in after eleven years as our Chair of District, during which time the level of support we provide for circuits and churches has significantly expanded, as they evolve to meet changing cultural contexts. Rev Vicky Atkins was appointed as Gill's successor, and started in post after the year end.

GROWING DISCIPLES

- Our *ONE Programme* youth internship expanded to five interns in its second year. Numbers of young people from across the district attending our youth away day and 3Generate also continued to increase.
- We have continued to organise networks and support for people engaged in specialist roles such as circuit stewards, starting new churches, children & youth workers, chaplains and superintendents.

TRANSFORMING MISSION

- We provided grants to fund employment of pioneers to launch new Christian communities in Dinnington and Broomhill, and supported our circuits to explore further opportunities.
- Visits from the President and Vice President of the Methodist Conference provided opportunities to gather and celebrate valuable ministries across our circuits and churches, including a lunch with chaplains, Hathersage Silver Eco Church, the new congregation at Hub at Hope, Urban Theology Union and Victoria Hall Church of Sanctuary. They also chose Edale chapel on the Peak Wesley Way pilgrimage as the location for their Christmas message.

SHARING STORIES

- We have continued to roll out digital and media training for staff and volunteers from across our churches, and have been encouraged by levels of engagement with digital communications tools.
- Our digital communications and magazine continue to receive positive feedback, and our *Faith, Hope and the Journey* podcast had a successful second season.

PROPERTIES FIT FOR MISSION

- We supported several of our churches in accessing funding for solar panels and other measures to improve their carbon footprint.

Financial review

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS 102)' effective 1 January 2019 and Financial Reporting Standard 102 ("FRS 102").

The District recorded a surplus of £87,000 (2024 surplus of £292,000). The uncommitted balance on our Advance Fund increased by £129,000 during the year. Income was higher than anticipated, a result of levies charged on sales of Methodist properties across the UK and redistributed to districts. The balance carried forward in the fund is expected to decrease over the next three years as we invest in starting new Christian communities, amongst other initiatives.

The principal recurring sources of funds continue to be obligatory payments by Methodist circuits in the District and grants from the connexional Methodist Church Fund and other Methodist bodies. We have maintained an active dialogue with our circuits during and since the year end and remain confident that they will be able to maintain their contributions to our work.

The major items of District expenditure continued to be £225,000 (2024: £44,000) on grants and donations, and £334,000 (2024: £298,000) on staff engaged in the District's direct mission projects or providing support and advice to Methodist organisations within the District.

No investments are held outside of the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

Reserves policy

Advance fund: The reserves policy for the District Advance Fund is that the District will only award grants from the liquid funds available, after making allowance for grants pledged but not yet paid over and a reserve of three months direct (i.e. non-grant) Advance Fund expenditure. Grants are awarded in accordance with the District strategy for resourcing mission and usually for a period of not more than five years. The uncommitted DAF funds at 31 August 2025 were £735,000.

Other unrestricted funds: The policy of the District is to maintain liquid funds (i.e. net current assets) in other unrestricted funds equivalent to between three and six months expenditure. Liquid funds amounted to four months of expenditure at 31 August 2025 (31 August 2024: six months).

Other funds are held for specific purposes, with the policy of the District being to ensure that sufficient amounts are held in or available to each fund in order to meet its future specific commitments. Restricted fund balances at 31 August 2025 are:

- Methodist Women in Britain (balance £1,000) to equip women to fully participate in the life of the Christian church and in society
- Learning Network (balance £nil) to fund training events organised by the Learning Network North East regional team
- Peak Park Rural Development Enabler (balance £8,000) being grant funding for this project to be spent in future periods. All existing commitments are expected to be met from secured funding
- Persian Ministry (balance £22,000) being grant funding for this project to be spent in future periods. All existing commitments are expected to be met from secured funding
- New Places for New People (balance £29,000) being grant funding for this programme to be spent in future periods. All existing commitments are expected to be met from secured funding

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:



Rev Vicky Atkins
Chair



Neil Harland
Treasurer

16 March 2026

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Sheffield Methodist District

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2025 which are set out on pages 5 to 17.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity'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 charity'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.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination

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.



Simon Bladen FCA
Hawsons Limited
Chartered Accountants
Peagasus House
436a Glossop Road
Sheffield
S10 2QD

Date: 7 April 2026

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Note	Advance fund 2025 £'000	Other unrestricted funds 2025 £'000	Restricted funds 2025 £'000	Total 2025 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
<i>Income from:</i>						
Donations		-	-	5	5	8
Contributions from circuit model trust funds		137	-	-	137	133
Distribution from Connexional advance and property funds		294	-	-	294	252
Assessment on circuits		-	128	-	128	118
Grants received		-	1	93	94	94
Other charitable income		-	28	34	62	76
Total charitable activities		431	157	127	715	673
Other trading activities		-	11	-	11	11
Investments		46	4	-	50	46
Total income		477	172	132	781	738
<i>Expenditure on:</i>						
Grants and donations	6	(192)	(1)	(32)	(225)	(44)
Salaries and stipends	2	(120)	(119)	(95)	(334)	(298)
Administration and office		(3)	(15)	(2)	(20)	(18)
Property and insurance		-	(19)	(16)	(35)	(29)
Travel		(5)	(19)	(6)	(30)	(18)
Venue hire and event catering		(1)	(9)	(19)	(29)	(24)
Other charitable costs		(3)	(13)	(2)	(18)	(10)
Total charitable activities		(324)	(195)	(172)	(691)	(441)
Other trading activities		-	(3)	-	(3)	(5)
Total expenditure		(324)	(198)	(172)	(694)	(446)
Net income/ (expenditure)		153	(26)	(40)	87	292
Transfers between funds		(24)	(3)	27	-	-
Net movement in funds		129	(29)	(13)	87	292
Opening funds		606	292	73	971	679
Closing funds		735	263	60	1,058	971

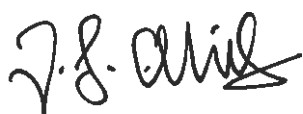
There were no recognised gains and losses in the year other than those presented above.

All activities are classed as continuing operations.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

	Note	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Tangible fixed assets	7	205	208
Current assets			
Debtors	8	72	83
Investments with TMCP		964	646
Central Finance Board deposits		34	99
Cash at bank and in hand		38	35
Total current assets		1,108	863
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	(145)	(81)
Net current assets		963	782
Total assets less current liabilities		1,168	990
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	10	(110)	(19)
Net assets		1,058	971
Funds of the District:			
Advance fund	12	735	606
Other unrestricted funds	13	263	292
Restricted funds	14	60	73
Total funds		1,058	971

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the District Leadership Team on 16 March 2026.



Rev Vicky Atkins
Chair



Neil Harland
Treasurer

Registered charity number 1129363

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Note	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Net cash generated by operating activities	16	206	115
Cash flows from investing activities			
Disposal of tangible fixed assets		-	-
Interest		50	46
Net cash provided by investing activities		50	46
Increase in cash and cash equivalents		256	161
Opening cash and cash equivalents		780	619
Closing cash and cash equivalents	17	1,036	780

Charity Information

Sheffield Methodist District is a charity registered in England and Wales (number 1129363). Its registered address is Room 47, Victoria Hall Methodist Church, Norfolk Street, Sheffield, S1 2JB.

Basis of preparation

The Charity is a public benefit entity.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS 102)' effective 1 January 2019 and Financial Reporting Standard 102 ("FRS 102"). They have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

These financial statements are presented in Pounds sterling £'000.

The principal accounting policies of the District are set out below.

Consolidation

The District oversees the work of Methodist churches and circuits within south Yorkshire, north Nottinghamshire and north-east Derbyshire but does not seek to control circuits or churches or their ministers or lay workers except in extreme circumstances. For this reason the financial results of these churches are not consolidated into these financial statements.

Going concern

The Trustees have prepared these financial statements on the going concern basis. The Trustees have reviewed forecasts to 31 March 2025 and on the basis of those forecasts believe that the District will be able to meet its liabilities as they fall due. These forecasts have been prepared conservatively, including risks and sensitivities to anticipated financial performance, including a review of actual performance compared to previous forecasts. Whilst the cost of living crisis is likely to impact organisations across Methodism, the Trustees do not anticipate that sufficient income to sustain core district activities will cease to be available. Based on the information currently available in respect of the future, the Trustees consider that the District has the plans and resources to manage its risks successfully and that there are no material uncertainties about the District's ability continue as a going concern.

Income

Income is not recognised until receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Contributions from circuit model trust funds are levied on 1 September each year, calculated according to the balances included in these funds at this date, which are outside of the control of the District. They are recognised as income when levied.

Distributions from Connexional advance and property funds are received based on the balances and transactions within those funds, which are outside of the control of the District. Income is recognised when distributions are formally confirmed by Connexional officers.

Assessments on circuits are charged based on amounts agreed in advance with circuits as a contribution towards the running costs of the District. Assessments are recognised as income in the period to which the funding relates.

The District also acts as an agent in respect of Connexional assessments collected from circuits and remitted to the national Methodist Church Fund. These Connexional assessments are not recognised as income or expenditure in the statement of financial activity, because there is no obligation on the District to make up any shortfall in Connexional assessments from circuits.

Whilst time given to the District by many volunteers is essential to its work, this donation of time is not recognised in these financial statements since its value cannot be measured reliably for accounting purposes.

Expenditure

Resources expended are included in the statement of financial activities on an accruals basis, inclusive of VAT.

Grants pledged

Grants pledged by the District are recognised in full when the District is under a legal or constructive obligation to make the payment, usually once the grant has been approved by the District Leadership Team and the pledge communicated to the applicant.

Fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised at cost.

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost, net of depreciation. Existing historic costs have been retained on adoption of the SORP for all fixed assets.

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost or valuation less estimated realisable value, of all tangible fixed assets over their expected useful lives. Depreciation is recognised on a straight line basis over the following periods:

- Freehold buildings: 50 years
- Freehold land is not depreciated
- IT equipment: 5 years

Where the District leases properties temporarily surplus to its own needs to individuals or other organisations these assets are classed as tangible fixed assets, since their fair value cannot be measured reliably without undue cost or effort.

At each reporting date fixed assets are reviewed to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss.

Retirement benefits

Certain of the District's former lay employees are members of The Pensions Trust Growth Plan (Series 3), a multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme. Provision has been made in these financial statements for deficit plan payments agreed with the scheme's trustees.

Ordained ministers stationed within the District are entitled to become or remain members of the Methodist Ministers Pension Scheme. This is a defined benefit pension scheme. Monthly employer pension contributions are accounted for as expenditure in the statement of financial activities as they fall due. Payments to settle the deficit on this scheme are borne by the Methodist Connexion.

Leased assets

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activity on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

Financial instruments

The Group holds only simple financial instruments, being debtors, creditors, cash and leases, which are recognised at cost less provision for estimated irrecoverable assets.

Current asset deposits in monetary assets held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees are categorised as cash equivalents since they are capable of being converted to cash with immediate effect on instruction by the District.

Central Finance Board deposits are also capable of immediate liquidation and so are classified as cash equivalents.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is allocated to the fund.

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are incoming resources received or generated for charitable purposes and are available for use at the discretion of the District Leadership Team in furtherance of the general objectives of the District.

1 Prior year statement of financial activities

Financial activities for the prior year comprise the following restricted and unrestricted income and expenditure:

	Note	Advance fund 2024 £'000	Other unrestricted funds 2024 £'000	Restricted funds 2024 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
<i>Income from:</i>					
Donations		-	-	8	8
Contributions from circuit model trust funds		133	-	-	133
Distribution from Connexional advance and property funds		252	-	-	252
Assessment on circuits		-	118	-	118
Grants received		-	-	94	94
Other charitable income		20	29	27	76
Total charitable activities		405	147	121	673
Other trading activities		-	11	-	11
Investments		41	5	-	46
Total income		446	163	129	738
<i>Expenditure on:</i>					
Grants and donations	6	(37)	-	(7)	(44)
Salaries and stipends	2	(104)	(109)	(85)	(298)
Administration and office		(3)	(13)	(2)	(18)
Property and insurance		-	(13)	(16)	(29)
Travel		(4)	(9)	(5)	(18)
Venue hire and event catering		-	(9)	(15)	(24)
Other charitable costs		-	(8)	(2)	(10)
Total charitable activities		(148)	(161)	(132)	(441)
Other trading activities		-	(5)	-	(5)
Total expenditure		(148)	(166)	(132)	(446)
Net income/ (expenditure)		298	(3)	(3)	292
Transfers between funds		(22)	(2)	24	-
Net movement in funds		276	(5)	21	292
Opening funds		330	297	52	679
Closing funds		606	292	73	971

2 Salaries and stipends

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Salaries and stipends	283	253
Employer's national insurance contributions	30	24
Defined contribution pension costs	15	13
Defined benefit pension costs (MMPS)	6	8
	334	298

The average number of lay employees during the year was thirteen (2024: ten). The District also bears the stipend cost of the Peak Park Rural Development Enabler.

No employees receive benefits greater than £60,000 per annum.

The senior management personnel of the District is considered to be the Chair of District. The total cost to the District of providing taxable benefits in kind and the Chair's manse (in which the Chair is required to live in order to fulfil her duties) amounted to £10,000 (2024: £12,000). The stipend, employer's national insurance and employers pension contribution in respect of the Chair are borne by the Methodist Connexion.

3 Payments to trustees

One trustee (2024: one) received remuneration from the District for work undertaken on its behalf. No trustees received remuneration for services provided as a trustee.

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Salary	37	35

The number of trustees who received reimbursed expenses or on whose behalf travel costs were paid by the District was six (2024: five).

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Travel costs reimbursed	12	5

4 Amounts received on behalf of other organisations

The District received £505,000 (2024: £475,000) from its circuits for the Methodist Church Fund in the form of the Connexional element of circuit assessments. These amounts are not included in the statement of financial performance because the District acted solely as a collection agent for these funds.

5 Independent examiner

The independent examiners' fee for reporting on these accounts amounts to £3,030 (2024: £2,940). No other services were provided to the District in either year by the independent examiner.

6 Grants awarded

The District awarded the following grants during the year:

	2025 £'000	2023 £'000
Advance Fund - property projects	35	4
Advance Fund - ministry projects	167	40
Advance Fund - small grants	4	6
Restricted funds - ministry projects	26	-
Restricted funds - other	6	7
Grants to institutions	238	57
General Fund - benevolent spend	1	-
Grants to individuals	1	-
Less Advance Fund grants lapsed	(14)	(13)
Total grants awarded	225	44

Grants from the Advance Fund are made in accordance with our strategy for resourcing mission. Details of our mission grant policy and grants awarded are available at www.sheffieldmethodist.org.

Restricted funds ministry grants comprise support for our New Places for New People Pilot hosted by Derbyshire North East Circuit.

Other restricted grants comprise largely projects supported by Methodist Women in Britain.

7 Fixed assets

	Freehold land £'000	Freehold buildings £'000	IT equipment	Total £'000
Cost				
Opening	115	151	2	268
Closing	115	151	2	268
Depreciation				
Opening	-	58	2	60
Charge for the year	-	3	-	3
Closing	-	61	2	63
Net book value				
Opening	115	93	-	208
Closing	115	90	-	205

8 Debtors

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Trade debtors	1	3
Loans to churches and circuits	68	77
Prepayments	3	3
	72	83

Loans to churches and circuits comprise:

Enable Social Enterprise Ltd £7,700 (2024: £10,000) funding towards provision of social housing. The loan is unsecured, bears interest at 5%, and is repayable in instalments by 2029

Freedom Community Project £30,000 (2024: £36,500) working capital funding to support the smooth operations of this charity with closely aligned purposes. The loan is unsecured, not interest bearing and is repayable by 2028.

Edale Methodist Church £30,000 (2024: £30,000) funding towards a property redevelopment scheme. The loan is unsecured, not interest bearing and is repayable by 2027.

9 Creditors – amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Trade creditors	5	2
Grants payable	123	73
Defined benefit pension plan	4	3
Accruals and deferred income	13	3
	145	81

10 Creditors – amounts falling due outside of one year

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Grants payable	110	18
Defined benefit pension plan	-	1
	110	19

11 Contingent liabilities

The District has made defined benefit pension commitments to certain employees through The Pensions Trust Growth Plan (Series 3), a multi-employer pension scheme. Withdrawal from the Growth Plan scheme could trigger a liability of £1,000 (31 August 2024: £nil) in excess of pension contributions accrued for in these accounts. The District has chosen Series 4 of the Growth Plan, a defined contribution scheme, as its auto-enrolment pension scheme and so withdrawal from the Growth Plan is considered unlikely.

12 Advance fund

The district Advance fund receives income via annual contributions levied on circuit model trust funds and distributions from Connexional advance and property funds. The purpose of these levies and distributions is to release funds for where they are most required. This is an unrestricted fund and is used to make grants in accordance with the District Strategy for Resourcing Mission or to support specific current initiatives undertaken by the District.

13 Other unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the District Leadership Team in furtherance of the general objectives of the District including activities mandated by the Methodist Connexion, such as provision of the Chair's manse and supporting the regulatory functions performed by various District officers.

14 Restricted funds

	Opening balance 1 September 2024 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Transfers £'000	Closing balance 31 August 2025 £'000
Methodist Women in Britain	2	5	(6)	-	1
Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	14	42	(60)	12	8
Learning Network	-	19	(22)	3	-
Persian Ministry	33	26	(49)	12	22
New Places for New People	24	40	(35)	-	29
Total charitable activities	73	132	(172)	27	60

	Opening balance 1 September 2023 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Transfers £'000	Closing balance 31 August 2024 £'000
Methodist Women in Britain	2	8	(8)	-	2
Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	-	62	(58)	10	14
Learning Network	-	16	(18)	2	-
Mission Enabler	3	-	(3)	-	-
Persian Ministry	33	33	(45)	12	33
New Places for New People	14	10	-	-	24
Total charitable activities	52	129	(132)	24	73

Transfers into restricted funds represent match funding from unrestricted District funds towards projects partially funded by restricted grants and donations.

Restricted funds are to be used for purposes as directed by the donors:

- The Sheffield District branch of *Methodist Women in Britain* connects women with an interest in creative spirituality and a passion for global social justice.

