Darlington and Teesdale Methodist Circuit

England & Wales · Charity number 1132005

Details

Other names	DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-10-06
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Elm Ridge Methodist Church Carmel Road South Darlington County Durham DL3 8DJ
Phone	01325484925
Email	admin@dandtcircuit.org.uk
Website	www.dandtcircuit.org.uk

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 subsiduary 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: The management and planning of regular acts of public worship withing the churches in the circuit. The provision of minister to work within the circuit and providing spiritual direction and discipling of the members in the Christian faith. Encouraging and developing pastoral work visiting sick and bereaved and extending outreach into the community.Training and development of local preachers

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1132005

Classification

- **How:** Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL
- Darlington
- North Yorkshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£295,335	£477,133	-	-
2024-08-31	£296,532	£405,853	-	-
2023-08-31	£250,146	£344,242	-	-
2022-08-31	£364,852	£412,879	-	-
2021-08-31	£177,267	£428,733	-	-
2020-08-31	£238,201	£253,184	-	-

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1132005

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Dr David Hinchliffe	Chair	2025-09-01
ALEXANDRA LOUISE THOMSON BA		2021-09-01
Alison Banner		2008-09-26
Alison Hunter		2022-05-01
Andrew Robinson		2016-09-15
Ann Thubron		2015-02-23
Anne-Marie Wade		2021-09-01
Anthony Mawer		2021-09-01
BARBARA MAY CARTER		2012-06-10
BOB DEAN		2011-06-09
BRIAN COOPER FCMA		2014-05-12
CATHRYN ANNE WARDEN		2018-05-27
CHRIS RUSSELL		2013-07-18
Carol Heslop		2021-10-12
Carol Mitchell		2021-09-01
Colin Roberts		2022-06-08
Dr STEPHEN SUTCLIFFE		
Eric Alfred Miller		2022-01-30
GRAHAM BRIGHT		
Hazel Neasham		2013-12-19
IAN RODERICK TALLENTIRE		2021-09-01
IRENE TAYLOR		2023-04-24
JANE MILLER		2013-06-30
JOAN MARWOOD		2020-07-10
JOSANNE ELISABETH HALL MCSP		
JUDITH ANNE RUTTER		2021-09-01
Josephine Patricia Pollard		2021-09-01

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1132005

Name	Role	Appointed
Judith Mary Tarn		2022-09-27
Julia Margaret Petty		2021-09-01
KAREN FIONA RILEY		
KENNETH ROBSON		2021-09-01
Lorne Tallentire BA Oxon		2022-09-27
Lyn Cookson		2019-05-05
Morvyn Anne Sanderson		2023-09-18
Peter Collins		2022-02-08
Philip Anthony Allen		2022-07-01
Rev Gavin Richard Hume		2024-09-01
Rev Graham Andrew Cutler		2020-09-01
Rev Oluyemisi Adetokunbo Jaiyesimi PGDE		2023-09-01
SUSAN WENDY CHARLTON		2021-09-01
Sara Elizabeth McAllister		2016-06-07
Sheenah Elizabeth Adkins		2026-02-12
Susan Anne Case		2019-06-01
VALERIE ELIZABETH TOOTH		

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1132005

Darlington and Teesdale Methodist Circuit

England & Wales - Charity number 1132005

Accounts

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
(Charity Registration No: 1132005)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 AUGUST 2025

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT

CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1	Circuit Information
4	Trustees Annual Report
16	Statement of Financial Activities
18	Balance Sheet
20	Notes to the Accounts
30	Declarations
31	Independent Examiner's Report

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

CIRCUIT INFORMATION

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Address:	Circuit Office, Elm Ridge Methodist Church, Carmel Road South, Darlington DL3 8DJ
Examiner:	Stephen Watson Gardner F.C.A. of King Hope, 31 Victoria Road, Darlington DL1 5SB

