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**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>						
<b>Donations</b>		-	-	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
<b>Total charitable activities</b>		<b>405</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>579</b>
<b>Other trading activities</b>		-	11	-	11	11
<b>Investments</b>		41	5	-	46	21
<b>Total income</b>		<b>446</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>616</b>
<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)
<b>Total charitable activities</b>		<b>(148)</b>	<b>(161)</b>	<b>(132)</b>	<b>(441)</b>	<b>(518)</b>
<b>Other trading activities</b>		-	(5)	-	(5)	(5)
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>(148)</b>	<b>(166)</b>	<b>(132)</b>	<b>(446)</b>	<b>(523)</b>
<b>Net income/ (expenditure)</b>		<b>298</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>93</b>
Transfers between funds		(22)	(2)	24	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>276</b>	<b>(5)</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>93</b>
Opening funds		330	297	52	679	586
<b>Closing funds</b>		<b>606</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>679</b>

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

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>					
<b>Donations</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
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
<b>Total charitable activities</b>		<b>278</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>579</b>
<b>Other trading activities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Investments</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Total income</b>		<b>296</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>616</b>
<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)
<b>Total charitable activities</b>		<b>(173)</b>	<b>(155)</b>	<b>(190)</b>	<b>(518)</b>
<b>Other trading activities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>(5)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(5)</b>
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>(173)</b>	<b>(160)</b>	<b>(190)</b>	<b>(523)</b>
<b>Net income/ (expenditure)</b>		<b>123</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>(41)</b>	<b>93</b>
Transfers between funds		(25)	(3)	28	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>98</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>(13)</b>	<b>93</b>
Opening funds		232	289	65	586
<b>Closing funds</b>		<b>330</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>679</b>

## 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
	<b>298</b>	<b>267</b>

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
<b>Grants to institutions</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>148</b>
General Fund - Learning and development	-	4
<b>Grants to individuals</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4</b>
Less Advance Fund grants lapsed	(13)	(5)
<b>Total grants awarded</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>147</b>

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](http://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
<b>Cost</b>				
Opening	115	151	2	268
Closing	115	151	2	268
<b>Depreciation</b>				
Opening	-	54	2	56
Charge for the year	-	4	-	4
Closing	-	58	2	60
<b>Net book value</b>				
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
	<b>83</b>	<b>25</b>

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
	<b>81</b>	<b>141</b>

# 10 Creditors – amounts falling due outside of one year

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

# 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
<b>Total charitable activities</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>(132)</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>73</b>

	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
<b>Total charitable activities</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>(190)</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>52</b>

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)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>971</b>

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)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>679</b>

## 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
<b>Cash used in operating activities</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>141</b>

## 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
	<b>780</b>	<b>619</b>

## 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 £
<b>Grants received</b>			
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
<b>Other receipts</b>			
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
<b>Payments</b>			
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)
<b>Year end balances receivable/ (payable)</b>			
various Methodist circuits & churches		3,567	3,000
various Methodist circuits & churches		-	(12)