

# The Methodist Church



## BUXTON METHODIST CHURCH

### TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

for the year ending  
31<sup>st</sup> August 2025

# ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Name of Church: **BUXTON METHODIST CHURCH**

Name and address  
for correspondence: Rev'd Andrew Parker  
Chapel Street  
BUXTON  
Derbyshire  
SK17 6HX

Charity status: During 2009 Buxton Methodist Church became a registered charity. Number  
**1129654**

## MEMBERSHIP OF BUXTON CHURCH COUNCIL 2024/25:

Rev Andrew Parker	(Chair)
Dick Silson	(Circuit Steward)
Peter Johnson	(Circuit Steward)
Wendy Jones	(Church Steward)
Anne-Marie Bentley	(Church Steward)
Ian Stubbs	(Church Steward & Treasurer)

### Church Appointed members

John Anfield	Glynis Leyland
Sue Anfield	Kate MacLean
Robin Evison	Anna Quick
Pip Strachan	Christine Hodgkinson
Nick Taylor	Ron Sinclair
Michelle Boardman	Angela Crawford

Number of Church Members as at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024: 88

## AIMS AND ORGANISATION

Buxton Methodist Church has accepted the definition of its aim and purpose given by the Methodist Church in Britain. We exist to:

### WORSHIP:

Increase awareness of God's  
presence and to celebrate  
God's love

### LEARNING AND CARING:

Help people to learn and grow  
as Christians, through mutual  
support and care

### SERVICE:

Be a good neighbour to people  
in need and to challenge  
injustice

### EVANGELISM:

Make more followers of Jesus  
Christ

The Managing Trustees of Buxton Methodist Church are the 'Church Council', which is responsible for overseeing the life and mission of the church in accordance with our stated aims and objectives and in accordance with the Constitutional Practices and Discipline of the Methodist Church. It consists of people elected from amongst the members of the church and those who are members by virtue of their office.

Several sub-committees are appointed by the Church Council to assist it in its work and are responsible to it.

The Church Leadership team and Church Stewards, elected by the church members, ensure, with the minister, that Church Council Policy is carried out and they have responsibility for the day-to-day life of the church.

## **REVIEW OF PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS 1/9/2024 – 31/8/2025**

### **Church Mission Plan**

We continue to review and update our mission plan keeping our focus on the vision for our church as:

*'All are welcome and all are working together for God in our community' and 'our aim is to be a cohesive, caring church community. Learning, worshipping and witnessing to the love of God'.*

### **WORSHIP**

- Worship is central to our life. We aim to provide worship that is relevant and accessible for all and relating it within the context of the world and local community. Our weekly Sunday morning services are attended by about 60 – 70 people, with ages ranging from under 5's, through teens and up to those who have attended the same church for over 70 years!
- We began the year with a very special 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary weekend celebration. There was a Saturday afternoon tea and a special service on the Sunday morning. This anniversary weekend provided time to give thanks for what is past, enjoy what is happening and trust in what is to come.
- We hold a monthly evening informal service – Praise@6 - which provides a time for singing, learning new songs, discussion and activities. Through the use of on-line videos we can hear songs recently released by groups popular with those who attend. Praise@6 is particularly valued by some of our families who see this as a time of being together in church.
- We have continued a pattern of quarterly Taizé services. The quiet and reflective aspect to these services is in contrast to a morning service and this is appreciated by people both from the Methodist Church and ecumenically. Approximately 20 people attend.
- There continues to be an active Worship Group. This group plans our three all age services for harvest, Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter. They are also planning the quarterly Own Arrangement services which are required due to the shortage of preachers across the circuit.

### **SERVICE**

- Our Saturday Café continues and is busy with its regular clientele.
- All We Can: We continue to support All We Can as a partner church and regularly hold collections and support their appeals.
- The Church Council makes donations annually amounting to 10% of our regular giving income. This is shared between the following regular contributions: Methodist Mission in Britain Fund; Methodist Fund for World Mission; Action for Children; All We Can (Methodist Relief and Development); Methodist Fund for Church Property and JMA, and local charities chosen on an annual basis.
- Additionally we raise money for local causes and national and international appeals throughout the year. We participate in Christian Aid Week and support an annual local Christian Aid sponsored walk.
- Our Rainbows, Brownies and Guides continue to meet and maintain very good numbers.