Managing Trustees in the year ended 31 August 2025 :-

Chair:	Revd John Howard	Acting Superintendent Minister
Secretary:	Mrs Valerie Tooth	
Circuit Staff:	Revd Graham Cutler	Presbyter
	Revd John Howard	Supernumerary Presbyter (see above)
	Revd Colin Roberts	Supernumerary Presbyter
	Revd Gavin Hume	Presbyter (from 1 September 2024)
Resident in Circuit:	*Revd Catherine Minor	Hospital Chaplain
Circuit Stewards:	Anthony Mawer	
	Josephine Pollard	
	Valerie Tooth	
	Dr Stephen Sutcliffe	(Circuit Treasurer)
	Cathryn Warden	
Lay Employees:	Graham Bright	Community Pastor at The Well
	Lyn Cookson	Local Church Community Development Worker & Circuit Safeguarding Officer
	*Lindy Lowis	Circuit Admin/Communications
	*Emma Walden	Hub Manager (Community Hosting Space) at The Well
	* Debbie Andrew	Local Church Community Development Worker
Church Representatives:	Wendy Charlton	Barnard Castle
	Deborah Coggrave	Barnard Castle
	Heather Coustick	Barnard Castle
	Alexandra Thompson	Barnard Castle
	Alison Banner	Barton
	Carol Heslop	Barton
	Joan Marwood	Barton
	*Judith Varley	Barton

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

CIRCUIT INFORMATION

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Church Representatives (Continued):	Brian Cooper	Cockerton
	Robert Dean	Cockerton
	Alison Hunter	Cockerton
	Irene Taylor	Cockerton
	Tony Allen	Elm Ridge
	Peter Gallop	Elm Ridge
	Linda Gallop	Elm Ridge (from 2 December 2024)
	Dr Stephen Sutcliffe	Elm Ridge
	Elaine Armer	Harrowgate Hill (to 31 August 2025)
	Susan Case	Harrowgate Hill (to 31 August 2025)
	Margaret Cuthbert	Harrowgate Hill (to 31 August 2025)
	Vanessa Simpson	Harrowgate Hill (to 31 August 2025)
	Barbara Carter	Haughton
	Ann Thubron	Haughton
	Eric Miller	Hurworth
	Jane Miller	Hurworth
	Hazel Neasham	Hurworth
	Andy Robinson	Hurworth
	Carol Mitchell	The Pathway
	Ian Tallentire	The Pathway
	Lorne Tallentire	The Pathway
	Judith Tarn	The Pathway
	Kenneth Robson	Staindrop
	Julia Petty	Staindrop
	Judith Rutter	Staindrop
	Ann-Marie Wade	Staindrop
	Graham Bright	The Well
	Chris Russell	The Well
	Morvyn Sanderson	The Well
	Dr Stephen Sutcliffe	The Well
Other:	Revd Oluyemisi Adetokumbo Jaiyesimi	Supernumerary Minister
	Karen Riley	Action for Children
	Peter Collins	All We Can and Joint Public Issues
	Liz McAllister	Circuit Complaints Officer
	Catheryn Warden	Circuit GDPR Champion

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

CIRCUIT INFORMATION

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Other (Continued):	Josanne Hall	Methodist Homes for the Aged
	Brian Simpson	Secretary of Leaders of Worship & Local Preachers (LWLP)

**denotes a member of the Circuit Meeting who is not a trustee*

There are no Trustees holding title to any of the Circuit's property.

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Trustees Annual

Report Introduction

Welcome to the Trustees Annual Report of Darlington and Teesdale Methodist Circuit ("the Circuit") for the year ended 31 August 2025. The Circuit was formed on I September 2021 when the Barnard Castle and Teesdale Methodist Circuit amalgamated with the Darlington Methodist Circuit under the existing charity registration of the Darlington Circuit. Whilst primarily a financial report we hope to also provide insight into our aims and mission.