- The *Peak Park Rural Development Enabler* works alongside churches across the Peak Park national park as they develop their mission and community engagement.
- The *Learning Network* comprises income and costs relating to training events organised by the Learning Network North East regional team
- The *Mission Enabler* supports churches and circuits in overcoming barriers to risk-taking mission
- The *Persian Ministry* fund supports development and growth of ministry to Iranians and others within the UK, primarily through employment of a Persian Ministry Development Enabler
- The *New Places for New People* fund supports the establishment of new Christian communities, either directly by the District or by providing grants to its circuits

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

Net assets at 31 August 2025 are represented by:

	Advance fund £'000	Other unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total £'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	205	-	205
Current assets	968	80	60	1,108
Current liabilities	(123)	(22)	-	(145)
Liabilities falling due outside of one year	(110)	-	-	(110)
Total net assets	735	263	60	1,058

Net assets at 31 August 2024 are represented by:

	Advance fund £'000	Other unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total £'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	208	-	208
Current assets	697	93	73	863
Current liabilities	(73)	(8)	-	(81)
Liabilities falling due outside of one year	(18)	(1)	-	(19)
Total net assets	606	292	73	971

16 Reconciliation of net cash flows from operating activities

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Net income for the year	87	292
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	3	4
Interest	(50)	(46)
(Increase)/ decrease in debtors	11	(58)
Increase/ (decrease) in creditors	155	(77)
Cash used in operating activities	206	115

17 Cash and cash equivalents

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Investments with TMCP	964	646
Central Finance Board deposits	34	99
Cash at bank and in hand	38	35
	1,036	780

18 Operating lease commitments

Total minimum commitments under non-cancellable operating leases for land and buildings are as follows:

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Operating leases expiring within one year	2	3

19 Related party transactions

All District trustees are members of churches and circuits within the District and may also be trustees of their church or circuit. Related parties include the Methodist Connexion, churches and circuits within the District and other Methodist entities. Other than as described in notes 2, 3, 4, 6 and 8, the only transactions with related parties during the year requiring disclosure are as follows:

Party	Details	2025 £	2024 £
Grants received			
North West District	Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	19,500	19,900
Nottingham & Derby District	Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	11,538	11,538
TMCP	Peak Park Rural Development Enabler		19,200
Peak Circuit	Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	6,600	6,600
High Peak Partnership	Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	4,680	4,680
Methodist Connexion	New Places for New People	40,000	10,000
Yorkshire North & East District	Persian Ministry	4,000	15,334
Princes Avenue Methodist Church	Persian Ministry	3,333	3,333
Hull Centre & West Circuit	Persian Ministry	3,333	3,334
Other receipts			
Darlington District	Retreat attendance fees and HR Officer contributions	10,306	7,007
Methodist Connexion	Learning Network costs recharged	1,154	720
Yorkshire North & East District	Retreat attendance fees and HR Officer contributions	18,949	16,407
Yorkshire West District	Retreat attendance fees and contributions	3,520	2,873
various Methodist districts, circuits and churches	Retreat attendance fees and contributions	1,275	2,176
Payments			
Yorkshire North & East District	Retreat and event costs	(1,407)	(720)
various Methodist circuits & churches	Hire of venues for events and regular activities	(4,756)	(4,710)
Year end balances receivable/ (payable)			
various Methodist circuits & churches		50	3,567

SHEFFIELD METHODIST DISTRICT

England & Wales - Charity number 1129363

Accounts



Sheffield Methodist District
Annual report and accounts
For the year ended 31 August 2024

Registered charity number 1129363

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity number: 1129363

Address:

Sheffield Methodist District Office
Room 47, Victoria Hall Methodist Church
Norfolk Street
Sheffield S1 2JB

The following body was the custodian trustee throughout the year and up to the date of this report: The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

The following persons were managing trustees during the year or up to the date of approval of this report:

Rev Gill Newton (Chair)
Rev Sean Adair
McCauley Key (resigned 7 March 2024)
Rev Jon Bellfield
David Burton
Rev John Henry (appointed 8 May 2024)
Rev Julie Coates
Gill Daly
Erica Dunmow
Neil Harland
Rev Margaret Mwailu (resigned 31 August 2024)
Rev Romeo Pedro (appointed 9 September 2023, resigned 14 September 2024)
Grace Perkins (appointed 7 March 2024)
Rev Claire Rawlinson
Amiee Roddam (appointed 7 March 2024)
Rev John Simms

Structure, governance and management

The District's governing document is the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church of Great Britain. The District Leading Team, who are the managing trustees, include key office holders and other members representing the diversity of the district. All members are appointed annually by the Representative Synod, with members appointed by the District Leading Team to fill casual vacancies between meetings of Representative Synod.

Representative Synod meets twice each year. The District Leading Team and other District meetings meet regularly throughout the year. Further authorities to act on behalf of the District between meetings are delegated to the Chair and various District officers.

Objectives and activities

The objects of the District are set out in the Methodist Church Act 1976 (clause 4): advancement of religion and any charitable purpose of the Methodist Church or church organisation.

The main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects are the promotion of Christianity through the staging of events, supporting Methodist and other charities in South Yorkshire, north Nottinghamshire and north-east Derbyshire, and financially, through provision of technical guidance and in prayer.

Achievements and performance

The primary focus of the District Leading Team during the year has been the implementation of our 2020 -25 strategy for resourcing mission, *For Such A Time As This*. This focusses on six priorities for equipping our circuits, churches and their members to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ, which is their calling and our calling:

GROWING DISCIPLES

- We held a first gathering for Methodists holding chaplaincy roles, allowing often isolated people to know their work is valued and find mutual support.
- We launched our *ONE Programme* youth internship, with three interns serving throughout the year in local contexts across the district and attending a leadership weekend and other training.

PASSIONATE CONTEXTUAL WORSHIP

- We have placed particular emphasis on the role of children and youth volunteer and paid leaders, with a well attended celebration event to recognise their ministry.

TRANSFORMING MISSION

- We provided extensive support for some significant new forms of mission within our circuits, including launch of the *Peak Wesley Way* residential self-guided pilgrimage.
- We were pleased to see a willingness and ability to quickly engage with prophetic responses to justice issues, such as hosting of the *Life on the Breadline* exhibition and *Coat of Hopes*.
- We launched a *New Beginnings* seed funding programme, supporting churches to start new activities to support new people in starting journeys of discipleship.
- Across our circuits, opportunities for new Christian communities continue to be explored. This remains a slow and patient process, which we hope will lead to appointment of more pioneers in the coming year.

SHARING STORIES

- We provided digital and media training for staff and volunteers from across our churches, and have been encouraged by levels of engagement with digital communications tools.
- Our digital communications and magazine continue to receive positive feedback, and we added to these with launch of our new *Faith, Hope and the Journey* podcast.

SIMPLIFYING PROCEDURES

- We supported several of our circuits in remodelling their governance structures, leading to changes in their missional culture and ability to respond to new opportunities.
- We were pleased to see a greater level of confidence with safeguarding and GDPR compliance from across our churches, and continued to provide support in response to queries raised through annual self-audits.
- Legal and procedural matters continue to be a cause of anxiety and a drain on time in some contexts across the district. We are working with stakeholders across Methodism to minimise risk and clarify advice for local trustees.

PROPERTIES FIT FOR MISSION

- We have worked closely with Connexional property officers throughout the year to respond to specific property challenges faced by our circuits, and to develop clearer guidance on new creative missional uses of chapel premises. We are pleased to note greater strategic thinking about use to use potentially surplus properties.

Financial review

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS 102)' effective 1 January 2019 and Financial Reporting Standard 102 ("FRS 102").

The District recorded a surplus of £292,000 (2023 surplus of £93,000). The uncommitted balance on our Advance Fund increased by £276,000 during the year. Income was again higher than anticipated. This was combined with a lower than usual level of grant requests. The balance carried forward in the fund is expected to decrease over the next three years as we begin to invest in starting new Christian communities, amongst other initiatives. Preparations for these

are taking some time for circuits to be in a position to apply for grant funding, but are expected to require larger grants than for other projects we have supported recently.

The principal recurring sources of funds continue to be obligatory payments by Methodist circuits in the District and grants from the connexional Methodist Church Fund and other Methodist bodies. We have maintained an active dialogue with our circuits during and since the year end and remain confident that they will be able to maintain their contributions to our work.

The major items of District expenditure continued to be £44,000 (2023: £147,000) on grants and donations, and £298,000 (2023: £267,000) on staff engaged in the District's direct mission projects or providing support and advice to Methodist organisations within the District.

No investments are held outside of the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

Reserves policy

Advance fund: The reserves policy for the District Advance Fund is that the District will only award grants from the liquid funds available, after making allowance for grants pledged but not yet paid over and a reserve of three months direct (i.e. non-grant) Advance Fund expenditure. Grants are awarded in accordance with the District strategy for resourcing mission and usually for a period of not more than five years. The uncommitted DAF funds at 31 August 2024 were £606,000.

Other unrestricted funds: The policy of the District is to maintain liquid funds (i.e. net current assets) in other unrestricted funds equivalent to between three and six months expenditure. Liquid funds amounted to six months of expenditure at 31 August 2023 (31 August 2023: six months).

Other funds are held for specific purposes, with the policy of the District being to ensure that sufficient amounts are held in or available to each fund in order to meet its future specific commitments. Restricted fund balances at 31 August 2024 are:

- Methodist Women in Britain (£2,000) to equip women to fully participate in the life of the Christian church and in society
- Learning Network (balance £nil) to fund training events organised by the Learning Network North East regional team
- Mission Enabler (balance £nil), with grants having been fully utilised and this work now continued using the District's own funds
- Peak Park Rural Development Enabler (balance £14,000) being grant funding for this project to be spent in future periods. All existing commitments are expected to be met from secured funding
- Persian Ministry (balance £33,000) being grant funding for this project to be spent in future periods. All existing commitments are expected to be met from secured funding
- New Places for New People (balance £24,000) being grant funding for this programme to be spent in future periods. All existing commitments are expected to be met from secured funding

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:



Rev Gill Newton
Chair



Neil Harland
Treasurer

23 January 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Sheffield Methodist District

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2024 which are set out on pages 5 to 17.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity'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 charity'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.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination

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.



Simon Bladen FCA
Hawsons Limited
Chartered Accountants
Peagasus House
436a Glossop Road
Sheffield
S10 2QD

Date: 24 February 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Note	Advance fund 2024 £'000	Other unrestricted funds 2024 £'000	Restricted funds 2024 £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
<i>Income from:</i>						
Donations		-	-	8	8	5
Contributions from circuit model trust funds		133	-	-	133	132
Distribution from Connexional advance and property funds		252	-	-	252	145
Assessment on circuits		-	118	-	118	139
Grants received		-	-	94	94	132
Other charitable income		20	29	27	76	31
Total charitable activities		405	147	121	673	579
Other trading activities		-	11	-	11	11
Investments		41	5	-	46	21
Total income		446	163	129	738	616
<i>Expenditure on:</i>						
Grants and donations	6	(37)	-	(7)	(44)	(147)
Salaries and stipends	2	(104)	(109)	(85)	(298)	(267)
Administration and office		(3)	(13)	(2)	(18)	(16)
Property and insurance		-	(13)	(16)	(29)	(26)
Travel		(4)	(9)	(5)	(18)	(18)
Venue hire and event catering		-	(9)	(15)	(24)	(32)
Other charitable costs		-	(8)	(2)	(10)	(12)
Total charitable activities		(148)	(161)	(132)	(441)	(518)
Other trading activities		-	(5)	-	(5)	(5)
Total expenditure		(148)	(166)	(132)	(446)	(523)
Net income/ (expenditure)		298	(3)	(3)	292	93
Transfers between funds		(22)	(2)	24	-	-
Net movement in funds		276	(5)	21	292	93
Opening funds		330	297	52	679	586
Closing funds		606	292	73	971	679

There were no recognised gains and losses in the year other than those presented above.

All activities are classed as continuing operations.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Note	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Tangible fixed assets	7	208	212
Current assets			
Debtors	8	83	25
Investments with TMCP		646	525
Central Finance Board deposits		99	80
Cash at bank and in hand		35	14
Total current assets		863	644
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	(81)	(141)
Net current assets		782	503
Total assets less current liabilities		990	715
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	10	(19)	(36)
Net assets		971	679
Funds of the District:			
Advance fund	12	606	330
Other unrestricted funds	13	292	297
Restricted funds	14	73	52
Total funds		971	679

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the District Leadership Team on 23 January 2025.



Rev Gill Newton
Chair



Neil Harland
Treasurer

Registered charity number 1129363

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Note	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Net cash generated by operating activities	16	115	141
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest		46	21
Net cash provided by investing activities		46	21
Increase in cash and cash equivalents		161	162
Opening cash and cash equivalents		619	457
Closing cash and cash equivalents	17	780	619

Charity information

Sheffield Methodist District is a charity registered in England and Wales (number 1129363). Its registered address is Room 47, Victoria Hall Methodist Church, Norfolk Street, Sheffield, S1 2JB.

Basis of preparation

The Charity is a public benefit entity.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS 102)' effective 1 January 2019 and Financial Reporting Standard 102 ("FRS 102"). They have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

These financial statements are presented in Pounds sterling £'000.

The principal accounting policies of the District are set out below.

Consolidation

The District oversees the work of Methodist churches and circuits within south Yorkshire, north Nottinghamshire and north-east Derbyshire but does not seek to control circuits or churches or their ministers or lay workers except in extreme circumstances. For this reason the financial results of these churches are not consolidated into these financial statements.

Going concern

The Trustees have prepared these financial statements on the going concern basis. The Trustees have reviewed forecasts to 31 March 2025 and on the basis of those forecasts believe that the District will be able to meet its liabilities as they fall due. These forecasts have been prepared conservatively, including risks and sensitivities to anticipated financial performance, including a review of actual performance compared to previous forecasts. Whilst the cost of living crisis is likely to impact organisations across Methodism, the Trustees do not anticipate that sufficient income to sustain core district activities will cease to be available. Based on the information currently available in respect of the future, the Trustees consider that the District has the plans and resources to manage its risks successfully and that there are no material uncertainties about the District's ability continue as a going concern.

Income

Income is not recognised until receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Contributions from circuit model trust funds are levied on 1 September each year, calculated according to the balances included in these funds at this date, which are outside of the control of the District. They are recognised as income when levied.

Distributions from Connexional advance and property funds are received based on the balances and transactions within those funds, which are outside of the control of the District. Income is recognised when distributions are formally confirmed by Connexional officers.

Assessments on circuits are charged based on amounts agreed in advance with circuits as a contribution towards the running costs of the District. Assessments are recognised as income in the period to which the funding relates.

The District also acts as an agent in respect of Connexional assessments collected from circuits and remitted to the national Methodist Church Fund. These Connexional assessments are not recognised as income or expenditure in the statement of financial activity, because there is no obligation on the District to make up any shortfall in Connexional assessments from circuits.

Whilst time given to the District by many volunteers is essential to its work, this donation of time is not recognised in these financial statements since its value cannot be measured reliably for accounting purposes.

Expenditure

Resources expended are included in the statement of financial activities on an accruals basis, inclusive of VAT.

Grants pledged

Grants pledged by the District are recognised in full when the District is under a legal or constructive obligation to make the payment, usually once the grant has been approved by the District Leadership Team and the pledge communicated to the applicant.

Fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised at cost.

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost, net of depreciation. Existing historic costs have been retained on adoption of the SORP for all fixed assets.

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost or valuation less estimated realisable value, of all tangible fixed assets over their expected useful lives. Depreciation is recognised on a straight line basis over the following periods:

- Freehold buildings: 50 years
- Freehold land is not depreciated
- IT equipment: 5 years

Where the District leases properties temporarily surplus to its own needs to individuals or other organisations these assets are classed as tangible fixed assets, since their fair value cannot be measured reliably without undue cost or effort.

At each reporting date fixed assets are reviewed to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss.

Retirement benefits

Certain of the District's former lay employees are members of The Pensions Trust Growth Plan (Series 3), a multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme. Provision has been made in these financial statements for deficit plan payments agreed with the scheme's trustees.

Ordained ministers stationed within the District are entitled to become or remain members of the Methodist Ministers Pension Scheme. This is a defined benefit pension scheme. Monthly employer pension contributions are accounted for as expenditure in the statement of financial activities as they fall due. Payments to settle the deficit on this scheme are borne by the Methodist Connexion.

Leased assets

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activity on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

Financial instruments

The Group holds only simple financial instruments, being debtors, creditors, cash and leases, which are recognised at cost less provision for estimated irrecoverable assets.

Current asset deposits in monetary assets held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees are categorised as cash equivalents since they are capable of being converted to cash with immediate effect on instruction by the District.

Central Finance Board deposits are also capable of immediate liquidation and so are classified as cash equivalents.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is allocated to the fund.

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are incoming resources received or generated for charitable purposes and are available for use at the discretion of the District Leadership Team in furtherance of the general objectives of the District.

1 Prior year statement of financial activities

Financial activities for the prior year comprise the following restricted and unrestricted income and expenditure:

	Note	Advance fund 2023 £'000	Other unrestricted funds 2023 £'000	Restricted funds 2023 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
<i>Income from:</i>					
Donations		1	-	4	5
Contributions from circuit model trust funds		132	-	-	132
Distribution from Connexional advance and property funds		145	-	-	145
Assessment on circuits		-	139	-	139
Grants received		-	-	132	132
Other charitable income		1	17	13	31
Total charitable activities		278	156	145	579
Other trading activities		-	11	-	11
Investments		17	4	-	21
Total income		296	171	149	616
<i>Expenditure on:</i>					
Grants and donations	6	(111)	(5)	(31)	(147)
Salaries and stipends	2	(59)	(92)	(116)	(267)
Administration and office		(2)	(14)	-	(16)
Property and insurance		-	(10)	(16)	(26)
Travel		(1)	(10)	(7)	(18)
Venue hire and event catering		-	(14)	(18)	(32)
Other charitable costs		-	(10)	(2)	(12)
Total charitable activities		(173)	(155)	(190)	(518)
Other trading activities		-	(5)	-	(5)
Total expenditure		(173)	(160)	(190)	(523)
Net income/ (expenditure)		123	11	(41)	93
Transfers between funds		(25)	(3)	28	-
Net movement in funds		98	8	(13)	93
Opening funds		232	289	65	586
Closing funds		330	297	52	679

2 Salaries and stipends

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Salaries and stipends	253	227
Employer's national insurance contributions	24	21
Defined contribution pension costs	13	12
Defined benefit pension costs (MMPS)	8	7
	298	267

The average number of lay employees during the year was ten (2023: eight). The District also bears the stipend cost of the Peak Park Rural Development Enabler.

No employees receive benefits greater than £60,000 per annum.

The senior management personnel of the District is considered to be the Chair of District. The total cost to the District of providing taxable benefits in kind and the Chair's manse (in which the Chair is required to live in order to fulfil her duties) amounted to £12,000 (2023: £5,000). The stipend, employer's national insurance and employers pension contribution in respect of the Chair are borne by the Methodist Connexion.