- The weekly Baby and Toddler Group provides a much-needed time for adults and pre-school children to meet, play and interact.
- The church is a major provider of high quality rooms and facilities for the local community. The church is well used as a venue for the Buxton Fringe and a number of concerts are held during the three week festival. We intentionally welcome groups whose aim reflect our values but they provide something we cannot do ourselves. For example, we welcome Transition Buxton Repair Café which supports our eco aims of reuse items rather than take them to landfill. There is also a Bereavement Group which provides valuable pastoral care.

## **LEARNING and CARING**

- We held a study group through Lent on the theme 'Calling a Wounded Earth Home: what kind of people may we need to be to face the challenges of climate change?' The resources were developed by Green Christian as part of their Borrowed Time project.
- We endeavour to be more environmentally responsible, in line with our mission policy of caring for God's creation. (We achieved a bronze Eco Church award in February 2024 but have not yet progressed to silver.)
- 'Inbetweeners' took part in the annual Christian Aid sponsored walk and what is becoming the traditional snowdrop walk.
- Funerals: The minister took a number of funerals in the name of the church and families are invited to the annual memorial service in December.
- Pastoral Work: The church aims to be a caring community for both its members and non-members alike. The Pastoral group meets once a quarter and tries to make sure pastoral contact is maintained with those in times of need. This may be through visits, phone calls and sending cards at Christmas and Easter.
- We organised a very popular Daffodil Tea in March which not only raised over £600 for church funds but provided a lovely afternoon for people spending time together.
- In December a church recipe book was launched, again with the aim of raising funds but also provided a good opportunity for people to share favourite recipes.
- Churches Together in Buxton has struggled to attract members, however there are still a faithful few who occasionally meet and events are planned through the year. There is a shared ecumenical ministry at the outdoor Remembrance Sunday service and Annual Wells Dressing Festival. The Methodist Church hosted the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service and there are also well supported Lent Lunches, which take place in the Buxton Parish Church Hall.
- Sunday Club: Our Sunday Club provides a wonderful weekly opportunity for children to come together, learn and build friendship both with their peers and with those in the wider congregation. The number of children remains steady at about 6 – 10.
- Holiday Club: This year our theme of 'Kingdom Builders' led us to think how we build God's Kingdom. During the week, 20 adults volunteered in many different roles from catering to tidying up and 25 children enjoyed the crafts, music, games and activities.
- 3Generate Group: This group of young folk aged eight and over meets once a month for various activities. The highlight of the year is attending the national Methodist 3Generate weekend at the NEC. This year a group of 20 of our 8 - 14 year olds joined over a thousand others from all over the country to explore faith in a wide variety of ways. To help towards the cost of the weekend, the group did sponsored events through the year.

- **Safeguarding:** We continue to maintain our church as a safe place to meet and review our procedures as and when necessary. The Methodist Foundation Module training is offered every 6 months and we invite those who are new to their role and those who need refresher training to attend the class on our premises. The Church Council reviews and adopts the Safeguarding Policy annually.

## **EVANGELISM**

- We publish a quarterly magazine containing a variety of information from the groups and about different events which celebrates the diverse life of the church community. A survey of the congregation was undertaken to see if the magazine was a worthwhile investment for the church and the feedback was overwhelming support for its continuation.
- The weekly sheet has also become a significant publication and is very much appreciated by those who receive it in hard copy or by email.
- We also have an increasing presence on Facebook with regular posts and photos about events and activities.

## **OTHER SIGNIFICANT WORK**

There was a significant amount of time and energy put into our 'Working Together' project which grew from the question of 'why are did we undertake the Raise the Roof project?' The answer to the question was because we wanted to continue to be an active church in the centre of Buxton providing a much-needed resource for the community. At the end of the roof project, however, we realised that without improvements to our economic situation, we would exhaust our reserves within five years. The aim of the Working Together project was therefore to address two key areas: finance and volunteer resources. We secured a small grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund to enable us to engage a business planning consultant and set up a steering group, which included Council members and representatives from two of our building user groups.