Public Benefit

The Circuit provides a seven-day week Christian ministry across, Barnard Castle and Teesdale, Darlington and the surrounding areas through its network of staff, volunteers, members and premises. Its activities are open to the whole community. More details are provided under the paragraphs "Interconnexion for Mission, Mutual Encouragement and Help" and "Life of the Circuit".

The trustees have had due regard to the Charities Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Mission Statement

The Circuit has adopted the Methodist Church's strategic document 'Our Calling' as our core mission statement. This invites church members to live out their discipleship by following a lifestyle that embraces the principles of' A Methodist Way of Life'. This is done through Worship, Learning & Caring, Service and Evangelism.

Purpose and Aims

The purposes of the Methodist Church are 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.

Purpose and Aims (continued)

The Circuit aims:

a. To provide varied, relevant and inclusive worship across the Circuit Churches.

b. To provide training to nurture faith in Ch1ist, as well as to develop local preachers and leaders of worship, and to equip staff and volunteers with best practice, including pastoral care and safeguarding.

c. To increase awareness of and support voluntary charitable work in Darlington and Teesdale and around the UK and beyond.

d. To participate in ecumenical relationships.

e. To continue to give active support to the wider Methodist District and Connexion.

f. To promote the exploration of sustainable futures for all the churches in the Circuit

Organisation

The Circuit acts as an umbrella or resource body. The Circuit is the primary unit in which local churches express and experience their interconnexion in the Body of Christ, for purposes of mission, mutual encouragement and help.

It is in the Circuit that ministers are stationed, and local preachers are trained and admitted and exercise their calling. The purposes of the Circuit include the effective deployment of the resources of ministry, which include people, property and finance, as they relate to the Methodist churches in the Circuit, to churches of other denominations and to participation in the life of the communities served by the Circuit, including local schools and colleges and in ecumenical work in the area.

Governance

The Circuit is primarily governed by the rules and guidance of The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church ("CPD") which is updated and approved annually by the Conference of the Methodist Church. This document is available on the Methodist Church website: www.methodist.org.uk

Governance (continued)

New trustees are appointed primarily by the Circuit churches, in accordance with CPD. When the new Circuit was formed it was agreed that each church would have up to four representatives on the Circuit Meeting (Church Treasurer, Church Steward and two church members who are appointed by the church council). New trustees are provided with a link to the Welcome Pack on the Charity Commission website.

Where a post is considered essential for the purpose of the Circuit, but no lay person is available, the Circuit has authority to employ a member of staff to carry out that post. The Circuit follows Methodist Church policy of providing at least the Living Wage. Actual salaries are determined in conjunction with the Methodist District, taking into account the tasks of the role.

All decisions of the Circuit, including employment of lay workers, are made at Circuit Meetings, where all Trustees may vote. Circuit Meetings occur at least four times each year, more may be called if required. All activities of the Circuit Meeting are also governed by CPD. A sub-committee (Governance Committee), agreed by the Circuit Meeting, gives detailed consideration to property and financial issues raised by churches and makes recommendations to the Circuit Meeting.

The Methodist Church operates on a Connexional Year which runs from 1 September to 31 August. Thus, any references to the start/end of the year relate to September and August respectively.

People

The Circuit maintains three full-time paid presbyter posts, one of which is the position of Superintendent Minister. The superintendent position became vacant in April 2024 when the minister in post, sadly, left on grounds of ill-health. In the intervening period, Revd John Howard, a supernumerary Minister residing in the Circuit was appointed as Acting Superintendent. At the beginning of the year, the Circuit entered the Methodist Church's annual stationing process and was successful in securing the appointment of Rev Dr David Hinchliffe to take up the position of Superintendent Minister from 1st September 2025.