3 Payments to trustees

One trustee (2022: one) received remuneration from the District for work undertaken on its behalf. No trustees received remuneration for services provided as a trustee.

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Salary	35	33

The number of trustees who received reimbursed expenses or on whose behalf travel costs were paid by the District was five (2023: five).

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Travel costs reimbursed	5	10

4 Amounts received on behalf of other organisations

The District received £475,000 (2023: £436,000) from its circuits for the Methodist Church Fund in the form of the Connexional element of circuit assessments. These amounts are not included in the statement of financial performance because the District acted solely as a collection agent for these funds.

At 31 August 2024 £nil remained to be remitted to the Methodist Church Fund (31 August 2023: £1,000).

5 Independent examiner

The independent examiners' fee for reporting on these accounts amounts to £2,940 (2023: £2,100). No other services were provided to the District in either year by the independent examiner.

6 Grants awarded

The District awarded the following grants during the year:

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Advance Fund - property projects	4	53
Advance Fund - ministry projects	40	40
Advance Fund - small grants	6	23
General Fund - other	-	1
Restricted funds - ministry projects	-	26
Restricted funds - other	7	5
Grants to institutions	57	148
General Fund - Learning and development	-	4
Grants to individuals	-	4
Less Advance Fund grants lapsed	(13)	(5)
Total grants awarded	44	147

Grants from the Advance Fund are made in accordance with our strategy for resourcing mission. Details of our mission grant policy and grants awarded are available at www.sheffieldmethodist.org.

In the prior year, small learning and development grants were offered to Methodist ministers and lay people in accordance with our Learning and Development and Ministerial Development policies.

Restricted funds ministry grants comprise support for our New Places for New People Pilot hosted by Derbyshire North East Circuit.

Other restricted grants comprise largely projects supported by Methodist Women in Britain.

7 Fixed assets

	Freehold land £'000	Freehold buildings £'000	IT equipment	Total £'000
Cost				
Opening	115	151	2	268
Closing	115	151	2	268
Depreciation				
Opening	-	54	2	56
Charge for the year	-	4	-	4
Closing	-	58	2	60
Net book value				
Opening	115	97	-	212
Closing	115	93	-	208

8 Debtors

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Trade debtors	3	3
Loans to churches and circuits	77	20
Prepayments	3	2
	83	25

Loans to churches and circuits comprise:

Greenhill Methodist Church £nil (2023: £8,000) funding towards a property redevelopment scheme. The loan was unsecured, not interest bearing and repayable in instalments by 2030.

Enable Social Enterprise Ltd £10,000 (2023: £12,000) funding towards provision of social housing. The loan is unsecured, bears interest at 5%, and is repayable in instalments by 2029.

Freedom Community Project £36,500 (2023: £nil) working capital funding to support the smooth operations of this charity with closely aligned purposes. The loan is unsecured, not interest bearing and is repayable by 2028.

Edale Methodist Church £30,000 (2023: £nil) funding towards a property redevelopment scheme. The loan is unsecured, not interest bearing and is repayable by 2027.

9 Creditors – amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Trade creditors	2	3
Grants payable	73	130
Defined benefit pension plan	3	4
Amounts collected for other organisations	-	1
Accruals and deferred income	3	3
	81	141

10 Creditors – amounts falling due outside of one year

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Grants payable	18	35
Defined benefit pension plan	1	1
	19	36

11 Contingent liabilities

The District has made defined benefit pension commitments to certain employees through The Pensions Trust Growth Plan (Series 3), a multi-employer pension scheme. Withdrawal from the Growth Plan scheme could trigger a liability of £nil (31 August 2023: £1,000) in excess of pension contributions accrued for in these accounts. The District has chosen Series 4 of the Growth Plan, a defined contribution scheme, as its auto-enrolment pension scheme and so withdrawal from the Growth Plan is considered unlikely.

12 Advance fund

The district Advance fund receives income via annual contributions levied on circuit model trust funds and distributions from Connexional advance and property funds. The purpose of these levies and distributions is to release funds for where they are most required. This is an unrestricted fund and is used to make grants in accordance with the District Strategy for Resourcing Mission or to support specific current initiatives undertaken by the District.

13 Other unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the District Leadership Team in furtherance of the general objectives of the District including activities mandated by the Methodist Connexion, such as provision of the Chair's manse and supporting the regulatory functions performed by various District officers.

14 Restricted funds

	Opening balance 1 September 2023 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Transfers £'000	Closing balance 31 August 2024 £'000
Methodist Women in Britain	2	8	(8)	-	2
Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	-	62	(58)	10	14
Learning Network	-	16	(18)	2	-
Mission Enabler	3	-	(3)	-	-
Persian Ministry	33	33	(45)	12	33
New Places for New People	14	10	-	-	24
Total charitable activities	52	129	(132)	24	73

	Opening balance 1 September 2022 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Transfers £'000	Closing balance 31 August 2023 £'000
Methodist Women in Britain	2	4	(4)	-	2
Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	-	42	(55)	13	-
Learning Network	2	16	(21)	3	-
Mission Enabler	19	25	(41)	-	3
Persian Ministry	32	32	(43)	12	33
New Places for New People	10	30	(26)	-	14
Total charitable activities	65	149	(190)	28	52

Transfers into restricted funds represent match funding from unrestricted District funds towards projects partially funded by restricted grants and donations.

Restricted funds are to be used for purposes as directed by the donors:

- The Sheffield District branch of *Methodist Women in Britain* connects women with an interest in creative spirituality and a passion for global social justice.
- The *Peak Park Rural Development Enabler* works alongside churches across the Peak Park national park as they develop their mission and community engagement.
- The *Learning Network* comprises income and costs relating to training events organised by the Learning Network North East regional team
- The *Mission Enabler* supports churches and circuits in overcoming barriers to risk-taking mission
- The *Persian Ministry* fund supports development and growth of ministry to Iranians and others within the UK, primarily through employment of a Persian Ministry Development Enabler
- The *New Places for New People* fund supports the establishment of new Christian communities, either directly by the District or by providing grants to its circuits

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

Net assets at 31 August 2024 are represented by:

	Advance fund £'000	Other unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total £'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	208	-	208
Current assets	697	93	73	863
Current liabilities	(73)	(8)	-	(81)
Liabilities falling due outside of one year	(18)	(1)	-	(19)
Total net assets	606	292	73	971

Net assets at 31 August 2023 are represented by:

	Advance fund £'000	Other unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total £'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	212	-	212
Current assets	495	97	52	644
Current liabilities	(130)	(11)	-	(141)
Liabilities falling due outside of one year	(35)	(1)	-	(36)
Total net assets	330	297	52	679

16 Reconciliation of net cash flows from operating activities

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Net income for the year	292	93
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	4	3
Interest	(46)	(21)
(Increase)/ decrease in debtors	(58)	23
(Decrease)/ increase in creditors	(77)	43
Cash used in operating activities	115	141

17 Cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Investments with TMCP	646	525
Central Finance Board deposits	99	80
Cash at bank and in hand	35	14
	780	619

18 Operating lease commitments

Total minimum commitments under non-cancellable operating leases for land and buildings are as follows:

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Operating leases expiring within one year	3	3

19 Related party transactions

All District trustees are members of churches and circuits within the District and may also be trustees of their church or circuit. Related parties include the Methodist Connexion, churches and circuits within the District and other Methodist entities. Other than as described in notes 2, 3, 4, 6 and 8, the only transactions with related parties during the year requiring disclosure are as follows:

Party	Details	2024 £	2023 £
Grants received			
Manchester & Stockport District	Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	19,900	12,800
Nottingham & Derby District	Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	11,538	6,800
Methodist Connexion	Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	-	12,000
TMCP	Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	19,200	-
Peak Circuit	Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	6,600	-
High Peak Partnership	Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	4,680	7,020
Monyash Methodist Church	Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	-	3,000
Methodist Connexion	Mission Development Support Worker	-	25,758
Methodist Connexion	New Places for New People	10,000	30,000
Yorkshire North & East District	Persian Ministry	15,334	15,333
Princes Avenue Methodist Church	Persian Ministry	3,333	3,333
Hull Centre & West Circuit	Persian Ministry	3,334	3,333
Doncaster Circuit	Persian Ministry	-	10,000
Other receipts			
Darlington District	Retreat attendance fees and HR Officer contributions	7,007	110
Methodist Connexion	Learning Network costs recharged	720	1,785
Yorkshire North & East District	Retreat attendance fees and HR Officer contributions	16,407	16,172
Yorkshire West District	Retreat attendance fees and contributions	2,873	5,472
various Methodist districts, circuits and churches	Retreat attendance fees and contributions	2,176	805
Payments			
Yorkshire North & East District	Retreat and event costs	(720)	(611)
various Methodist circuits & churches	Hire of venues for events and regular activities	(4,710)	(4,785)
Year end balances receivable/ (payable)			
various Methodist circuits & churches		3,567	3,000
various Methodist circuits & churches		-	(12)

SHEFFIELD METHODIST DISTRICT

England & Wales - Charity number 1129363

Accounts



Sheffield Methodist District
Annual report and accounts
For the year ended 31 August 2023

Registered charity number 1129363

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity number: 1129363

Address:

Sheffield Methodist District Office
Room 47, Victoria Hall Methodist Church
Norfolk Street
Sheffield S1 2JB

The following body was the custodian trustee throughout the year and up to the date of this report: The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

The following persons were managing trustees during the year or up to the date of approval of this report:

Rev Gill Newton (Chair)
Rev Sean Adair (resigned 10 September 2022, appointed 11 May 2023)
McCauley Key (resigned 7 March 2024)
Rev Jon Bellfield
David Burton
Rev Julie Coates (appointed 10 September 2022)
Gill Daly (appointed 22 April 2023)
Erica Dunmow (appointed 22 April 2023)
Neil Harland
Rev Margaret Mwailu
Rev Michael Neal (resigned 31 August 2023)
Rev Romeo Pedro (appointed 9 September 2023)
Rev Claire Rawlinson (appointed 22 April 2023)
Rev John Simms (appointed 9 September 2023)
Griff Wynne (resigned 10 September 2022)

Structure, governance and management

The District's governing document is the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church of Great Britain. The District Leading Team, who are the managing trustees, include key office holders and other members representing the diversity of the district. All members are appointed annually by the Representative Synod, with members appointed by the District Leading Team to fill casual vacancies between meetings of Representative Synod.

Representative Synod meets twice each year. The District Leading Team and other District meetings meet regularly throughout the year. Further authorities to act on behalf of the District between meetings are delegated to the Chair and various District officers.

Objectives and activities

The objects of the District are set out in the Methodist Church Act 1976 (clause 4): advancement of religion and any charitable purpose of the Methodist Church or church organisation.

The main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects are the promotion of Christianity through the staging of events, supporting Methodist and other charities in South Yorkshire, north Nottinghamshire and north-east Derbyshire, and financially, through provision of technical guidance and in prayer.

Achievements and performance

We are sad to report the death of Griff Wynne in 2022. Griff had served the district in many ways, including as a member of our District Leading Team. He had also been instrumental in the formation and ongoing leadership of The Crossing Church and Centre in Worksoy.

The primary focus of the District Leading Team during the year has been the implementation of our 2020 -25 strategy for resourcing mission, *For Such A Time As This*. This focusses on six priorities for equipping our circuits, churches and their members to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ, which is their calling and our calling:

- GROWING DISCIPLES lies at the heart of our strategy, as a bedrock of supportive accountable, deepening relationship with each other and with Christ.
- This leads to PASSIONATE CONTEXTUAL WORSHIP and TRANSFORMING MISSION for such a time as this.
- Particular support is needed to rediscover confidence in SHARING STORIES for such a time as this.
- We will help set disciples free for a life of worship and mission by SIMPLIFYING PROCEDURES and providing expert support to make their PROPERTIES FIT FOR MISSION for such a time as this.

Following the appointment of a Children & Youth Coordinator in the prior year, we have seen a growth in engagement with children and young people. Attendance at our Youth Away Day and at the national 3Generate youth conference both increased in the year.

With much of our role being to share best practice, new stories and encourage innovation, we were pleased to see a further increase in the reach of our digital communications. We have also increased the reach and inclusiveness of our communications by launching a widely distributed printed magazine. We also commissioned videos telling the story of three of our new Christian communities.

We are starting to see a recovery in attendance at our District Gathering events, which this year focussed on themes of *How to be a just church in an unjust world?* and *Nurturing Leaders*.

We launched two short term seed funding grant programmes during the year. Our Warm Spaces grants and support programme enabled 41 churches to provide inclusive warm welcoming community spaces in response to the cost of living crisis, supporting 2,000 people. Our energy efficiency fund supported 13 churches to reduce their carbon footprint through energy efficiency audits.

We have supported our circuits in successfully catching up the backlog of safeguarding training which had built up during coronavirus lockdowns, alongside supporting introduction of a new national EDI training. Our safeguarding audits of churches have again shown steady improvements in practices and record keeping.

During the year we started new communities of practice for leaders of new Christian communities and justice seekers. Our staff team also contributed to development of new national training resources for youth volunteers, property stewards, GDPR compliance and leaders of new churches.

Financial review

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS 102)' effective 1 January 2019 and Financial Reporting Standard 102 ("FRS 102").

The District recorded a surplus of £93,000 (2022 surplus of £22,000). The uncommitted balance on our Advance Fund increased by £98,000 during the year, with income again being higher than anticipated. The balance carried forward in the fund is expected to decrease over the next three years as we begin to invest in starting new Christian communities, amongst other initiatives.

The principal recurring sources of funds continue to be obligatory payments by Methodist circuits in the District and grants from the connexional Methodist Church Fund and other Methodist bodies. We have maintained an active dialogue with our circuits during and since the year end and remain confident that they will be able to maintain their contributions to our work.

The major items of District expenditure continued to be £147,000 (2022: £213,000) on grants and donations, and £267,000 (2022: £292,000) on staff engaged in the District's direct mission projects or providing support and advice to Methodist organisations within the District. Prior year grants include £95,000 to the new Who Is Your Neighbour CIO, being granting of restricted funding received prior to this district project becoming a fully fledged independent organisation, and so underlying grants awarded have increased by £29,000 this year.

No investments are held outside of the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

Reserves policy

Advance fund: The reserves policy for the District Advance Fund is that the District will only award grants from the liquid funds available, after making allowance for grants pledged but not yet paid over and a reserve of three months direct (i.e. non-grant) Advance Fund expenditure. Grants are awarded in accordance with the District strategy for resourcing mission and usually for a period of not more than five years. The uncommitted DAF funds at 31 August 2023 were £330,000.

Other unrestricted funds: The policy of the District is to maintain liquid funds (i.e. net current assets) in other unrestricted funds equivalent to between three and six months expenditure. Liquid funds amounted to six months of expenditure at 31 August 2023 (31 August 2022: six months).

Other funds are held for specific purposes, with the policy of the District being to ensure that sufficient amounts are held in or available to each fund in order to meet its future specific commitments. Restricted fund balances at 31 August 2023 are:

- Methodist Women in Britain (£2,000) to equip women to fully participate in the life of the Christian church and in society
- Learning Network (balance £nil) to fund training events organised by the Yorkshire Plus Learning Network North East regional team
- Mission Enabler (balance £3,000) being grant funding for this project to be spent in future periods. All existing commitments are expected to be met from secured funding
- Peak Park Rural Development Enabler (balance £nil) being grant funding for this project to be spent in future periods. All existing commitments are expected to be met from secured funding
- Persian Ministry (balance £33,000) being grant funding for this project to be spent in future periods. All existing commitments are expected to be met from secured funding
- New Places for New People (balance £14,000) being grant funding for this project to be spent in future periods. All existing commitments are expected to be met from secured funding

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:



Rev Julie Coates
Deputy Chair



Neil Harland
Treasurer

7 March 2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Sheffield Methodist District

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2023 which are set out on pages 5 to 17.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity'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 charity'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.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination

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.



Simon Bladen FCA
Hawsons Limited
Chartered Accountants
Peagasus House
436a Glossop Road
Sheffield
S10 2QD

Date: 2 April 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	Advance fund 2023 £'000	Other unrestricted funds 2023 £'000	Restricted funds 2023 £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
<i>Income from:</i>						
Donations		1	-	4	5	4
Contributions from circuit model trust funds		132	-	-	132	159
Distribution from Connexional advance and property funds		145	-	-	145	95
Assessment on circuits		-	139	-	139	126
Grants received		-	-	132	132	208
Other charitable income		1	17	13	31	29
Total charitable activities		278	156	145	579	617
Other trading activities		-	11	-	11	11
Investments		17	4	-	21	2
Total income		296	171	149	616	634
<i>Expenditure on:</i>						
Grants and donations	6	(111)	(5)	(31)	(147)	(213)
Salaries and stipends	2	(59)	(92)	(116)	(267)	(292)
Administration and office		(2)	(14)	-	(16)	(20)
Property and insurance		-	(10)	(16)	(26)	(31)
Travel		(1)	(10)	(7)	(18)	(17)
Venue hire and event catering		-	(14)	(18)	(32)	(19)
Other charitable costs		-	(10)	(2)	(12)	(17)
Total charitable activities		(173)	(155)	(190)	(518)	(609)
Other trading activities		-	(5)	-	(5)	(3)
Total expenditure		(173)	(160)	(190)	(523)	(612)
Net income/ (expenditure)		123	11	(41)	93	22
Transfers between funds		(25)	(3)	28	-	-
Net movement in funds		98	8	(13)	93	22
Opening funds		232	289	65	586	564
Closing funds		330	297	52	679	586

There were no recognised gains and losses in the year other than those presented above.

All activities are classed as continuing operations.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Tangible fixed assets	7	212	215
Current assets			
Debtors	8	25	48
Investments with TMCP		525	420
Central Finance Board deposits		80	22
Cash at bank and in hand		14	15
Total current assets		644	505
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	(141)	(103)
Net current assets		503	402
Total assets less current liabilities		715	617
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	10	(36)	(31)
Net assets		679	586
Funds of the District:			
Advance fund	12	330	232
Other unrestricted funds	13	297	289
Restricted funds	14	52	65
Total funds		679	586

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the District Leadership Team on 7 March 2024.



Rev Julie Coates
Deputy Chair



Neil Harland
Treasurer

Registered charity number 1129363

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Net cash generated by operating activities	16	141	9
Cash flows from investing activities			
Disposal of tangible fixed assets		-	-
Interest		21	2
Net cash provided by investing activities		21	2
Increase in cash and cash equivalents		162	11
Opening cash and cash equivalents		457	446
Closing cash and cash equivalents	17	619	457

Charity information

Sheffield Methodist District is a charity registered in England and Wales (number 1129363). Its registered address is Room 47, Victoria Hall Methodist Church, Norfolk Street, Sheffield, S1 2JB.