As the Working Together project drew to a close, we instigated the 'Balance the Budget' project which focussed on the problem of the church running on an annual deficit. There was an open church meeting with clear communication about the problem and the need to increase giving and reduce expenditure, with targets for each over the 'Balance the Budget' transition year.

Although it was difficult to find areas to cut expenditure, the appeal to increase giving appears to have been received with a positive response and initial signs are that giving from the congregation has increased significantly. We increased our room hire charges by a higher percentage than usual and although there was understandable concern about how this might be received, groups responded with understanding and have continued to use the rooms for their groups.

We sought more volunteer helpers and the response has enabled us to set up a rota for cleaning the church, instead paying a contract cleaner, and more people providing help for Sunday services.

**Andrew Parker**  
Minister

### **Treasurer's statement**

Under the cloud of a gloomy external economic environment, our 2024/25 financial forecast, at the start of the year, reflected a deteriorating position, with further erosion of reserve funds falling to concerning levels. The instigation of a 'Balance the Budget' audit and subsequent action plan provided a reality check and the impetus for significant financial improvement.

By the year end, voluntary income (collections) increased to 17% above forecast (from (50,000 to £58,377) and lettings to 12% above forecast (from £43,048 to £48,305). With generous donations from members and some grant funding for specific projects, our total income for the year finished above forecast at £146,668, up 3.4% on the prior year. Supported by some targeted rationalisation of costs, we were able to reduce the deficit to achieve Total Funds at year-end of £85,050 from a previously projected £72,224.

This changing outlook enabled us to deliver on necessary building repairs, maintenance, accessibility and efficiency improvements. Furthermore, we were able to continue donating 10% of our voluntary income level to other external charitable causes.

In summary, year-end results for 2024/25 stabilise our financial position and support a significantly more positive and sustainable 5-year forecast.

THE METHODIST CHURCH  
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

BUXTON METHODIST	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 August 2025

HIGH PEAK PARTNERSHIP	Circuit	Circuit no.	01/15 19/04
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1129654
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If not a registered charity His Majesty's Revenue and  
Customs Gift Aid number

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

Minister:

Rev'd A Parker
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Church Stewards:

Mrs A Bentley	Mrs W Jones
Mrs I Sinclair	Mr R Sinclair
Mr I Stubbs	

Treasurer:

Mr I Stubbs
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SECTION A			Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
			£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note				
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	1	67,691	12,119	79,810	64,379
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	2	4,566		4,566	4,635
a4	Lettings		48,306		48,306	41,392
a5	Other receipts	3	12,905	1,081	13,986	31,387
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		133,468	13,200	146,668 (a7)	141,793

	SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		52,320		52,320	52,320
b3	Donations	4	5,550		5,550	5,100
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	5	36,848	26,155	63,003	41,177
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	6	16,778		16,778	16,985
b6						
b7	Other payments	7	20,963	9,979	30,942	27,921
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		132,459	36,134	168,593 (b9)	143,503

SECTION C						
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	1,009	(22,934)	(21,925)	(1,710)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		113,224	(6,452)	106,772 (c6)	108,067
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	114,233	(29,386)	84,847	106,357
c4	Transfers and adjustments		(35,276)	35,479	203 (c7)	415
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	78,957	6,093	85,050 (c8)	106,772 (c6)

SECTION D			
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS			
d	(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)	£	£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year	33	67
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations	593	1,000
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	621	1,034
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1+d2-d3)	5	33



SUMMARY OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL

SECTION E

Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Church accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Church Council/Church Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross income and expenditure totals of the Church. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the District and connected District Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1 Café	8,710	8,840	(130)	(3)	602	469
e2 Flower Fund	425	327	98		315	413
e3 Junior Youth		338	(338)		338	
e4 Baby & Toddler	362	277	85		25	110
e5						
e6						
e7						
Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	9,497	9,782	(285)	(3)	1,280 (e11)	992 (e12)
e8 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	146,668 (a7)	168,593 (b9)	(21,925)	203 (c7)	106,772 (c6)	85,050 (c8)
e9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	156,165	178,375	(22,210)	200	108,052 (x)	86,042 (y)
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2025