Our other presbyters are Revd Graham Cutler, who had oversight of the churches in Barnard Castle, Barton, Staindrop and Middleton-in-Teesdale (The Pathway) and Revd Gavin Hume who had oversight of Harrowgate Hill, Haughton, Hurworth and The Well churches. Additional support was provided by three retired Ministers (Revd Roy Burley and Rev Phil Clarke, who reside in neighbouring Circuits and Revd Colin Roberts a supernumerary Minister In the Darlington & Teesdale Circuit) who kindly agreed to provide presbyteral support on a part-time basis to the churches (Elm Ridge and Cockerton) for which Rev John Howard had oversight.

The Circuit is grateful to other supernumerary ministers residing in the Circuit who regularly take preaching appointments on a voluntary basis and to lay members of the church who are recognised as Local Preachers.

The Circuit Presbyters are supported by Lay Ministerial Staff constituted of:

a. Two Local Community Development Workers (one of whom was employed by the Circuit to work with Cockerton and Elm Ridge Churches in Darlington (Lyn Cookson) and another (Debbie Andrew) who is based at the Pathway Church in Middleton in Teesdale. (The Circuit is aiming to recruit two more Local Community Development Workers to work with the other churches in the Circuit although, to date, the Circuit has been unable to fill these posts.)

b. A Community Pastor (Graham Bright) and a Hub Manager (Emma Walden) both appointed to work at The Well Methodist Church and Community Hosting Space (commenced 1 September 2023).

The Circuit also employes a Circuit Administrative/Communications Officer (Lindy Lowis) whose duties include support to the Circuit Treasurer, Dr Stephen Sutcliffe.

Youth Work

A great deal of children's activities takes place in churches across the Circuit mainly through uniformed organisations. Some churches have their own Boys and Girls Brigades attached to them. Other churches have other uniformed organisations meeting on the premises. It is hoped that these organisations will be involved in church life and take part in worship at Parade services.

The Circuit provides presbyteral support to Melsonby Methodist Primary School and, in partnership with the North Yorkshire Dales Circuit, provides a School Chaplain to spend time working in the school. The Circuit is represented on the school's Governing Body by two Foundation Governors.

After a long period of discernment, at the beginning of the year, a group set up to consider the future of Christian youth work in the Circuit, made a proposal to the Circuit Meeting to seek to recruit a full-time Christian Youth Worker to be employed as a Youth Pioneer and focus on work with young adults. The Meeting agreed to the proposal and the group started to work on the practicalities of recruiting and, not least, how to attract the right person for this role. During the course of the planning process, the group discovered that the Connexion was encouraging Circuits to establish new church societies under the 'New Places for New People (NPNP)' initiative and new ventures that met the NPNP criteria would be financially supported. A vision document for the project (called Emerge) was submitted to the District and Connexion. Following a face-to-face presentation, we learned that the application was successful. At the time of writing this report, the Youth Pioneer position has not been filled and the Circuit is considering different avenues to recruit the right person for this essential work.

Melsonby Methodist Primary School

The Circuit partners with the North Yorkshire Dales Circuit in employing a Schools Chaplain to work in schools in both circuits. This includes Melsonby Methodist Primary School for which our Circuit provides presbyteral support and has two places on the Governing Body held by Debbie Andrew and Jude Cutler.

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Property

Legal title to church land and buildings is held by "Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes".

At the close of the year, there were nine active churches in the Circuit: Barnard Castle, Barton, Cockerton, Elm Ridge, Haughton, Hurworth, Staindrop, The Pathway (Middleton in Teesdale) and The Well. Harrowgate Hill, open at the beginning of the year, ceased to be used as a place of worship in December 2024.

With the exception of The Well, the trustees of each church are responsible for the maintenance of the premises. All churches are subject to quinquennial inspections by a qualified surveyor.

Trusteeship of The Well and its Community Hosting Space rests with the Circuit Meeting, having been transferred on 1 September 2023, following agreement of The Well Church Council. A Leadership/Oversight Team established by the Circuit Meeting has delegated authority to make decisions on day-to-day matters relating to the building and finance.