Basis of preparation

The Charity is a public benefit entity.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS 102)' effective 1 January 2019 and Financial Reporting Standard 102 ("FRS 102"). They have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

These financial statements are presented in Pounds sterling £'000.

The principal accounting policies of the District are set out below.

Consolidation

The District oversees the work of Methodist churches and circuits within south Yorkshire, north Nottinghamshire and north-east Derbyshire but does not seek to control circuits or churches or their ministers or lay workers except in extreme circumstances. For this reason the financial results of these churches are not consolidated into these financial statements.

Going concern

The Trustees have prepared these financial statements on the going concern basis. The Trustees have reviewed forecasts to 31 March 2025 and on the basis of those forecasts believe that the District will be able to meet its liabilities as they fall due. These forecasts have been prepared conservatively, including risks and sensitivities to anticipated financial performance, including a review of actual performance compared to previous forecasts. Whilst the cost of living crisis is likely to impact organisations across Methodism, the Trustees do not anticipate that sufficient income to sustain core district activities will cease to be available. Based on the information currently available in respect of the future, the Trustees consider that the District has the plans and resources to manage its risks successfully and that there are no material uncertainties about the District's ability continue as a going concern.

Income

Income is not recognised until receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Contributions from circuit model trust funds are levied on 1 September each year, calculated according to the balances included in these funds at this date, which are outside of the control of the District. They are recognised as income when levied.

Distributions from Connexional advance and property funds are received based on the balances and transactions within those funds, which are outside of the control of the District. Income is recognised when distributions are formally confirmed by Connexional officers.

Assessments on circuits are charged based on amounts agreed in advance with circuits as a contribution towards the running costs of the District. Assessments are recognised as income in the period to which the funding relates.

The District also acts as an agent in respect of Connexional assessments collected from circuits and remitted to the national Methodist Church Fund. These Connexional assessments are not recognised as income or expenditure in the statement of financial activity, because there is no obligation on the District to make up any shortfall in Connexional assessments from circuits.

Whilst time given to the District by many volunteers is essential to its work, this donation of time is not recognised in these financial statements since its value cannot be measured reliably for accounting purposes.

Expenditure

Resources expended are included in the statement of financial activities on an accruals basis, inclusive of VAT.

Grants pledged

Grants pledged by the District are recognised in full when the District is under a legal or constructive obligation to make the payment, usually once the grant has been approved by the District Leadership Team and the pledge communicated to the applicant.

Fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised at cost.

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost, net of depreciation. Existing historic costs have been retained on adoption of the SORP for all fixed assets.

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost or valuation less estimated realisable value, of all tangible fixed assets over their expected useful lives. Depreciation is recognised on a straight line basis over the following periods:

- Freehold buildings: 50 years
- Freehold land is not depreciated
- IT equipment: 5 years

Where the District leases properties temporarily surplus to its own needs to individuals or other organisations these assets are classed as tangible fixed assets, since their fair value cannot be measured reliably without undue cost or effort.

At each reporting date fixed assets are reviewed to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss.

Retirement benefits

Certain of the District's former lay employees are members of The Pensions Trust Growth Plan (Series 3), a multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme. Provision has been made in these financial statements for deficit plan payments agreed with the scheme's trustees.

Ordained ministers stationed within the District are entitled to become or remain members of the Methodist Ministers Pension Scheme. This is a defined benefit pension scheme. Monthly employer pension contributions are accounted for as expenditure in the statement of financial activities as they fall due. Payments to settle the deficit on this scheme are borne by the Methodist Connexion.

Leased assets

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activity on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

Financial instruments

The Group holds only simple financial instruments, being debtors, creditors, cash and leases, which are recognised at cost less provision for estimated irrecoverable assets.

Current asset deposits in monetary assets held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees are categorised as cash equivalents since they are capable of being converted to cash with immediate effect on instruction by the District.

Central Finance Board deposits are also capable of immediate liquidation and so are classified as cash equivalents.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is allocated to the fund.

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are incoming resources received or generated for charitable purposes and are available for use at the discretion of the District Leadership Team in furtherance of the general objectives of the District.

1 Prior year statement of financial activities

Financial activities for the prior year comprise the following restricted and unrestricted income and expenditure:

	Note	Advance fund 2022 £'000	Other unrestricted funds 2022 £'000	Restricted funds 2022 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
<i>Income from:</i>					
Donations		-	-	4	4
Contributions from circuit model trust funds		159	-	-	159
Distribution from Connexional advance and property funds		95	-	-	95
Assessment on circuits		-	126	-	126
Grants received		-	-	208	208
Other charitable income		-	11	18	29
Total charitable activities		254	137	226	617
Other trading activities		-	11	-	11
Investments		2	-	-	2
Total income		256	148	230	634
<i>Expenditure on:</i>					
Grants and donations	6	(88)	(10)	(115)	(213)
Salaries and stipends	2	(50)	(84)	(158)	(292)
Administration and office		(2)	(14)	(4)	(20)
Property and insurance		-	(13)	(18)	(31)
Travel		(1)	(9)	(7)	(17)
Venue hire and event catering		(1)	(3)	(15)	(19)
Other charitable costs		-	(6)	(11)	(17)
Total charitable activities		(142)	(139)	(328)	(609)
Other trading activities		-	(3)	-	(3)
Total expenditure		(142)	(142)	(328)	(612)
Net income/ (expenditure)		114	6	(98)	22
Transfers between funds		(42)	(3)	45	-
Net movement in funds		72	3	(53)	22
Opening funds		160	286	118	564
Closing funds		232	289	65	586

2 Salaries and stipends

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Salaries and stipends	227	249
Employer's national insurance contributions	21	23
Defined contribution pension costs	12	13
Defined benefit pension costs (MMPS)	7	7
	267	292

The average number of lay employees during the year was eight (2022: eleven). The District also bears the stipend cost of the Peak Park Rural Development Enabler.

No employees receive benefits greater than £60,000 per annum.

The senior management personnel of the District is considered to be the Chair of District. The total cost to the District of providing taxable benefits in kind and the Chair's manse (in which the Chair is required to live in order to fulfil her duties) amounted to £5,000 (2022: £7,000). The stipend, employer's national insurance and employers pension contribution in respect of the Chair are borne by the Methodist Connexion.

3 Payments to trustees

One trustee (2022: one) received remuneration from the District for work undertaken on its behalf. No trustees received remuneration for services provided as a trustee.

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Salary	33	31

The number of trustees who received reimbursed expenses or on whose behalf travel costs were paid by the District was five (2022: five).

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Travel costs reimbursed	10	12

4 Amounts received on behalf of other organisations

The District received £436,000 (2022: £449,000) from its circuits for the Methodist Church Fund in the form of the Connexional element of circuit assessments. These amounts are not included in the statement of financial performance because the District acted solely as a collection agent for these funds.

At 31 August 2023 £1,000 remained to be remitted to the Methodist Church Fund (31 August 2022: £1,000).

5 Independent examiner

The independent examiners' fee for reporting on these accounts amounts to £2,100 (2022: £2,100). No other services were provided to the District in either year by the independent examiner.

6 Grants awarded

The District awarded the following grants during the year:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Advance Fund - property projects	53	27
Advance Fund - ministry projects	40	43
Advance Fund - small grants	23	-
Advance Fund - pension reserve fund	-	18
General Fund - pension reserve fund	-	8
General Fund - other	1	1
Restricted funds - Who Is Your Neighbour	-	95
Restricted funds - ministry projects	26	20
Restricted funds - other	5	-
Grants to institutions	148	212
General Fund - Learning and development	4	1
Grants to individuals	4	1
Less Advance Fund grants lapsed	(5)	-
Total grants awarded	147	213

Grants from the Advance Fund are made in accordance with our strategy for resourcing mission. Small learning and development grants are offered to Methodist ministers and lay people in accordance with the Learning and Development and Ministerial Development policies. Details of these policies, together with further details of grants awarded to institutions are available on the District website www.sheffieldmethodist.org.

A grant of £26,000 was awarded to the Connexional Pension Reserve Fund during the prior year in response to a national appeal for contributions to restore the balance in this fund, which aids the smooth running of Methodist ministerial pension commitments.

The Who Is Your Neighbour project, which for many years has operated as part of Sheffield Methodist District, became an independent charity during the prior year. This was considered by our Trustees and its management committee the best way of taking forward its community cohesion work. A new Who Is Your Neighbour CIO was registered with the Charity Commission (registration number 1196667) and the £95,000 balance of restricted grants received but not yet spent was granted on to the new charity.

Restricted fund ministry grants comprise support for our New Places for New People Pilot hosted by Derbyshire North East Circuit. Other restricted grants in the prior year comprise largely Learning Network grants and projects supported by Methodist Women in Britain.

7 Fixed assets

	Freehold land £'000	Freehold buildings £'000	IT equipment	Total £'000
Cost				
Opening	115	151	2	268
Closing	115	151	2	268
Depreciation				
Opening	-	51	2	53
Charge for the year	-	3	-	3
Closing	-	54	2	56
Net book value				
Opening	115	100	-	215
Closing	115	97	-	212

8 Debtors

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Trade debtors	3	2
Loans to churches and circuits	20	46
Accrued income	2	-
	25	48

Loans to churches and circuits comprises:

Greenhill Methodist Church £8,000 (2022: £32,000) funding towards a property redevelopment scheme. The loan is unsecured, not interest bearing and is repayable in instalments by 2030.

Enable Social Enterprise Ltd £12,000 (2022: £14,000) funding towards provision of social housing. The loan is unsecured, bears interest at 5%, and is repayable in instalments by 2029.

9 Creditors – amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Trade creditors	3	3
Grants payable	130	92
Defined benefit pension plan	4	4
Amounts collected for other organisations	1	1
Accruals and deferred income	3	3
	141	103

10 Creditors – amounts falling due outside of one year

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Grants payable	35	29
Defined benefit pension plan	1	2
	36	31

11 Contingent liabilities

The District has made defined benefit pension commitments to certain employees through The Pensions Trust Growth Plan (Series 3), a multi-employer pension scheme. Withdrawal from the Growth Plan scheme could trigger a liability of £1,000 (31 August 2022: £6,000) in excess of pension contributions accrued for in these accounts. The District has chosen Series 4 of the Growth Plan, a defined contribution scheme, as its auto-enrolment pension scheme and so withdrawal from the Growth Plan is considered unlikely.

12 Advance fund

The district Advance fund receives income via annual contributions levied on circuit model trust funds and distributions from Connexional advance and property funds. The purpose of these levies and distributions is to release funds for where they are most required. This is an unrestricted fund and is used to make grants in accordance with the District Strategy for Resourcing Mission or to support specific current initiatives undertaken by the District.

13 Other unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the District Leadership Team in furtherance of the general objectives of the District including activities mandated by the Methodist Connexion, such as provision of the Chair's manse and supporting the regulatory functions performed by various District officers.

14 Restricted funds

	Opening balance 1 September 2022 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Transfers £'000	Closing balance 31 August 2023 £'000
Methodist Women in Britain	2	4	(4)	-	2
Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	-	42	(55)	13	-
Learning Network	2	16	(21)	3	-
Mission Enabler	19	25	(41)	-	3
Persian Ministry	32	32	(43)	12	33
New Places for New People	10	30	(26)	-	14
Total charitable activities	65	149	(190)	28	52

	Opening balance 1 September 2021 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Transfers £'000	Closing balance 31 August 2022 £'000
Edgar Hodkin bequest	1	-	(1)	-	-
Methodist Women in Britain	2	1	(1)	-	2
Who is Your Neighbour?	57	100	(157)	-	-
Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	1	36	(53)	16	-
Learning Network	2	14	(17)	3	2
Mission Enabler	17	26	(38)	14	19
Persian Ministry	28	33	(41)	12	32
New Places for New People	10	20	(20)	-	10
Total charitable activities	118	230	(328)	45	65

Transfers into restricted funds represent match funding from unrestricted District funds towards projects partially funded by restricted grants and donations.

Restricted funds are to be used for purposes as directed by the donors:

- The *Edgar Hodkin bequest* is to be used for "Protestant evangelical Christian work", with the primary purpose being "the Sunday School work".
- The Sheffield District branch of *Methodist Women in Britain* connects women with an interest in creative spirituality and a passion for global social justice.
- *Who is your neighbour?* worked to help communities live more successfully with difference and be more resilient in dealing with divisions created by those who see difference as a threat. As described in note 6, this work is now being carried out by a new Who Is Your Neighbour CIO
- The *Peak Park Rural Development Enabler* works alongside churches across the Peak Park national park as they develop their mission and community engagement.
- The *Learning Network* comprises income and costs relating to training events organised by the Learning Network North East regional team
- The *Mission Enabler* supports churches and circuits in overcoming barriers to risk-taking mission
- The *Persian Ministry* fund supports development and growth of ministry to Iranians and others within the UK, primarily through employment of a Persian Ministry Development Enabler
- The *New Places for New People* fund supports the establishment of new Christian communities, either directly by the District or by providing grants to its circuits

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

Net assets at 31 August 2023 are represented by:

	Advance fund £'000	Other unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total £'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	212	-	212
Current assets	495	97	52	644
Current liabilities	(130)	(11)	-	(141)
Liabilities falling due outside of one year	(35)	(1)	-	(36)
Total net assets	330	297	52	679

Net assets at 31 August 2022 are represented by:

	Advance fund £'000	Other unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total £'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	215	-	215
Current assets	353	87	65	505
Current liabilities	(92)	(11)	-	(103)
Liabilities falling due outside of one year	(29)	(2)	-	(31)
Total net assets	232	289	65	586

16 Reconciliation of net cash flows from operating activities

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Net income for the year	93	22
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	3	4
Interest	(21)	(2)
(Increase)/ decrease in debtors	23	(6)
Increase/ (decrease) in creditors	43	(9)
Cash used in operating activities	141	9

17 Cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Investments with TMCP	525	420
Central Finance Board deposits	80	22
Cash at bank and in hand	14	15
	619	457

18 Operating lease commitments

Total minimum commitments under non-cancellable operating leases for land and buildings are as follows:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Operating leases expiring within one year	3	3

19 Related party transactions

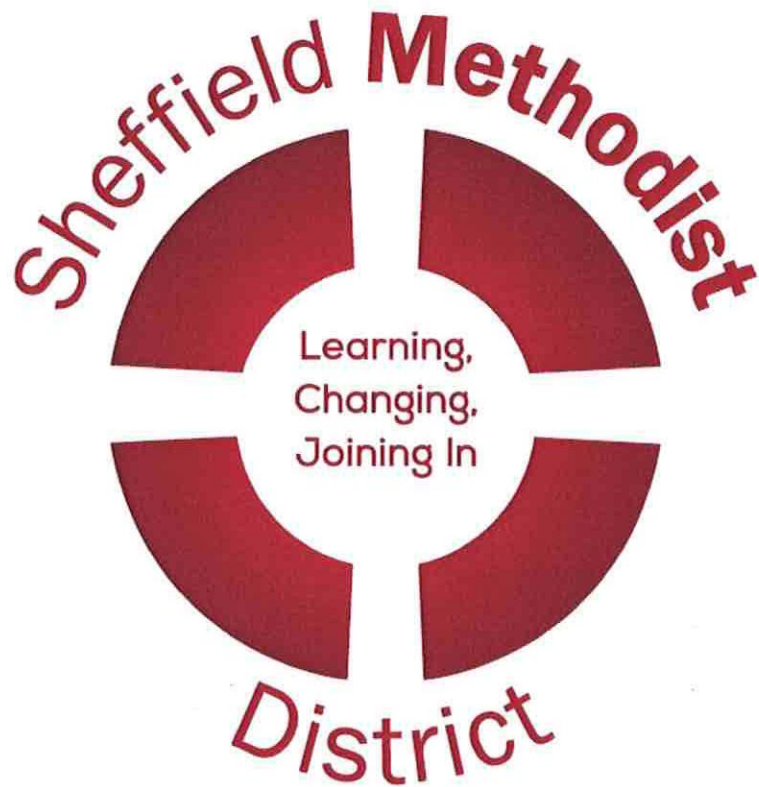
All District trustees are members of churches and circuits within the District and may also be trustees of their church or circuit. Related parties include the Methodist Connexion, churches and circuits within the District and other Methodist entities. Other than as described in notes 2, 3, 4, 6 and 8, the only transactions with related parties during the year requiring disclosure are as follows:

Party	Details	2023 £	2022 £
Grants received			
Manchester & Stockport District	Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	12,800	12,600
Nottingham & Derby District	Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	6,800	6,600
Methodist Connexion	Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	12,000	14,000
High Peak Partnership	Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	7,020	2,340
Monyash Methodist Church	Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	3,000	-
Methodist Connexion	Mission Development Support Worker	25,758	25,758
Methodist Connexion	New Places for New People	30,000	20,000
Yorkshire North & East District	Persian Ministry	15,333	15,333
Princes Avenue Methodist Church	Persian Ministry	3,333	3,333
Hull Centre & West Circuit	Persian Ministry	3,333	3,333
Doncaster Circuit	Persian Ministry	10,000	10,546
Other receipts			
Methodist Connexion	Learning Network costs recharged	1,785	810
Yorkshire North & East District	Retreat attendance fees and HR Officer contributions	16,172	17,345
Yorkshire West District	Retreat attendance fees and contributions	5,472	4,113
various Methodist districts, circuits and churches	Retreat attendance fees and contributions	915	770
Payments			
Yorkshire North & East District	Retreat and event costs	(611)	(1,482)
various Methodist circuits & churches	Hire of venues for events and regular activities	(4,785)	(4,440)
Year end balances receivable/ (payable)			
Yorkshire North & East District		-	1,757
various Methodist circuits & churches		3,000	-
various Methodist circuits & churches		(12)	-

SHEFFIELD METHODIST DISTRICT

England & Wales - Charity number 1129363

Accounts



Sheffield Methodist District
Annual report and accounts
For the year ended 31 August 2022

Registered charity number 1129363

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity number: 1129363

Address:

Sheffield Methodist District Office
Room 47, Victoria Hall Methodist Church
Norfolk Street
Sheffield S1 2JB

The following body was the custodian trustee throughout the year and up to the date of this report: The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

The following persons were managing trustees during the year or up to the date of approval of this report:

Rev Gill Newton (Chair)
Rev Sean Adair (resigned 10 September 2022)
McCauley Allcock (appointed 11 September 2021)
Rev Jon Bellfield
David Burton
Rev Julie Coates (appointed 10 September 2022)
Rev Sally Coleman (resigned 11 September 2021)
Gill Daly (resigned 11 September 2021)
Elizabeth Janine Eldred (resigned 11 September 2021)
Janet Hampshire (resigned 11 September 2021)
Neil Harland
Rev Richard Harris (resigned 11 September 2021)
Rev Margaret Mwaile
Rev Michael Neal
Rev Adrian Perry (resigned 11 September 2021)
John Purdy (resigned 11 September 2021)
Tom Sykes (resigned 11 September 2021)
Griff Wynne (resigned 10 September 2022)

Structure, governance and management

The District's governing document is the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church of Great Britain. The District Leading Team, who are the managing trustees, include key office holders and other members representing the diversity of the district. All members are appointed annually by the Representative Synod, with members appointed by the District Leading Team to fill casual vacancies between meetings of Representative Synod.