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand	54	15
f2 Bank Current Account	10,816	(446)
f3 Bank Deposit Account	15,272	4,383
f4 Central Finance Board		
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	1,003	2,029
f6 Other funds	30,090	30,090
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	106,772 (c6)	85,050 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	1,280 (e11)	992 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	108,052 (x)	86,042 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2024	At 31 August 2025
g1 Investments (include Endowments)	50,000	50,000
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	781,150	781,150
g3 Other Assets		
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5 Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

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

Name of Church Buxton Methodist No 19/04

## Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2025 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

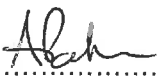
Signature of treasurer  Date 24<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2025

Name and address of treasurer ..... Ian Stubbs

8 The Paddock, Buxton, Derbyshire. SK17 6XR

### Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 were/will be\* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on .....

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting Andrew Parker Date 11-2-26

### Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Buxton Church

Charity Number 1129654

### Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the ..... Church for the year ended 31 August 2025 set out on pages ... to .... As the Church'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 Church's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

\* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Church .. Buxton Methodist

### Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

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

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

Signature of independent examiner CE Francis

Name of independent examiner CHRISTINE ELIZABETH FRANCIS

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner RETIRED ACCOUNTANT

Name of firm (where appropriate) —

Address FLAT 2, 1 SILVERLANDS PARK BUXTON

Post Code SK17 6AX

Date 31/12/2005

\* delete or circle as appropriate

RECEIPTS - page 2 Section A	2024-25	2023-24
<b>1. Offerings and Tax Recoverable</b>		
Loose cash collections	£5,595.00	£6,943.00
Weekly envelopes	£7,702.00	£4,715.00
One-off Gift Aid envelopes/donations	£10.00	
BACS collections (Standing Orders)	£41,881.00	£31,815.00
Other Donations	£6,130.00	£692.00
Card Machine & Text donations	£3,190.00	£2,270.00
Funeral collections	£193.00	
Bequests and Memorial donations	£1,000.00	£6.00
Tax recovered under Gift Aid	£1,990.00	£17,203.00
Sub Total	<b>£67,691.00</b>	<b>£63,644.00</b>
<i>Restricted offerings received:</i>		
Misc donations (restricted)	£12,119.00	
Raise the roof fund		£735.00
Bequests		
Sunday Club		
Kitchen & Catering		
Sub Total	£12,119.00	£735.00
	<b>£79,810.00</b>	<b>£64,379.00</b>
<b>2. Interest and Investment Income</b>		
TMCP	£23.00	£12.00
Methodist Chapel Aid A/c & Derbyshire Community Bank	£837.00	£795.00
Special Interest bearing deposit A/c	£165.00	£336.00
Current A/c	£160.00	£247.00
Gain on Endowment investment		£100.00
M&G Charibond income	£3,381.00	£3,145.00
a3	<b>£4,566.00</b>	<b>£4,635.00</b>
<b>3. Other Receipts</b>		
Miscellaneous Sales		
Café	£6,308.00	£6,058.00
Weddings and funerals fees	£2,175.00	£475.00
Personal photocopies	£172.00	£129.00
Solar Panels	£721.00	£524.00
Young People	£880.00	£435.00
Social Events	£1,157.00	£252.00
Insurance claim	£1,492.00	£347.00
Bin collection refund		
Sub Total	<b>£12,905.00</b>	<b>£8,220.00</b>
Young People	£816.00	£1,073.00
Grants		£22,095.00
Recipe Books	£265.00	
Sub Total	£1,081.00	£23,168.00
a5	<b>£13,986.00</b>	<b>£31,388.00</b>
<b>4. Grants and Donations</b>		
Mission in Britain Fund	£1,100.00	£1,000.00
Fund for World Mission (includes £375.00 to JMA)	£1,475.00	£1,350.00
All We Can	£650.00	£600.00
Methodist Homes	£375.00	£350.00
Action for Children	£650.00	£600.00
Vision Action	£200.00	
Juvenile Arthritis	£200.00	
Samaritans	£200.00	
Blythe House	£200.00	
Peak District Music Centres	£200.00	
Buxton Foodbank/Nightstop/Zink		£200.00
UNICEF Gaza Children	£250.00	
Churches together in Buxton	£50.00	
High Peak CVS		£200.00
Crescent Heritage Trust		£200.00
Epilepsy Action		£200.00
East Midlands Air Ambulance		£200.00
Buxton Mountain Rescue		£200.00
b3	£5,550.00	£5,100.00