Although Harrowgate Hill ceased to be used for worship, the Circuit Meeting determined that there would be an advantage in keeping the premises open whilst the long-term future of the building was decided. This would avoid the risks associated with a building standing empty and provide breathing space for the user groups which met regularly on the premises under a licence arrangement.

The Circuit owns three manses, which house the three presbyters. Two are in Darlington and the other is in Barnard Castle. One of the Darlington manses was a new build completed in Spring 2024 and was funded by the sale of two manses which had been sold by the former Darlington Methodist Circuit as they did not meet the standards required by the Methodist Church and it was not viable to upgrade either property to meet the required standards. As with churches, circuit owned manses are subject to quinquennial surveys. There is an approved budget for maintenance of the manses. The Circuit Manse Secretary deals with any recommendations made in the quinquennial report and any day-to-day maintenance issues that arise.

Life of the Circuit

Circuit Vision

The Methodist Church, along with other churches, faces significant challenges with declining and ageing congregations. The Circuit continues to ask itself questions about the future and how it might develop strategies which take us forward in a way which is consistent with the Circuit's Mission Statement "Our Calling" and the Darlington District plan "Every Church Growing".

Life of the Circuit (continued)

To that end, the Circuit Staff, supported by the Circuit Leadership Team has endeavoured to encourage church members to form a deeper identity by developing their discipleship through a series of study opportunities based on the characteristics identified in A Methodist Way of Life under a title "Following Jesus Together". The theme for this connexional year was Sharing Our Faith/Testimony. Presbyters looked at ways of encouraging folk to share their 'journey of faith' through targeted Sunday worship and study sessions. During the year, a number of folk shared their testimony in the Circuit's bi-monthly magazine, The Teesdale Worm. In Spring 2025, the circuit funded a community event, which included a family-focused show (The Parable Keeper) performed by a Christian theatre group, 4Front Theatre.

Circuit Lay Ministry

Local Church Community Development Workers

The Circuit lay ministerial work is carried out through Local Church Community Development Workers (LCCDW) attached to specific churches. Their role is to build local community partnerships and discern opportunities for community outreach. As noted above, the Circuit employs two part-time Local Church Community Development Workers (LCCDW). One worker is attached to Cockerton and Elm Ridge Churches in Darlington and the other is based at the Pathway Church in Middleton in Teesdale. A flavour of the work undertaken is given in given below in the section headed 'Interconnexion for Mission, Mutual Encouragement and Help'

The Circuit has agreed to fund two more part-time LCCDW posts to work with the other churches (one with Barnard Castle, Barton and Staindrop Churches and the other serving Haughton and Hurworth Churches). These two positions are yet to be filled.

The Well Methodist Church and Community Hosting Space ("The Well")

The Circuit employs a Community Pastor and a Hub Manager who are based at The Well Methodist Church and Community Hosting Space (commenced 1 September 2023).

The work being carried out at The Well, which serves a deprived area in the north of Darlington, has evolved resulting in significant growth of the social outreach activities. The Circuit has committed significant funds, albeit for a limited period, to support the work and much effort is expended in obtaining grants from external providers. The level of investment brings with it a level of complexity and burdens. The Well Community Hosting Space relies on the support of a number of volunteers who are recruited in accordance with the Methodist Church safeguarding guidelines. A snapshot of the work carried out at The Well is given below in the section headed 'Interconnexion for Mission, Mutual Encouragement and Help'

As a matter of policy, the Methodist Church pays the Living Wage to its Lay Workers.

Eco Church -Action for Hope

In response to the climate change emergency, the Methodist Church has set an aspirational target of becoming a net zero carbon emissions Church by 2030. The Circuit is encouraging churches to consider what they can do to help achieve this. Some churches have registered with A Rocha UK, a Christian organisation which provides a framework for churches to take practical actions to reduce their carbon footprint and ways to encourage members to lead more sustainable lives. A voluntary Circuit Environmental Champion, Juliet Hill, supports and encourages churches in this.