Representative Synod meets twice each year. The District Leading Team and other District meetings meet regularly throughout the year. Further authorities to act on behalf of the District between meetings are delegated to the Chair and various District officers.

Objectives and activities

The objects of the District are set out in the Methodist Church Act 1976 (clause 4): advancement of religion and any charitable purpose of the Methodist Church or church organisation.

The main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects are the promotion of Christianity through the staging of events, supporting Methodist and other charities in South Yorkshire, north Nottinghamshire and north-east Derbyshire, and financially, through provision of technical guidance and in prayer.

Achievements and performance

The primary focus of the District Leadership Team during the year has been the implementation of our 2020 -25 strategy for resourcing mission, *For Such A Time As This*. This focusses on six priorities for equipping our circuits, churches and their members to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ, which is their calling and our calling:

- GROWING DISCIPLES lies at the heart of our strategy, as a bedrock of supportive accountable, deepening relationship with each other and with Christ.
- This leads to PASSIONATE CONTEXTUAL WORSHIP and TRANSFORMING MISSION for such a time as this.
- Particular support is needed to rediscover confidence in SHARING STORIES for such a time as this.
- We will help set disciples free for a life of worship and mission by SIMPLIFYING PROCEDURES and providing expert support to make their PROPERTIES FIT FOR MISSION for such a time as this.

We have moved from a primarily online lockdown mode of working to a blend of gathered training and networking events, combined with extensive use of online communication tools.

During the year we have appointed a Children & Youth Co-ordinator and Missional Property Enabler, new roles created to support development priorities within our strategy for resourcing mission. We have established a community of practice for children and youth workers across the District and have restarted our programme of youth events.

In January we held a Mission Forum day, sharing early learnings from our New Places for New People Pilot based in our Derbyshire North East Circuit and equipping circuits to begin planning their own new Christian communities. We continue to support circuits in exploring these possibilities.

Our synod gatherings have focused on themes of God's World : Our Responsibilities, and Everyone Has a Story. Both operated as hybrid events accessible to those able to gather in person and online for people unable to travel.

With much of our role being to share best practice, new stories and encourage innovation, we were pleased to see an increase in the reach of our communications following a self audit.

With safeguarding training for our circuits and churches largely paused during the coronavirus lockdowns, we put substantial effort into addressing this training backlog with a refreshed suite of courses. We also supervised self-audits of safeguarding practice by each of our churches and circuits.

Financial review

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS 102)' effective 1 January 2019 and Financial Reporting Standard 102 ("FRS 102").

The District recorded a surplus of £22,000 (2021 surplus of £123,000). The uncommitted balance on our Advance Fund increased by £72,000 during the year, with income being higher than anticipated. The balance carried forward in the fund is expected to decrease over the next three years as we begin to invest in starting new Christian communities, amongst other initiatives.

The principal recurring sources of funds continue to be obligatory payments by Methodist circuits in the District and grants from the connexional Methodist Church Fund and other Methodist bodies. We have maintained an active dialogue with our circuits during and since the year end and remain confident that they will be able to maintain their contributions to our work.

The major items of District expenditure continued to be £213,000 (2021: £48,000) on grants and donations, and £292,000 (2021: £209,000) on staff engaged in the District's direct mission projects or providing support and advice to Methodist organisations within the District. Current year grants include £95,000 to the new Who Is Your Neighbour CIO, being granted on of restricted funding received prior to this district project becoming a fully fledged independent organisation.

No investments are held outside of the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

Reserves policy

Advance fund: The reserves policy for the District Advance Fund is that the District will only award grants from the liquid funds available, after making allowance for grants pledged but not yet paid over and a reserve of three months direct (i.e. non-grant) Advance Fund expenditure. Grants are awarded in accordance with the District strategy for resourcing mission and usually for a period of not more than five years. The uncommitted DAF funds at 31 August 2022 were £232,000.

Other unrestricted funds: The policy of the District is to maintain liquid funds (i.e. net current assets) in other unrestricted funds equivalent to between three and six months expenditure. Liquid funds amounted to six months of expenditure at 31 August 2022 (31 August 2021: eight months). We anticipate that liquid funds will reduce to within our reserve policy over the coming year.

Other funds are held for specific purposes, with the policy of the District being to ensure that sufficient amounts are held in or available to each fund in order to meet its future specific commitments. Restricted fund balances at 31 August 2022 are:

- Methodist Women in Britain (£2,000) to equip women to fully participate in the life of the Christian church and in society
- Learning Network (£2,000) to fund training events organised by the Yorkshire Plus Learning Network regional team
- Mission Enabler (balance £19,000) being grant funding for this project to be spent in future periods. All existing commitments are expected to be met from secured funding
- Peak Park Rural Development Enabler (balance £nil) being grant funding for this project to be spent in future periods. All existing commitments are expected to be met from secured funding
- Persian Ministry (balance £32,000) being grant funding for this project to be spent in future periods. All existing commitments are expected to be met from secured funding
- New Places for New People (balance £10,000) being grant funding for this project to be spent in future periods. All existing commitments are expected to be met from secured funding

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:



Rev Gill Newton
Chair



Neil Harland
Treasurer

9 March 2023

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Sheffield Methodist District

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2022 which are set out on pages 5 to 17.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity'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 charity'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.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination

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.



Simon Bladen FCA
Hawsons Limited
Chartered Accountants
Peegasus House
436a Glossop Road
Sheffield
S10 2QD

Date: 17 May 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	Note	Advance fund 2022 £'000	Other unrestricted funds 2022 £'000	Restricted funds 2022 £'000	Total 2022 £'000	Total 2021 £'000
<i>Income from:</i>						
Donations		-	-	4	4	3
Contributions from circuit model trust funds		159	-	-	159	175
Distribution from Connexional advance and property funds		95	-	-	95	-
Assessment on circuits		-	126	-	126	112
Grants received		-	-	208	208	143
Other charitable income		-	11	18	29	15
Total charitable activities		254	137	226	617	445
Other trading activities		-	11	-	11	11
Investments		2	-	-	2	1
Total income		256	148	230	634	460
<i>Expenditure on:</i>						
Grants and donations	6	(88)	(10)	(115)	(213)	(48)
Salaries and stipends	2	(50)	(84)	(158)	(292)	(209)
Administration and office		(2)	(14)	(4)	(20)	(23)
Property and insurance		-	(13)	(18)	(31)	(28)
Travel		(1)	(9)	(7)	(17)	(3)
Venue hire and event catering		(1)	(3)	(15)	(19)	(1)
Other charitable costs		-	(6)	(11)	(17)	(22)
Total charitable activities		(142)	(139)	(328)	(609)	(334)
Other trading activities		-	(3)	-	(3)	(3)
Total expenditure		(142)	(142)	(328)	(612)	(337)
Net income/ (expenditure)		114	6	(98)	22	123
Transfers between funds		(42)	(3)	45	-	-
Net movement in funds		72	3	(53)	22	123
Opening funds		160	286	118	564	441
Closing funds		232	289	65	586	564

There were no recognised gains and losses in the year other than those presented above.

All activities are classed as continuing operations.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2022

	Note	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Tangible fixed assets	7	215	219
Current assets			
Debtors	8	48	42
Investments with TMCP		420	270
Central Finance Board deposits		22	91
Cash at bank and in hand		15	85
Total current assets		505	488
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	(103)	(121)
Net current assets		402	367
Total assets less current liabilities		617	586
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	10	(31)	(22)
Net assets		586	564
Funds of the District:			
Advance fund	12	232	160
Other unrestricted funds	13	289	286
Restricted funds	14	65	118
Total funds		586	564

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the District Leadership Team on 9 March 2023.



Rev Gill Newton
Chair



Neil Harland
Treasurer

Registered charity number 1129363

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	Note	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Net cash generated by/ (used in) operating activities	16	9	(4)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Disposal of tangible fixed assets		-	1
Interest		2	1
Net cash provided by investing activities		2	2
Increase/ (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		11	(2)
Opening cash and cash equivalents		446	448
Closing cash and cash equivalents	17	457	446

Charity information

Sheffield Methodist District is a charity registered in England and Wales (number 1129363). Its registered address is Room 47, Victoria Hall Methodist Church, Norfolk Street, Sheffield, S1 2JB.

Basis of preparation

The Charity is a public benefit entity.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS 102)' effective 1 January 2019 and Financial Reporting Standard 102 ("FRS 102"). They have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

These financial statements are presented in Pounds sterling £'000.

The principal accounting policies of the District are set out below.

Consolidation

The District oversees the work of Methodist churches and circuits within south Yorkshire, north Nottinghamshire and north-east Derbyshire but does not seek to control circuits or churches or their ministers or lay workers except in extreme circumstances. For this reason the financial results of these churches are not consolidated into these financial statements.

Going concern

The Trustees have prepared these financial statements on the going concern basis. The Trustees have reviewed forecasts to 31 March 2024 and on the basis of those forecasts believe that the District will be able to meet its liabilities as they fall due. These forecasts have been prepared conservatively, including risks and sensitivities to anticipated financial performance, including a review of actual performance compared to previous forecasts. Whilst the cost of living crisis is likely to impact organisations across Methodism, the Trustees do not anticipate that sufficient income to sustain core district activities will cease to be available. Based on the information currently available in respect of the future, the Trustees consider that the District has the plans and resources to manage its risks successfully and that there are no material uncertainties about the District's ability continue as a going concern.

Income

Income is not recognised until receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Contributions from circuit model trust funds are levied on 1 September each year, calculated according to the balances included in these funds at this date, which are outside of the control of the District. They are recognised as income when levied.

Distributions from Connexional advance and property funds are received based on the balances and transactions within those funds, which are outside of the control of the District. Income is recognised when distributions are formally confirmed by Connexional officers.

Assessments on circuits are charged based on amounts agreed in advance with circuits as a contribution towards the running costs of the District. Assessments are recognised as income in the period to which the funding relates.

The District also acts as an agent in respect of Connexional assessments collected from circuits and remitted to the national Methodist Church Fund. These Connexional assessments are not recognised as income or expenditure in the statement of financial activity, because there is no obligation on the District to make up any shortfall in Connexional assessments from circuits.

Whilst time given to the District by many volunteers is essential to its work, this donation of time is not recognised in these financial statements since its value cannot be measured reliably for accounting purposes.

Expenditure

Resources expended are included in the statement of financial activities on an accruals basis, inclusive of VAT.

Grants pledged

Grants pledged by the District are recognised in full when the District is under a legal or constructive obligation to make the payment, usually once the grant has been approved by the District Leadership Team and the pledge communicated to the applicant.

Fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised at cost.

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost, net of depreciation. Existing historic costs have been retained on adoption of the SORP for all fixed assets.

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost or valuation less estimated realisable value, of all tangible fixed assets over their expected useful lives. Depreciation is recognised on a straight line basis over the following periods:

- Freehold buildings: 50 years
- Freehold land is not depreciated
- IT equipment: 5 years

Where the District leases properties temporarily surplus to its own needs to individuals or other organisations these assets are classed as tangible fixed assets, since their fair value cannot be measured reliably without undue cost or effort.

At each reporting date fixed assets are reviewed to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss.

Retirement benefits

Certain of the District's former lay employees are members of The Pensions Trust Growth Plan (Series 3), a multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme. Provision has been made in these financial statements for deficit plan payments agreed with the scheme's trustees.

Ordained ministers stationed within the District are entitled to become or remain members of the Methodist Ministers Pension Scheme. This is a defined benefit pension scheme. Monthly employer pension contributions are accounted for as expenditure in the statement of financial activities as they fall due. Payments to settle the deficit on this scheme are borne by the Methodist Connexion.

Leased assets

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activity on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

Financial instruments

The Group holds only simple financial instruments, being debtors, creditors, cash and leases, which are recognised at cost less provision for estimated irrecoverable assets.

Current asset deposits in monetary assets held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees are categorised as cash equivalents since they are capable of being converted to cash with immediate effect on instruction by the District.

Central Finance Board deposits are also capable of immediate liquidation and so are classified as cash equivalents.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is allocated to the fund.

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are incoming resources received or generated for charitable purposes and are available for use at the discretion of the District Leadership Team in furtherance of the general objectives of the District.

1 Prior year statement of financial activities

Financial activities for the prior year comprise the following restricted and unrestricted income and expenditure:

	Note	Advance fund 2021 £'000	Other unrestricted funds 2021 £'000	Restricted funds 2021 £'000	Total 2021 £'000
<i>Income from:</i>					
Donations		-	-	3	3
Contributions from circuit model trust funds		175	-	-	175
Assessment on circuits		-	112	-	112
Grants received		-	-	143	143
Other charitable income		-	7	8	15
Total charitable activities		175	119	151	445
Other trading activities		-	11	-	11
Investments		1	-	-	1
Total income		176	130	154	460
<i>Expenditure on:</i>					
Grants and donations	6	(44)	-	(4)	(48)
Salaries and stipends	2	-	(74)	(135)	(209)
Administration and office		(1)	(18)	(4)	(23)
Property and insurance		-	(12)	(16)	(28)
Travel		-	(2)	(1)	(3)
Venue hire and event catering		-	-	(1)	(1)
Other charitable costs		-	(3)	(19)	(22)
Total charitable activities		(45)	(109)	(180)	(334)
Other trading activities		-	(3)	-	(3)
Total expenditure		(45)	(112)	(180)	(337)
Net income/ (expenditure)		131	18	(26)	123
Transfers between funds		(25)	-	25	-
Net movement in funds		106	18	(1)	123
Opening funds		54	268	119	441
Closing funds		160	286	118	564

2 Salaries and stipends

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Salaries and stipends	249	176
Employer's national insurance contributions	23	16
Defined contribution pension costs	13	10
Defined benefit pension costs (MMPS)	7	7
	292	209

The average number of lay employees during the year was eleven (2021: nine). The District also bears the stipend cost of the Peak Park Rural Development Enabler.

No employees receive benefits greater than £60,000 per annum.

The senior management personnel of the District is considered to be the Chair of District. The total cost to the District of providing taxable benefits in kind and the Chair's manse (in which the Chair is required to live in order to fulfil her duties) amounted to £7,000 (2021: £8,000). The stipend, employer's national insurance and employers pension contribution in respect of the Chair are borne by the Methodist Connexion.

3 Payments to trustees

One trustee (2021: one) received remuneration from the District for work undertaken on its behalf. No trustees received remuneration for services provided as a trustee.

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Salary	31	31

The number of trustees who received reimbursed expenses or on whose behalf travel costs were paid by the District was five (2021: four).

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Travel costs reimbursed	12	3

4 Amounts received on behalf of other organisations

The District received £449,000 (2021: £452,000) from its circuits for the Methodist Church Fund in the form of the Connexional element of circuit assessments. These amounts are not included in the statement of financial performance because the District acted solely as a collection agent for these funds.

At 31 August 2022 £1,000 remained to be remitted to the Methodist Church Fund (31 August 2021: £nil).

5 Independent examiner

The independent examiners' fee for reporting on these accounts amounts to £2,100 (2021: £1,800). No other services were provided to the District in either year by the independent examiner.

6 Grants awarded

The District awarded the following grants during the year:

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Advance Fund - property projects	27	8
Advance Fund - ministry projects	43	62
Advance Fund - pension reserve fund	18	-
General Fund - pension reserve fund	8	-
General Fund - other	1	-
Restricted funds - Who Is Your Neighbour	95	-
Restricted funds - ministry projects	20	-
Restricted funds - other	-	4
Grants to institutions	212	74
Advance Fund - Learning and development	-	6
General Fund - Learning and development	1	-
Grants to individuals	1	6
Less Advance Fund grants lapsed	-	(32)
Total grants awarded	213	48

Grants from the Advance Fund are made in accordance with our strategy for resourcing mission. Small learning and development grants are offered to Methodist ministers and lay people in accordance with the Learning and Development and Ministerial Development policies. Details of these policies, together with further details of grants awarded to institutions are available on the District website www.sheffieldmethodist.org.

A grant of £26,000 was awarded to the Connexional Pension Reserve Fund during the year in response to a national appeal for contributions to restore the balance in this fund, which aids the smooth running of Methodist ministerial pension commitments.

The Who Is Your Neighbour project, which for many years has operated as part of Sheffield Methodist District, became an independent charity during the year. This was considered by our Trustees and its management committee the best way of taking forward its community cohesion work. A new Who Is Your Neighbour CIO was registered with the Charity Commission (registration number 1196667) and the £95,000 balance of restricted grants received but not yet spent was granted on to the new charity.

Other restricted grants in the prior year comprise largely Learning Network grants and projects supported by Methodist Women in Britain.

7 Fixed assets

	Freehold land £'000	Freehold buildings £'000	IT equipment	Total £'000
Cost				
Opening	115	151	2	268
Closing	115	151	2	268
Depreciation				
Opening	-	48	1	49
Charge for the year	-	3	1	4
Closing	-	51	2	53
Net book value				
Opening	115	103	1	219
Closing	115	100	-	215

8 Debtors

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Trade debtors	2	-
Loans to churches and circuits	46	36
Prepayments	-	6
	48	42

Loans to churches and circuits comprises:

Greenhill Methodist Church £32,000 (2021: £36,000) funding towards a property redevelopment scheme. The loan is unsecured, not interest bearing and is repayable in instalments by 2030.

Enable Social Enterprise Ltd £14,000 (2021: £nil) funding towards provision of social housing. The loan is unsecured, bears interest at 5%, and is repayable in instalments by 2029.