# RESERVES POLICY

Report on behalf of

Buxton Methodist Church

(\*Church Council/ ~~Circuit Meeting/District~~)

To

The High Peak Partnership

(\*Circuit Meeting/~~District~~)

We submit our annual report in accordance with the requirements of the Methodist Conference and the Charity Commission guidance in CC19.

- (i) The trustees have established their mission aims taking into account all of the resources available in terms of people, property and money
- (ii) Mission initiatives/projects have been costed or estimates made of projected future costs which take into account the needs of the buildings and the requirements of the Quinquennial Inspection Report/s

- (iii) We have agreed a Reserves Policy which is set out overleaf and is recorded in the trustees' minutes and our Annual Report
- (iv) We recognise the need to be accountable as charity trustees for all the money which comes into our hands and will provide further information as required by the Circuit/District/Connexion
- (v) Our Report is attached overleaf

\* please delete as appropriate

## To be completed by Receiving Body

The The High Peak Partnership

\*Circuit Meeting/~~District~~ received the RESERVES POLICY of

Buxton Methodist Church

\*Church Council/~~Circuit Meeting/District~~

Policy accepted and acknowledgement sent to the trustees

YES ☐ / NO ☐

Policy noted and the following enquiries made of the trustees

Responses received and any further action taken

\*Circuit/District

Signatures ..... Date.....

\* Please delete as appropriate

## RESERVES POLICY of

**Buxton Methodist Church**(\*Church Council ☐ /Circuit Meeting ☐ /District ☐)

1.	<b>General Funds held at Y/E 31/08/2025</b>	<b>£78,957</b>
2.	<b>Restricted Funds held</b> “	<b>£6,093</b>
3.	<b>Endowment Funds held</b> “	<b>£0</b>

4. **Reserves policy for General Funds****Please see spreadsheet attached.****Our reserves policy relates to unrestricted funding, including our designated funds**

Our policy is to maintain six months of general operating costs (50% the previous year's expenditure on charitable activities) including Circuit Assessment, in order to be able to fulfil our responsibilities to our Minister, staff, users of our building and the wider Circuit.

In 2024/25, our total expenditure, excluding expenditure on major projects, was £142,441. The six months' running costs figure is therefore £71,221. The unrestricted funding we had available at 31 August 2025 was £78,957. We are therefore able to fulfil our reserves policy, with £7,734 in addition, which is not excessive

The Five-Year Forecast for Buxton Methodist Church as a whole shows an excess of expenditure over income in each financial year, but our residual balance remains positive over the whole period. It only drops below the reserves policy level in 2029/30, so we have time to address this. Our 'Balancing the Budget' project has already improved our financial sustainability considerably.

(Note: £50,000 of our financial balance is responsibly invested through M&G Charifund. We acknowledge that the value of this can fluctuate, so we only recognise the original investment figure in our reports.)

5. **Policy for Restricted Funds**


We retain restricted funds until they can be utilised for the purpose the benefactor intended. Currently these include funds raised by our young people, towards the costs of attending the 3Generate conference and other youth activities, and the residue of a donation from our former Luncheon Club, reserved for use on kitchen equipment and upgrading. (There is also a sum held on behalf of internal organisations.)

6. **Terms relating to Endowment Funds held**

We do not have any endowment funds.

This Reserves Policy has been approved by

**Buxton Methodist Church Council**(\*Church Council ☐ /Circuit Meeting ☐ /District ☐)

Treasurer	Trustee (& Chair of the Finance Committee)
Full name: Graham Hodges	Full Name: Kate MacLean
Signature 	Signature 