9 Creditors – amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Trade creditors	3	4
Grants payable	92	108
Defined benefit pension plan	4	6
Amounts collected for other organisations	1	-
Accruals and deferred income	3	3
	103	121

10 Creditors – amounts falling due outside of one year

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Grants payable	29	19
Defined benefit pension plan	2	3
	31	22

11 Contingent liabilities

The District has made defined benefit pension commitments to certain employees through The Pensions Trust Growth Plan (Series 3), a multi-employer pension scheme. Withdrawal from the Growth Plan scheme could trigger a liability of £6,000 (31 August 2021: £9,000) in excess of pension contributions accrued for in these accounts. The District has chosen Series 4 of the Growth Plan, a defined contribution scheme, as its auto-enrolment pension scheme and so withdrawal from the Growth Plan is considered unlikely.

12 Advance fund

The district Advance fund receives income via annual contributions levied on circuit model trust funds and distributions from Connexional advance and property funds. The purpose of these levies and distributions is to release funds for where they are most required. This is an unrestricted fund and is used to make grants in accordance with the District Strategy for Resourcing Mission or to support specific current initiatives undertaken by the District.

13 Other unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the District Leadership Team in furtherance of the general objectives of the District including activities mandated by the Methodist Connexion, such as provision of the Chair's manse and supporting the regulatory functions performed by various District officers.

14 Restricted funds

	Opening balance 1 September 2021 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Transfers £'000	Closing balance 31 August 2022 £'000
Edgar Hodkin bequest	1	-	(1)	-	-
Methodist Women in Britain	2	1	(1)	-	2
Who is Your Neighbour?	57	100	(157)	-	-
Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	1	36	(53)	16	-
Learning Network	2	14	(17)	3	2
Mission Enabler	17	26	(38)	14	19
Persian Ministry	28	33	(41)	12	32
New Places for New People	10	20	(20)	-	10
Total charitable activities	118	230	(328)	45	65

	Opening balance 1 September 2020 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Transfers £'000	Closing balance 31 August 2021 £'000
Edgar Hodkin bequest	1	-	-	-	1
Methodist Women in Britain	3	3	(4)	-	2
Who is Your Neighbour?	87	50	(80)	-	57
Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	2	39	(52)	12	1
35 Chapel Walk	5	(4)	(1)	-	-
Learning Network	7	-	(5)	-	2
Mission Enabler	14	26	(36)	13	17
Persian Ministry	-	30	(2)	-	28
New Places for New People	-	10	-	-	10
Total charitable activities	119	154	(180)	25	118

Transfers into restricted funds represent match funding from unrestricted District funds towards projects partially funded by restricted grants and donations.

Restricted funds are to be used for purposes as directed by the donors:

- The *Edgar Hodkin bequest* is to be used for "Protestant evangelical Christian work", with the primary purpose being "the Sunday School work".
- The Sheffield District branch of *Methodist Women in Britain* connects women with an interest in creative spirituality and a passion for global social justice.
- *Who is your neighbour?* worked to help communities live more successfully with difference and be more resilient in dealing with divisions created by those who see difference as a threat. As described in note 6, this work is now being carried out by a new Who Is Your Neighbour CIO
- The *Peak Park Rural Development Enabler* works alongside churches across the Peak Park national park as they develop their mission and community engagement.
- *35 Chapel Walk* was an art space and community for creative people who dare to imagine that the world can be a better place. This project ended during the prior year. Unspent grants were returned to grant funders.
- The *Learning Network* comprises income and costs relating to training events organised by the Yorkshire Plus Learning Network regional team
- The *Mission Enabler* supports churches and circuits in overcoming barriers to risk-taking mission
- The *Persian Ministry* fund supports development and growth of ministry to Iranians and others within the UK, primarily through employment of a Persian Ministry Development Enabler
- The *New Places for New People* fund supports the establishment of new Christian communities, either directly by the District or by providing grants to its circuits

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

Net assets at 31 August 2022 are represented by:

	Advance fund £'000	Other unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total £'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	215	-	215
Current assets	353	87	65	505
Current liabilities	(92)	(11)	-	(103)
Liabilities falling due outside of one year	(29)	(2)	-	(31)
Total net assets	232	289	65	586

Net assets at 31 August 2021 are represented by:

	Advance fund £'000	Other unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total £'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	219	-	219
Current assets	283	83	122	488
Current liabilities	(104)	(13)	(4)	(121)
Liabilities falling due outside of one year	(19)	(3)	-	(22)
Total net assets	160	286	118	564

16 Reconciliation of net cash flows from operating activities

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Net income for the year	22	123
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	4	4
Interest	(2)	(1)
(Increase) in debtors	(6)	(41)
(Decrease) in creditors	(9)	(89)
Cash generated by/ (used in) operating activities	9	(4)

17 Cash and cash equivalents

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Investments with TMCP	420	270
Central Finance Board deposits	22	91
Cash at bank and in hand	15	85
	457	446

18 Operating lease commitments

Total minimum commitments under non-cancellable operating leases for land and buildings are as follows:

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Operating leases expiring within one year	3	4

19 Related party transactions

All District trustees are members of churches and circuits within the District and may also be trustees of their church or circuit. Related parties include the Methodist Connexion, churches and circuits within the District and other Methodist entities. Other than as described in notes 2, 3, 4, 6 and 8, the only transactions with related parties during the year requiring disclosure are as follows:

Party	Details	2022 £	2021 £
Grants received			
Manchester & Stockport District	Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	12,600	12,400
Nottingham & Derby District	Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	6,600	6,400
Methodist Connexion	Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	14,000	16,000
High Peak Partnership	Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	2,340	-
Methodist Connexion	Mission Development Support Worker	25,758	25,758
Methodist Connexion	35 Chapel Walk	-	(4,815)
Methodist Connexion	New Places for New People	20,000	10,000
Yorkshire North & East District	Persian Ministry	15,333	-
Princes Avenue Methodist Church	Persian Ministry	3,333	-
Hull Centre & West Circuit	Persian Ministry	3,333	-
Doncaster Circuit	Persian Ministry	10,546	-
Sheffield Circuit	Persian Ministry	-	14,000
Other receipts			
Methodist Connexion	Learning Network costs recharged	810	-
Yorkshire North & East District	Retreat attendance fees and HR Officer contributions	17,345	4,960
Yorkshire West District	Retreat attendance fees and contributions	4,113	-
various Methodist circuits & churches	Retreat attendance fees and contributions	770	1,075
Payments			
Yorkshire North & East District	Retreat and event costs	(1,482)	(488)
various Methodist circuits & churches	Hire of venues for events and regular activities	(4,440)	(4,159)
Year end balances receivable/ (payable)			
Yorkshire North & East District		1,757	-

SHEFFIELD METHODIST DISTRICT

England & Wales - Charity number 1129363

Accounts



Sheffield Methodist District
Annual report and accounts
For the year ended 31 August 2021

Registered charity number 1129363

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity number: 1129363

Address:

Sheffield Methodist District Office
Room 47, Victoria Hall Methodist Church
Norfolk Street
Sheffield S1 2JB

The following body was the custodian trustee throughout the year and up to the date of this report: The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

The following persons were managing trustees during the year or up to the date of approval of this report:

Rev Gill Newton (Chair)
Rev Sean Adair
McCauley Allcock (appointed 11 September 2021)
Rev Jon Bellfield
Joyce Bromley (resigned 12 September 2020)
David Burton
Rev Sally Coleman (resigned 11 September 2021)
Gill Daly (resigned 11 September 2021)
Elizabeth Janine Eldred (resigned 11 September 2021)
Janet Hampshire (resigned 11 September 2021)
Neil Harland
Rev Richard Harris (appointed 12 September 2020, resigned 11 September 2021)
Rev Margaret Mwalu
Rev Michael Neal
Rev Adrian Perry (resigned 11 September 2021)
John Purdy (resigned 11 September 2021)
Tom Sykes (appointed 12 September 2020, resigned 11 September 2021)
John Walker (resigned 12 September 2020)
Griff Wynne

Structure, governance and management

The District's governing document is the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church of Great Britain. The District Leading Team, who are the managing trustees, include key office holders and other members representing the diversity of the district. All members are appointed annually by the Representative Synod, with members appointed by the District Leading Team to fill casual vacancies between meetings of Representative Synod.

Representative Synod meets twice each year. The District Leading Team and other District meetings meet regularly throughout the year. Further authorities to act on behalf of the District between meetings are delegated to the Chair and various District officers.

Objectives and activities

The objects of the District are set out in the Methodist Church Act 1976 (clause 4): advancement of religion and any charitable purpose of the Methodist Church or church organisation.

The main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects are the promotion of Christianity through the staging of events, supporting Methodist and other charities in South Yorkshire, north Nottinghamshire and north-east Derbyshire, and financially, through provision of technical guidance and in prayer.

Achievements and performance

The primary focus of the District Leadership Team during the year has been the launch of our new five year strategy for resourcing mission, *For Such A Time As This*. This focusses on six priorities for equipping our circuits, churches and their members to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ, which is their calling and our calling:

- GROWING DISCIPLES lies at the heart of our strategy, as a bedrock of supportive accountable, deepening relationship with each other and with Christ.
- This leads to PASSIONATE CONTEXTUAL WORSHIP and TRANSFORMING MISSION for such a time as this.
- Particular support is needed to rediscover confidence in SHARING STORIES for such a time as this.
- We will help set disciples free for a life of worship and mission by SIMPLIFYING PROCEDURES and providing expert support to make their PROPERTIES FIT FOR MISSION for such a time as this.

Whilst our activities continued to be largely online only through the year we have relaunched our website, continued to increase the reach of our digital communications, provided a wide range of training and networking events and hosted occasional district-wide online acts of worship. We have continued to support our churches and circuits in navigating the challenges, opportunities and new contexts presented by the coronavirus pandemic, and in starting to understand how their local missional contexts will change beyond the pandemic.

We have restructured our own governance processes, to make our activities more focussed on delivery of *For Such A Time As This*, and easier for people to access and participate in. This has included a reduction in the size of the District Leading Team, our managing trustee body, and a new process for ongoing recruitment of trustees and other officers, focussed on the skills required and representing the diversity of the life of our district.

During the year we have appointed a Persian Ministry Development Enabler, in partnership with Yorkshire North & East District, to support and grow our work with congregations with significant numbers of Iranian members across our region. We have also begun working with our Derbyshire North East Circuit to pilot *New Places for New People*, which we hope will lead to giving birth to significant numbers of new Methodist Christian communities in the coming years as part of the Connexional *God for All* strategy.

Financial review

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS 102)' effective 1 January 2019 and Financial Reporting Standard 102 ("FRS 102").

The District recorded a surplus of £123,000 (2020 surplus of £15,000). The uncommitted balance on our Advance Fund increased by £106,000 during the year, with a lower volume of grant applications received. This was primarily driven by our churches and circuits deferring decisions about major new financial commitments until they had greater vision about their post-pandemic context. We anticipate that the uncommitted balance on the Advance Fund will reduce over the next two to three years as applications recommence. Travel and event costs continue to be lower than anticipated due to most of our activities being conducted online during the coronavirus pandemic.

The principal recurring sources of funds continue to be obligatory payments by Methodist circuits in the District and grants from the connexional Methodist Church Fund and other Methodist bodies. We have maintained an active dialogue with our circuits during and since the year end and remain confident that they will be able to maintain their contributions to our work.

The major items of District expenditure continued to be £48,000 (2020: £131,000) on grants and donations, and £209,000 (2020: £233,000) on staff engaged in the District's direct mission projects or providing support and advice to Methodist organisations within the District.

No investments are held outside of the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

Reserves policy

Advance fund: The reserves policy for the District Advance Fund is that the District will only award grants from the liquid funds available, after making allowance for grants pledged but not yet paid over and any specific anticipated future commitments. Grants are awarded in accordance with the District strategy for resourcing mission and usually for a period of not more than three years. The uncommitted DAF funds at 31 August 2021 were £160,000.

Other unrestricted funds: The policy of the District is to maintain liquid funds (i.e. net current assets) in other unrestricted funds equivalent to between three and six months expenditure. Liquid funds amounted to 8 months of expenditure at 31 August 2021 (31 August 2020: six months). We anticipate that liquid funds will reduce to within our reserve policy over the coming year.

Other funds are held for specific purposes, with the policy of the District being to ensure that sufficient amounts are held in or available to each fund in order to meet its future specific commitments. Restricted fund balances at 31 August 2021 are:

- *Who is Your Neighbour?* (balance £57,000) being amounts allocated or received in support of this project promoting unity and challenging prejudice across South Yorkshire communities. All existing commitments are expected to be met from secured funding
- Methodist Women in Britain (£2,000) to equip women to fully participate in the life of the Christian church and in society
- Edgar Hodkin bequest (£1,000) being utilised to support District youth initiatives
- Learning Network (£2,000) to fund training events organised by the Yorkshire Plus Learning Network regional team
- Mission Development Support Worker (balance £17,000) being grant funding for this project to be spent in future periods. All existing commitments are expected to be met from secured funding
- Peak Park Rural Development Enabler (balance £1,000) being grant funding for this project to be spent in future periods. All existing commitments are expected to be met from secured funding
- Persian Ministry (balance £28,000) being grant funding for this project to be spent in future periods. All existing commitments are expected to be met from secured funding
- New Places for New People (balance £10,000) being grant funding for this project to be spent in future periods. All existing commitments are expected to be met from secured funding

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:



Rev Gill Newton
Chair



Neil Harland
Treasurer

10 March 2022

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Sheffield Methodist District

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2021 which are set out on pages 5 to 17.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity'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 charity'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.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination

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.



Simon Bladen FCA
Hawsons Limited
Chartered Accountants
Peagasus House
436a Glossop Road
Sheffield
S10 2QD

Date: 13 April 2022

	Note	Advance fund 2021 £'000	Other unrestricted funds 2021 £'000	Restricted funds 2021 £'000	Total 2021 £'000	Total 2020 £'000
<i>Income from:</i>						
Donations		-	-	3	3	7
Contributions from circuit model trust funds		175	-	-	175	172
Assessment on circuits		-	112	-	112	102
Grants received		-	-	143	143	175
Other charitable income		-	7	8	15	30
Total charitable activities		175	119	151	445	479
Other trading activities		-	11	-	11	11
Investments		1	-	-	1	5
Total income		176	130	154	460	502
<i>Expenditure on:</i>						
Grants and donations	6	(44)	-	(4)	(48)	(131)
Salaries and stipends	2	-	(74)	(135)	(209)	(233)
Administration and office		(1)	(18)	(4)	(23)	(28)
Property and insurance		-	(12)	(16)	(28)	(43)
Travel		-	(2)	(1)	(3)	(12)
Venue hire and event catering		-	-	(1)	(1)	(17)
Other charitable costs		-	(3)	(19)	(22)	(20)
Total charitable activities		(45)	(109)	(180)	(334)	(484)
Other trading activities		-	(3)	-	(3)	(3)
Total expenditure		(45)	(112)	(180)	(337)	(487)
Net income/ (expenditure)		131	18	(26)	123	15
Transfers between funds		(25)	-	25	-	-
Net movement in funds		106	18	(1)	123	15
Opening funds		54	268	119	441	426
Closing funds		160	286	118	564	441

There were no recognised gains and losses in the year other than those presented above.

All activities are classed as continuing operations.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2021

	Note	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Tangible fixed assets	7	219	224
Curent assets			
Debtors	8	42	1
TMCP deposits		270	251
Central Finance Board deposits		91	86
Cash at bank and in hand		85	111
Total curent assets		488	449
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	(121)	(188)
Net current assets		367	261
Total assets less current liabilities		586	485
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	10	(22)	(44)
Net assets		564	441
Funds of the District:			
Advance fund	12	160	54
Other unrestricted funds	13	286	268
Restricted funds	14	118	119
Total funds		564	441

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the District Leadership Team on 10 March 2022.



Rev Gill Newton
Deputy Chair



Neil Harland
Treasurer

Registered charity number 1129363

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Cash flow statement

	Note	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Net cash used in operating activities	16	(4)	(104)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Disposal of tangible fixed assets		1	-
Interest		1	5
Net cash provided by investing activities		2	5
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(2)	(99)
Opening cash and cash equivalents		448	547
Closing cash and cash equivalents	17	446	448

Charity information

Sheffield Methodist District is a charity registered in England and Wales (number 1129363). Its registered address is Room 47, Victoria Hall Methodist Church, Norfolk Street, Sheffield, S1 2JB.

Basis of preparation

The Charity is a public benefit entity.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS 102)' effective 1 January 2019 and Financial Reporting Standard 102 ("FRS 102"). They have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

These financial statements are presented in Pounds sterling £'000.

The principal accounting policies of the District are set out below.

Consolidation

The District oversees the work of Methodist churches and circuits within south Yorkshire, north Nottinghamshire and north-east Derbyshire but does not seek to control circuits or churches or their ministers or lay workers except in extreme circumstances. For this reason the financial results of these churches are not consolidated into these financial statements.

Going concern

The Trustees have prepared these financial statements on the going concern basis. The Trustees have reviewed forecasts to 31 March 2023 and on the basis of those forecasts believe that the District will be able to meet its liabilities as they fall due. These forecasts have been prepared conservatively, including risks and sensitivities to anticipated financial performance, including a review of actual performance compared to previous forecasts. Whilst the coronavirus pandemic has impacted organisations across Methodism, the Trustees do not anticipate that sufficient income to sustain core district activities will cease to be available. Based on the information currently available in respect of the future, the Trustees consider that the District has the plans and resources to manage its risks successfully and that there are no material uncertainties about the District's ability continue as a going concern.

Income

Income is not recognised until receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Contributions from circuit model trust funds are levied on 1 September each year, calculated according to the balances included in these funds at this date, which are outside of the control of the District. They are recognised as income when levied.

Distributions from Connexional advance and property funds are received based on the balances and transactions within those funds, which are outside of the control of the District. Income is recognised when distributions are formally confirmed by Connexional officers.

Assessments on circuits are charged based on amounts agreed in advance with circuits as a contribution towards the running costs of the District. Assessments are recognised as income in the period to which the funding relates.

The District also acts as an agent in respect of Connexional assessments collected from circuits and remitted to the national Methodist Church Fund. These Connexional assessments are not recognised as income or expenditure in the statement of financial activity, because there is no obligation on the District to make up any shortfall in Connexional assessments from circuits.

Whilst time given to the District by many volunteers is essential to its work, this donation of time is not recognised in these financial statements since its value cannot be measured reliably for accounting purposes.

Expenditure

Resources expended are included in the statement of financial activities on an accruals basis, inclusive of VAT.

Grants pledged

Grants pledged by the District are recognised in full when the District is under a legal or constructive obligation to make the payment, usually once the grant has been approved by the District Leadership Team and the pledge communicated to the applicant.

Fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised at cost.

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost, net of depreciation. Existing historic costs have been retained on adoption of the SORP for all fixed assets.

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost or valuation less estimated realisable value, of all tangible fixed assets over their expected useful lives. Depreciation is recognised on a straight line basis over the following periods:

- Freehold buildings: 50 years
- Freehold land is not depreciated
- IT equipment: 5 years

Where the District leases properties temporarily surplus to its own needs to individuals or other organisations these assets are classed as tangible fixed assets, since their fair value cannot be measured reliably without undue cost or effort.

At each reporting date fixed assets are reviewed to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss.

Retirement benefits

Certain of the District's former lay employees are members of The Pensions Trust Growth Plan (Series 3), a multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme. Provision has been made in these financial statements for deficit plan payments agreed with the scheme's trustees.

Ordained ministers stationed within the District are entitled to become or remain members of the Methodist Ministers Pension Scheme. This is a defined benefit pension scheme. Monthly employer pension contributions are accounted for as expenditure in the statement of financial activities as they fall due. Payments to settle the deficit on this scheme are borne by the Methodist Connexion.

Leased assets

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activity on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

Financial instruments

The Group holds only simple financial instruments, being debtors, creditors, cash and leases, which are recognised at cost less provision for estimated irrecoverable assets.

Current asset deposits in monetary assets held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees are categorised as cash equivalents since they are capable of being converted to cash with immediate effect on instruction by the District.

Central Finance Board deposits are also capable of immediate liquidation and so are classified as cash equivalents.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is allocated to the fund.

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are incoming resources received or generated for charitable purposes and are available for use at the discretion of the District Leadership Team in furtherance of the general objectives of the District.

1 Prior year statement of financial activities

Financial activities for the prior year comprise the following restricted and unrestricted income and expenditure:

	Note	Advance fund 2020 £'000	Other unrestricted funds 2020 £'000	Restricted funds 2020 £'000	Total 2020 £'000
<i>Income from:</i>					
Donations		2	-	5	7
Contributions from circuit model trust funds		172	-	-	172
Distribution from Connexional advance and property funds		-	-	-	-
Assessment on circuits		-	102	-	102
Grants received		-	-	175	175
Other charitable income		-	5	25	30
Total charitable activities		172	107	200	479
Other trading activities		-	11	-	11
Investments		4	1	-	5
Total income		178	119	205	502
<i>Expenditure on:</i>					
Grants and donations	6	(115)	-	(16)	(131)
Salaries and stipends	2	-	(50)	(183)	(233)
Administration and office		(1)	(21)	(6)	(28)
Property and insurance		-	(19)	(24)	(43)
Travel		-	(7)	(5)	(12)
Venue hire and event catering		-	(6)	(11)	(17)
Other charitable costs		-	(2)	(18)	(20)
Total charitable activities		(116)	(105)	(263)	(484)
Other trading activities		-	(3)	-	(3)
Total expenditure		(116)	(108)	(263)	(487)
Net income/ (expenditure)		62	11	(58)	15
Transfers between funds		(44)	(2)	46	-
Net movement in funds		18	9	(12)	15
Opening funds		36	259	131	426
Closing funds		54	268	119	441

2 Salaries and stipends

	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000
Salaries and stipends	176	198
Employer's national insurance contributions	16	16
Defined contribution pension costs	10	9
Defined benefit pension costs (MMPS)	7	10
	209	233

The average number of lay employees during the year was nine (2020: ten). The District also bears the stipend cost of the Peak Park Rural Development Enabler, and in 2020 also 50% of the stipend cost of the Venture FX Pioneer minister.

No employees receive benefits greater than £60,000 per annum.

The senior management personnel of the District is considered to be the Chair of District. The total cost to the District of providing taxable benefits in kind and the Chair's manse (in which the Chair is required to live in order to fulfil her duties) amounted to £8,000 (2020: £9,000). The stipend, employer's national insurance and employers pension contribution in respect of the Chair are borne by the Methodist Connexion.

3 Payments to trustees

One trustee (2020: one) received remuneration from the District for work undertaken on its behalf. No trustees received remuneration for services provided as a trustee.

	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000
Salary	31	30

The number of trustees who received reimbursed expenses or on whose behalf travel costs were paid by the District was four (2020: six).

	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000
Travel costs reimbursed	3	7

4 Amounts received on behalf of other organisations

The District received £452,000 (2020: £488,000) from its circuits for the Methodist Church Fund in the form of the Connexional element of circuit assessments. These amounts are not included in the statement of financial performance because the District acted solely as a collection agent for these funds.

At 31 August 2021 no amounts remained to be remitted to the Methodist Church Fund (31 August 2020: £13,000).

5 Independent examiner

The independent examiners' fee for reporting on these accounts amounts to £1,800 (2020: £1,800). No other services were provided to the District in either year by the independent examiner.

6 Grants awarded

The District awarded the following grants during the year:

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Advance Fund - property projects	8	47
Advance Fund - ministry projects	62	89
Restricted funds - other	4	16
Grants to institutions	74	152
Advance Fund - Learning and development	6	4
Grants to individuals	6	4
Less Advance Fund grants lapsed	(32)	(25)
Total grants awarded	48	131

Grants from the Advance Fund are made in accordance with our strategy for resourcing mission. Small learning and development grants are offered to Methodist ministers and lay people in accordance with the Learning and Development and Ministerial Development policies. Further grants are made from unrestricted funds in support of regional and ecumenical bodies sponsored by the District. Details of these policies, together with further details of grants awarded to institutions are available on the District website www.sheffieldmethodist.org.

Other restricted grants comprise largely Learning Network grants and projects supported by Methodist Women in Britain.

7 Fixed assets

	Freehold land £'000	Freehold buildings £'000	IT equipment	Total £'000
Cost				
Opening	115	151	6	272
Disposals			(4)	(4)
Closing	115	151	2	268
Depreciation				
Opening	-	45	3	48
Charge for the year	-	3	1	4
Disposals			(3)	(3)
Closing	-	48	1	49
Net book value				
Opening	115	106	3	224
Closing	115	103	1	219

8 Debtors

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Trade debtors	-	1
Loans to churches and circuits	36	-
Prepayments	6	-
	42	1

Loans to churches and circuits comprises £36,000 to Greenhill Methodist Church providing funding towards their 2020 vision property redevelopment. The loan is unsecured, not interest bearing and is repayable in instalments by 2030.

9 Creditors – amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Trade creditors	4	1
Grants payable	108	166
Defined benefit pension plan	6	4
Amounts collected for other organisations	-	13
Accruals and deferred income	3	4
	121	188

10 Creditors – amounts falling due outside of one year

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Grants payable	19	40
Defined benefit pension plan	3	4
	22	44

11 Contingent liabilities

The District has made defined benefit pension commitments to certain employees through The Pensions Trust Growth Plan (Series 3), a multi-employer pension scheme. Withdrawal from the Growth Plan scheme could trigger a liability of £9,000 (31 August 2020: £11,000) in excess of pension contributions accrued for in these accounts. The District has chosen Series 4 of the Growth Plan, a defined contribution scheme, as its auto-enrolment pension scheme and so withdrawal from the Growth Plan is considered unlikely.

12 Advance fund

The district Advance fund receives income via annual contributions levied on circuit model trust funds and distributions from Connexional advance and property funds. The purpose of these levies and distributions is to release funds for where they are most required. This is an unrestricted fund and is used to make grants in accordance with the District Strategy for Resourcing Mission or to support specific current initiatives undertaken by the District.

13 Other unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the District Leadership Team in furtherance of the general objectives of the District including activities mandated by the Methodist Connexion, such as provision of the Chair's manse and supporting the regulatory functions performed by various District officers.

14 Restricted funds

	Opening balance 1 September 2020 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Transfers £'000	Closing balance 31 August 2021 £'000
Edgar Hodkin bequest	1	-	-	-	1
Methodist Women in Britain	3	3	(4)	-	2
Who is Your Neighbour?	87	50	(80)	-	57
Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	2	39	(52)	12	1
35 Chapel Walk	5	(4)	(1)	-	-
Learning Network	7	-	(5)	-	2
Mission Development Support Worker	14	26	(36)	13	17
Persian Ministry	-	30	(2)	-	28
New Places for New People	-	10	-	-	10
Total charitable activities	119	154	(180)	25	118

	Opening balance 1 September 2019 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Transfers £'000	Closing balance 31 August 2020 £'000
Edgar Hodkin bequest	4	-	(3)	-	1
Methodist Women in Britain	1	4	(2)	-	3
Who is Your Neighbour?	96	84	(93)	-	87
Venture FX Pioneer	-	2	(23)	21	-
Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	-	42	(51)	11	2
35 Chapel Walk	-	38	(33)	-	5
Learning Network	17	9	(21)	2	7
Mission Development Support Worker	13	26	(37)	12	14
Total charitable activities	131	205	(263)	46	119

Transfers into restricted funds represent match funding from unrestricted District funds towards projects partially funded by restricted grants and donations.

Restricted funds are to be used for purposes as directed by the donors:

- The *Edgar Hodkin bequest* is to be used for "Protestant evangelical Christian work", with the primary purpose being "the Sunday School work". The trustees intend to use the remainder of this bequest to support youth and children's work across the District.
- The Sheffield District branch of *Methodist Women in Britain* connects women with an interest in creative spirituality and a passion for global social justice.
- *Who is your neighbour?* works to help communities live more successfully with difference and be more resilient in dealing with divisions created by those who see difference as a threat.
- The District's *Venture FX Pioneer*, Rev Ric Stott, has been engaged in developing and nurturing fresh expressions of church, with a specific focus on the creative arts.
- The *Peak Park Rural Development Enabler* works alongside churches across the Peak Park national park as they develop their mission and community engagement.
- *35 Chapel Walk* was an art space and community for creative people who dare to imagine that the world can be a better place. This project ended during the year. Unspent grants will be returned to grant funders once closure costs and disposal of equipment has been completed.
- The *Learning Network* comprises income and costs relating to training events organised by the Yorkshire Plus Learning Network regional team
- The *Mission Development Support Worker* supports churches and circuits in overcoming barriers to risk-taking mission
- The *Persian Ministry* fund supports development and growth of ministry to Iranians and others within the UK, primarily through employment of a Persian Ministry Development Enabler
- The *New Places for New People* fund supports the establishment of new Christian communities, either directly by the District or by providing grants to its circuits

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

Net assets at 31 August 2021 are represented by:

	Advance fund £'000	Other unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total £'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	219	-	219
Current assets	283	83	122	488
Current liabilities	(104)	(13)	(4)	(121)
Liabilities falling due outside of one year	(19)	(3)	-	(22)
Total net assets	160	286	118	564

Net assets at 31 August 2020 are represented by:

	Advance fund £'000	Other unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total £'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	222	2	224
Current assets	251	72	126	449
Current liabilities	(161)	(22)	(5)	(188)
Liabilities falling due outside of one year	(36)	(4)	(4)	(44)
Total net assets	54	268	119	441

16 Reconciliation of net cash flows from operating activities

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Net income for the year	123	15
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	4	4
Interest	(1)	(5)
Decrease in stock	-	5
(Increase)/ decrease in debtors	(41)	3
(Decrease) in creditors	(89)	(126)
Cash used in operating activities	(4)	(104)

17 Cash and cash equivalents

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
TMCP deposits	270	251
Central Finance Board deposits	91	86
Cash at bank and in hand	85	111
	446	448

18 Operating lease commitments

Total minimum commitments under non-cancellable operating leases for land and buildings are as follows:

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Operating leases expiring within one year	4	2

19 Related party transactions

All District trustees are members of churches and circuits within the District and may also be trustees of their church or circuit. Related parties include the Methodist Connexion, churches and circuits within the District and other Methodist entities. Other than as described in notes 2, 3, 4, 6 and 8, the only transactions with related parties during the year requiring disclosure are as follows:

Party	Details	2021 £	2020 £
Grants received/ (repaid)			
Manchester & Stockport District	Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	12,400	12,200
Nottingham & Derby District	Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	6,400	12,200
Methodist Connexion	Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	16,000	18,000
Methodist Connexion	<i>Who is Your Neighbour?</i>	-	72,000
Methodist Connexion	Mission Development Support Worker	25,758	25,758
Methodist Connexion	35 Chapel Walk	(4,815)	30,000
Methodist Connexion	Venture FX	-	2,018
Methodist Connexion	New Places for New People	10,000	-
Sheffield Circuit	Persian Ministry	14,000	-
Other receipts			
Methodist Connexion	Learning Network costs recharged	-	459
Yorkshire North & East District	Retreat attendance fees and HR Officer contributions	4,960	4,634
Yorkshire West District	Retreat attendance fees and contributions	-	4,633
various Methodist circuits & churches	Retreat attendance fees and contributions	1,075	1,182
Payments			
Yorkshire North & East District	Retreat and event costs	(488)	(1,106)
various Methodist circuits & churches	Hire of venues for events and regular activities	(4,159)	(9,698)

SHEFFIELD METHODIST DISTRICT

England & Wales - Charity number 1129363

Accounts



Sheffield Methodist District
Annual report and accounts
For the year ended 31 August 2020

Registered charity number 1129363

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity number: 1129363

Address:

Sheffield Methodist District Office
Room 47, Victoria Hall Methodist Church
Norfolk Street
Sheffield S1 2JB

The following body was the custodian trustee throughout the year and up to the date of this report: The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

The following persons were managing trustees during the year or up to the date of approval of this report:

Office holders:

Rev Gill Newton (Chair)
Rev Sean Adair
David Burton (appointed 14 September 2019)
Gill Daly
Elizabeth Janine Eldred
Neil Harland
Rev Margaret Mwailu
John Purdy
Rev Peter Sheasby (resigned 14 September 2019)
Tom Sykes (appointed 12 September 2020)

Circuit representatives:

Jon Bellfield
Joyce Bromley (resigned 12 September 2020)
Rev Sally Coleman
Janet Hampshire
Rev Richard Harris (appointed 12 September 2020)
Rev Michael Neal
Rev Adrian Perry
John Walker (resigned 12 September 2020)
Griff Wynne

Structure, governance and management

The District's governing document is the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church of Great Britain. The District Leadership Team, who are the managing trustees, include office holders appointed annually by the Representative Synod and representatives appointed by Circuits within the District.

Representative Synod meets twice each year. The District Leadership Team and other District meetings meet regularly throughout the year. Further authorities to act on behalf of the District between meetings are delegated to the Chair and various District officers.

Objectives and activities

The objects of the District are set out in the Methodist Church Act 1976 (clause 4): advancement of religion and any charitable purpose of the Methodist Church or church organisation.

The main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects are the promotion of Christianity through the staging of events, supporting Methodist and other charities in South Yorkshire, north Nottinghamshire and north-east Derbyshire, and financially, through provision of technical guidance and in prayer.

Achievements and performance

The primary focus of the District Leadership Team during the year has been on delivering our mission policy:

Developing a positive culture for discipleship through learning, changing and joining in

- **Learning:** *We will help people become, learn and grow into confident disciples of Jesus*
- **Changing:** *We will support Circuits and local churches as they respond to the transforming work of God's Spirit*
- **Joining in:** *We will resource Circuits and local churches as they join in God's mission both within their own life and the life of the world.*

We began the financial year with our best attended synod gathering for many years, on the theme of Radical Hospitality. We also appointed a new post of Communications Officer, which enabled us to significantly increase our social media presence.

During the second half of the year, much of our focus has been on supporting our circuits and churches in responding to the coronavirus pandemic. We have provided advice and opportunities for sharing and developing practice in how to transfer mission and ministry to online, postal, telephone or socially distanced formats. We have also provided advice to employers concerning furlough arrangements, and co-ordinated discussions to ensure that financial resources could be targeted to organisations most impacted by sudden loss of income. Notwithstanding the enormous pain, grief and hardship the pandemic has brought, we are encouraged by the ways many of our churches have adapted.

We have also transferred our own activities online, recognising that whilst this has made it more difficult for some people to engage with us, for others removing the need to travel has helped them participate. We are also mindful of the reduction in our carbon footprint and need to capture the best of remote working for the longer term.

We continued to receive some applications for new staffing roles and property redevelopments from churches and circuits, including encouragingly during lockdown as organisations used this time to prepare for a future requiring new roles and community facilities. Applications for training grants reduced, which we believe to be due to people accessing free webinars online instead of paid for courses.

We took the difficult decision to end our 35 Chapel Walk creative arts outreach project in January 2020, having carefully reviewed its progress and trialled a number of different operating models. We are glad to have been able to provide a venue for exploring creativity, spirituality and community during its six years of operation. We recognise that undertaking risk-taking mission will result in some experiments not lasting, and commissioned and independent review to capture learnings from the project.

Financial review

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS 102)' effective 1 January 2019 and Financial Reporting Standard 102 ("FRS 102").

The District recorded a small surplus of £15,000 (2019 surplus of £1,000). Travel and event costs were lower than anticipated due to most of our activities being conducted online during the coronavirus pandemic. The uncommitted balance on our Advance Fund increased by £18,000 during the year, with amounts held back in case of emergency

grant requests during the pandemic not being called upon. We anticipate that the level of applications will increase in future periods, as churches start new initiatives in response to needs arising from the pandemic.

The principal recurring sources of funds continue to be obligatory payments by Methodist circuits in the District and grants from the connexional Methodist Church Fund and other Methodist bodies. We have maintained an active dialogue with our circuits during and since the year end and remain confident that they will be able to maintain the contributions to our work.

The major items of District expenditure continued to be £131,000 (2019: £184,000) on grants and donations, and £233,000 (2019: £212,000) on staff engaged in the District's direct mission projects or providing support and advice to Methodist organisations within the District.

No investments are held outside of the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

Reserves policy

Advance fund: The reserves policy for the District Advance Fund is that the District will only award grants from the liquid funds available, after making allowance for grants pledged but not yet paid over and any specific anticipated future commitments. Grants are awarded in accordance with the District mission policy and usually for a period of not more than three years. The uncommitted DAF funds at 31 August 2020 were £54,000.

Other unrestricted funds: The policy of the District is to maintain liquid funds (i.e. net current assets) in other unrestricted funds equivalent to between three and six months expenditure. Liquid funds amounted to six months of expenditure at 31 August 2020 (31 August 2019: four months).

Other funds are held for specific purposes, with the policy of the District being to ensure that sufficient amounts are held in or available to each fund in order to meet its future specific commitments. Restricted fund balances at 31 August 2020 are:

- *Who is Your Neighbour?* (balance £87,000) being amounts allocated or received in support of this project promoting unity and challenging prejudice across South Yorkshire communities. All existing commitments are expected to be met from secured funding
- Methodist Women in Britain (£3,000) to equip women to fully participate in the life of the Christian church and in society
- Edgar Hodkin bequest (£1,000) being utilised to support District youth initiatives
- Learning Network (£7,000) to fund training events organised by the Yorkshire Plus Learning Network regional team
- Mission Development Support Worker (balance £14,000) being grant funding for this project to be spent in future periods. All existing commitments are expected to be met from secured funding
- Peak Park Rural Development Enabler (balance £2,000) being grant funding for this project to be spent in future periods. All existing commitments are expected to be met from secured funding
- 35 Chapel Walk (balance £5,000) being unexpended grants to be returned following ending of this project

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:



Rev Sean Adair
Deputy Chair



Neil Harland
Treasurer

19 April 2021

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Sheffield Methodist District

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2020 which are set out on pages 5 to 17.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity'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 charity'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.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination

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.



Simon Bladen FCA
Hawsons Limited
Chartered Accountants
Peagasus House
436a Glossop Road
Sheffield
S10 2QD

Date: 24/5/21

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

	Note	Advance fund 2020 £'000	Other unrestricted funds 2020 £'000	Restricted funds 2020 £'000	Total 2020 £'000	Total 2019 £'000
<i>Income from:</i>						
Donations		2	-	5	7	12
Contributions from circuit model trust funds		172	-	-	172	141
Distribution from Connexional advance and property funds		-	-	-	-	10
Assessment on circuits		-	102	-	102	94
Grants received		-	-	175	175	219
Other charitable income		-	5	25	30	62
Total charitable activities		172	107	200	479	526
Other trading activities		-	11	-	11	6
Investments		4	1	-	5	5
Total income		178	119	205	502	549
<i>Expenditure on:</i>						
Grants and donations	6	(115)	-	(16)	(131)	(184)
Salaries and stipends	2	-	(50)	(183)	(233)	(212)
Administration and office		(1)	(21)	(6)	(28)	(28)
Property and insurance		-	(19)	(24)	(43)	(48)
Travel		-	(7)	(5)	(12)	(20)
Venue hire and event catering		-	(6)	(11)	(17)	(22)
Other charitable costs		-	(2)	(18)	(20)	(30)
Total charitable activities		(116)	(105)	(263)	(484)	(544)
Other trading activities		-	(3)	-	(3)	(4)
Total expenditure		(116)	(108)	(263)	(487)	(548)
Net income/ (expenditure)		62	11	(58)	15	1
Transfers between funds		(44)	(2)	46	-	-
Net movement in funds		18	9	(12)	15	1
Opening funds		36	259	131	426	425
Closing funds		54	268	119	441	426

There were no recognised gains and losses in the year other than those presented above.

All activities are classed as continuing operations.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2020

	Note	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Tangible fixed assets	7	224	228
Curent assets			
Stock	8	-	5
Debtors	9	1	4
Investments with TMCP		251	372
Central Finance Board deposits		86	56
Cash at bank and in hand		111	119
Total curent assets		449	556
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	(188)	(298)
Net current assets		261	258
Total assets less current liabilities		485	486
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	11	(44)	(60)
Net assets		441	426
Funds of the District:			
Advance fund	13	54	36
Other unrestricted funds	14	268	259
Restricted funds	15	119	131
Total funds		441	426

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the District Leadership Team on 19 April 2021.



Rev Sean Adair
Deputy Chair



Neil Harland
Treasurer

Registered charity number 1129363

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

	Note	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Net cash used in operating activities	17	(104)	(22)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest		5	5
Net cash provided by investing activities		5	5
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(99)	(17)
Opening cash and cash equivalents		547	564
Closing cash and cash equivalents	18	448	547

Charity information

Sheffield Methodist District is a charity registered in England and Wales (number 1129363). Its registered address is Room 47, Victoria Hall Methodist Church, Norfolk Street, Sheffield, S1 2JB.

Basis of preparation

The Charity is a public benefit entity.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS 102)' effective 1 January 2019 and Financial Reporting Standard 102 ("FRS 102"). They have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

These financial statements are presented in Pounds sterling £'000.

The principal accounting policies of the District are set out below.

Consolidation

The District oversees the work of Methodist churches and circuits within south Yorkshire, north Nottinghamshire and north-east Derbyshire but does not seek to control circuits or churches or their ministers or lay workers except in extreme circumstances. For this reason the financial results of these churches are not consolidated into these financial statements.

Going concern

The Trustees have prepared these financial statements on the going concern basis. The Trustees have reviewed forecasts to 30 June 2022 and on the basis of those forecasts believe that the District will be able to meet its liabilities as they fall due. These forecasts have been prepared conservatively, including risks and sensitivities to anticipated financial performance, including a review of actual performance compared to previous forecasts. Risks considered include potential reductions in income resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on the information currently available in respect of the future, the Trustees consider that the District has the plans and resources to manage its risks successfully and that there are no material uncertainties about the District's ability continue as a going concern.

Income

Income is not recognised until receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Contributions from circuit model trust funds are levied on 1 September each year, calculated according to the balances included in these funds at this date, which are outside of the control of the District. They are recognised as income when levied.

Distributions from Connexional advance and property funds are received based on the balances and transactions within those funds, which are outside of the control of the District. Income is recognised when distributions are formally confirmed by Connexional officers.

Assessments on circuits are charged based on amounts agreed in advance with circuits as a contribution towards the running costs of the District. Assessments are recognised as income in the period to which the funding relates.

The District also acts as an agent in respect of Connexional assessments collected from circuits and remitted to the national Methodist Church Fund. These Connexional assessments are not recognised as income or expenditure in the statement of financial activity, because there is no obligation on the District to make up any shortfall in Connexional assessments from circuits.

Whilst time given to the District by many volunteers is essential to its work, this donation of time is not recognised in these financial statements since its value cannot be measured reliably for accounting purposes.

Expenditure

Resources expended are included in the statement of financial activities on an accruals basis, inclusive of VAT.

Grants pledged

Grants pledged by the District are recognised in full when the District is under a legal or constructive obligation to make the payment, usually once the grant has been approved by the District Leadership Team and the pledge communicated to the applicant.

Fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised at cost.

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost, net of depreciation. Existing historic costs have been retained on adoption of the SORP for all fixed assets.

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost or valuation less estimated realisable value, of all tangible fixed assets over their expected useful lives. Depreciation is recognised on a straight line basis over the following periods:

- Freehold buildings: 50 years
- Freehold land is not depreciated
- IT equipment: 5 years

Where the District leases properties temporarily surplus to its own needs to individuals or other organisations these assets are classed as tangible fixed assets, since their fair value cannot be measured reliably without undue cost or effort.

At each reporting date fixed assets are reviewed to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss.

Retirement benefits

Certain of the District's former lay employees are members of The Pensions Trust Growth Plan (Series 3), a multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme. Provision has been made in these financial statements for deficit plan payments agreed with the scheme's trustees.

Ordained ministers stationed within the District are entitled to become or remain members of the Methodist Ministers Pension Scheme. This is a defined benefit pension scheme. Monthly employer pension contributions are accounted for as expenditure in the statement of financial activities as they fall due. Payments to settle the deficit on this scheme are borne by the Methodist Connexion.

Leased assets

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activity on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

Financial instruments

The Group holds only simple financial instruments, being debtors, creditors, cash and leases, which are recognised at cost less provision for estimated irrecoverable assets.

Current asset deposits in monetary assets held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees are categorised as cash equivalents since they are capable of being converted to cash with immediate effect on instruction by the District.

Central Finance Board deposits are also capable of immediate liquidation and so are classified as cash equivalents.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is allocated to the fund.

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are incoming resources received or generated for charitable purposes and are available for use at the discretion of the District Leadership Team in furtherance of the general objectives of the District.

1 Prior year statement of financial activities

Financial activities for the prior year comprise the following restricted and unrestricted income and expenditure:

	Note	Advance fund 2019 £'000	Other unrestricted funds 2019 £'000	Restricted funds 2019 £'000	Total 2019 £'000
<i>Income from:</i>					
Donations		2	1	9	12
Contributions from circuit model trust funds		141	-	-	141
Distribution from Connexional advance and property funds		10	-	-	10
Assessment on circuits		-	94	-	94
Grants received		2	1	216	219
Other charitable income		-	5	57	62
Total charitable activities		153	100	273	526
Other trading activities		-	6	-	6
Investments		4	1	-	5
Total income		159	108	282	549
<i>Expenditure on:</i>					
Grants and donations	6	(156)	(1)	(27)	(184)
Salaries and stipends	2	-	(39)	(173)	(212)
Administration and office		(1)	(19)	(8)	(28)
Property and insurance		-	(17)	(31)	(48)
Travel		-	(14)	(6)	(20)
Venue hire and event catering		-	(4)	(18)	(22)
Other charitable costs		-	(5)	(25)	(30)
Total charitable activities		(157)	(99)	(288)	(544)
Other trading activities		-	(4)	-	(4)
Total expenditure		(157)	(103)	(288)	(548)
Net income/ (expenditure)		2	5	(6)	1
Transfers between funds		-	(62)	62	-
Net movement in funds		2	(57)	56	1
Opening funds		34	316	75	425
Closing funds		36	259	131	426

2 Salaries and stipends

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Salaries and stipends	198	182
Employer's national insurance contributions	16	14
Defined contribution pension costs	9	6
Defined benefit pension costs (MMPS)	10	10
	233	212

The average number of lay employees during the year was ten (2019: eleven). The District also bears the stipend cost of the Peak Park Rural Development Enabler and 50% of the stipend cost of the Venture FX Pioneer minister.

No employees receive benefits greater than £60,000 per annum.

The senior management personnel of the District is considered to be the Chair of District. The total cost to the District of providing taxable benefits in kind and the Chair's manse (in which the Chair is required to live in order to fulfil her duties) amounted to £9,000 (2019: £8,000). The stipend, employer's national insurance and employers pension contribution in respect of the Chair are borne by the Methodist Connexion.

3 Payments to trustees

One trustee (2019: one) received remuneration from the District for work undertaken on its behalf. No trustees received remuneration for services provided as a trustee.

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Salary	30	21

The number of trustees who received reimbursed expenses or on whose behalf travel costs were paid by the District was six (2019: six).

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Travel and subsistence costs reimbursed	7	10

4 Amounts received on behalf of other organisations

The District received £488,000 (2019: £486,000) from its circuits for the Methodist Church Fund in the form of the Connexional element of circuit assessments. These amounts are not included in the statement of financial performance because the District acted solely as a collection agent for these funds.

At 31 August 2020 £13,000 remained to be remitted to the Methodist Church Fund (31 August 2019: £nil).

5 Independent examiner

The independent examiners' fee for reporting on these accounts amounts to £1,800 (2019: £1,400). No other services were provided to the District in either year by the independent examiner.

6 Grants awarded

The District awarded the following grants during the year:

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Advance Fund - property projects	47	27
Advance Fund - ministry projects	89	121
Restricted funds - ministry projects	-	15
Restricted funds - other	16	10
Grants to institutions	152	173
Advance Fund - Learning and development	4	11
Unrestricted funds - benevolent payments	-	1
Restricted funds - other	-	2
Grants to individuals	4	14
Less Advance Fund grants lapsed	(25)	(3)
Total grants awarded	131	184

Grants from the Advance Fund are made in accordance with the District Mission Policy. Small learning and development grants are offered to Methodist ministers and lay people in accordance with the Learning and Development and Ministerial Development policies. Further grants are made from unrestricted funds in support of regional and ecumenical bodies sponsored by the District. Details of these policies, together with further details of grants awarded to institutions are available on the District website www.sheffieldmethodist.org.

Other restricted grants comprise largely Learning Network grants and projects supported by Methodist Women in Britain.

7 Fixed assets

	Freehold land £'000	Freehold buildings £'000	IT equipment	Total £'000
Cost				
Opening	115	151	6	272
Closing	115	151	6	272
Depreciation				
Opening	-	42	2	44
Charge for the year	-	3	1	4
Closing	-	45	3	48
Net book value				
Opening	115	109	4	228
Closing	115	106	3	224

8 Stock

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Finished goods for resale	-	2
Raw materials	-	3
	-	5

9 Debtors

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Trade debtors	1	4
	1	4

10 Creditors – amounts falling due within one year

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Trade creditors	1	5
Grants payable	166	288
Defined benefit pension plan	4	1
Amounts collected for other organisations	13	-
Accruals and deferred income	4	4
	188	298

11 Creditors – amounts falling due outside of one year

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Grants payable	40	56
Defined benefit pension plan	4	4
	44	60

12 Contingent liabilities

The District has made defined benefit pension commitments to certain employees through The Pensions Trust Growth Plan (Series 3), a multi-employer pension scheme. Withdrawal from the Growth Plan scheme could trigger a liability of £11,000 (31 August 2019: £12,000) in excess of pension contributions accrued for in these accounts. The District has chosen Series 4 of the Growth Plan, a defined contribution scheme, as its auto-enrolment pension scheme and so withdrawal from the Growth Plan is considered unlikely.

13 Advance fund

The district Advance fund receives income via annual contributions levied on circuit model trust funds and distributions from Connexional advance and property funds. The purpose of these levies and distributions is to release funds for where they are most required. This is an unrestricted fund and is used to make grants in accordance with the District Mission Policy or to support specific current initiatives undertaken by the District.

14 Other unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the District Leadership Team in furtherance of the general objectives of the District including activities mandated by the Methodist Connexion, such as provision of the Chair's manse and supporting the regulatory functions performed by various District officers.

15 Restricted funds

	Opening balance 1 September 2019 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Transfers £'000	Closing balance 31 August 2020 £'000
Edgar Hodkin bequest	4	-	(3)	-	1
Methodist Women in Britain	1	4	(2)	-	3
Who is Your Neighbour?	96	84	(93)	-	87
Venture FX Pioneer	-	2	(23)	21	-
Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	-	42	(51)	11	2
35 Chapel Walk	-	38	(33)	-	5
Learning Network	17	9	(21)	2	7
Mission Development Support Worker	13	26	(37)	12	14
Total charitable activities	131	205	(263)	46	119

	Opening balance 1 September 2018 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Transfers £'000	Closing balance 31 August 2019 £'000
Edgar Hodkin bequest	22	1	(19)	-	4
Methodist Women in Britain	2	6	(7)	-	1
Who is Your Neighbour?	35	151	(90)	-	96
Venture FX Pioneer	-	1	(24)	23	-
Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	8	32	(53)	13	-
35 Chapel Walk	-	36	(51)	15	-
Learning Network	8	29	(24)	4	17
Mission Development Support Worker	-	26	(20)	7	13
Total charitable activities	75	282	(288)	62	131

Transfers into restricted funds represent match funding from unrestricted District funds towards projects partially funded by restricted grants and donations.

Restricted funds are to be used for purposes as directed by the donors:

- The *Edgar Hodkin bequest* is to be used for "Protestant evangelical Christian work", with the primary purpose being "the Sunday School work". The trustees intend to use the remainder of this bequest to support youth and children's work across the District.
- The Sheffield District branch of *Methodist Women in Britain* connects women with an interest in creative spirituality and a passion for global social justice.
- *Who is your neighbour?* works to help communities live more successfully with difference and be more resilient in dealing with divisions created by those who see difference as a threat.
- The District's *Venture FX Pioneer*, Rev Ric Stott, is engaged in developing and nurturing fresh expressions of church, with a specific focus on the creative arts.
- The *Peak Park Rural Development Enabler* works alongside churches across the Peak Park national park as they develop their mission and community engagement.
- *35 Chapel Walk* was an art space and community for creative people who dare to imagine that the world can be a better place. This project ended during the year. Unspent grants will be returned to grant funders once closure costs and disposal of equipment has been completed.
- The *Learning Network* comprises income and costs relating to training events organised by the Yorkshire Plus Learning Network regional team
- The *Mission Development Support Worker* supports churches and circuits in overcoming barriers to risk-taking mission

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

Net assets at 31 August 2020 are represented by:

	Advance fund £'000	Other unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total £'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	222	2	224
Current assets	251	72	126	449
Current liabilities	(161)	(22)	(5)	(188)
Liabilities falling due outside of one year	(36)	(4)	(4)	(44)
Total net assets	54	268	119	441

Net assets at 31 August 2019 are represented by:

	Advance fund £'000	Other unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total £'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	226	2	228
Current assets	365	43	148	556
Current liabilities	(282)	(6)	(10)	(298)
Liabilities falling due outside of one year	(47)	(4)	(9)	(60)
Total net assets	36	259	131	426

17 Reconciliation of net cash flows from operating activities

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Net income for the year	15	1
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	4	4
Interest	(5)	(5)
Decrease in stock	5	-
Decrease/ (increase) in debtors	3	(2)
(Decrease) in creditors	(126)	(20)
Cash used in operating activities	(104)	(22)

18 Cash and cash equivalents

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Investments with TMCP	251	372
Central Finance Board deposits	86	56
Cash at bank and in hand	111	119
	448	547

19 Operating lease commitments

Total minimum commitments under non-cancellable operating leases for land and buildings are as follows:

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Operating leases expiring within one year	2	2

20 Related party transactions

All District trustees are members of churches and circuits within the District and may also be trustees of their church or circuit. Related parties include the Methodist Connexion, churches and circuits within the District and other Methodist entities. Other than as described in notes 2, 3, 4 and 6, the only transactions with related parties during the year requiring disclosure are as follows:

Party	Details	2020 £	2019 £
Grants received			
Manchester & Stockport District	Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	12,200	12,000
Nottingham & Derby District	Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	12,200	-
Methodist Connexion	Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	18,000	20,000
Methodist Connexion	<i>Who is Your Neighbour?</i>	72,000	70,000
Methodist Connexion	Mission Development Support Worker	25,758	25,758
Methodist Connexion	35 Chapel Walk	30,000	20,000
Methodist Connexion	Venture FX	2,018	1,483
Other receipts			
Methodist Connexion	Learning Network costs recharged	459	1,125
Yorkshire North & East District	Retreat attendance fees and contributions	4,634	3,305
Yorkshire West District	Retreat attendance fees and contributions	4,633	2,853
various Methodist circuits & churches	Retreat attendance fees and contributions	1,182	4,300
Payments			
Yorkshire North & East District	Retreat and event costs	(1,106)	(4,266)
various Methodist circuits & churches	Hire of venues for events and regular activities	(9,698)	(13,908)
Year end balances receivable/ (payable)			
various Methodist circuits & churches		-	1,440
various Methodist circuits & churches		-	(420)