Communications

The Circuit covers a large geographical area extending beyond Darlington into the dales and the Circuit has invested in upgrading its IT capacity to avoid unnecessary travel and to enable folk who are unable to travel to attend meetings remotely using the Zoom facility.

The Circuit's bi-monthly Magazine, The Teesdale Worm, is a valuable resource for both church members and the wider public to help folk get to know each other as well as find out what is going on across the Circuit. The magazine is available electronically and in paper copy.

Every weekday morning, a verbal message of encouragement is shared via WhatsApp and Email to those who register to receive it. These messages have been uplifting and very well received.

Interconnexion for Mission, Mutual Encouragement and Help

The Circuit has continued with two initiatives that started, by necessity, during lockdown which offer alternative Sunday worship - a Circuit Media Service which is available via YouTube and The Telephone Service, centred on Staindrop Church. Both of these offerings mean that folk who are unable to attend church, not least the housebound and their carers, are no longer excluded from regular Sunday worship. The Pathway offers Sunday evening "gatherings" via Zoom which support those who are unable to attend services in person and once a month an Afternoon Tea service is held, providing time for worship, food and fellowship, and helping with rural isolation.

The Circuit has purchased a Digital Hymnal System for use by churches when no organist is available.

The Circuit purchased a share for £5,000 in the Cotherstone Old Chapel Project based in the former Methodist Chapel. This serves to cement the good relationship which the Circuit has with the community group who purchased the building from the Circuit and to support plans to hold acts of worship in the cafe space.

A wide variety of immeasurable good work continues to be carried out by churches across the circuit, often supported by our lay ministry, examples include:

Interconnexion for Mission, Mutual Encouragement and Help (continued)

- Barnard Castle provides missional activities such as a weekly prayer meeting, weekly coffee mornings, Lego Church, a light party and Christian pumpkin carving at Halloween and a cascade of poppies with Tommy on the front steps for Remembrance. The church is lit up from within to mark special times such as Christmas and Remembrance and Cancer Awareness Week. The church building is used by various groups from round the town including the Opera Group, Parkinson's Support and other groups.

- Cockerton runs a popular Mother and Toddler group and a well-attended Lunch Club. Cockerton also runs a thriving Girls' Brigade. The church is starting to forge a good relationship with the local primary school, West Park Academy. Community development has involved school visits both to and from the school/church, consisting of Godly Play story-telling and with the help of volunteers, craft and associated bible activities. There has also been family outreach, Las Posada, in which the pupils take home a nativity set on a rotation so that every child and every family can experience the learning and the invitation to church.

- Elm Ridge has large multi-purpose premises which are well used by a variety of community groups who meet regularly, including uniformed organisations. The church is set in extensive grounds and the church welcomes people to visit and follow a Prayer Walk. A community nature partnership is developing and is working with the Durham Wildlife Trust to create a nature reserve. The Tees Forest organisation has also provided a grant to fund the planting of trees in the grounds. The majority of Circuit events are held at Elm Ridge because of its size and amenities.

- The Pathway at Middleton in Teesdale, offers regular church and community activities. These include an active relationship with the local primary school, leading assemblies and hosting services at The Pathway at Harvest, Christmas and Easter for pupils, staff and family members. Community outreach includes Baby and Toddler Group, Holiday at Home in Summer, Let's Build Church, Family Celebration Services, Hot Cross Bun Giveaway, Easter Egging and Christmas Dinner for older folk and those who are lonely (supported by the local butcher and Co-op store). The Pathway also supports local community events, such as the local agricultural show, through an Upper Teesdale Churches Together Group.

- Harrowgate Hill has ceased to be used for worship but the premises have continued to be used whilst the building's future is decided which is supporting the local community via a pre-school group which is held daily during term time, a weekly Craft Group and monthly coffee mornings.

- Haughton offers a monthly WAVE (We are All Valued Equally) service on a Sunday afternoon. These services of worship are aimed at people with learning difficulties and those who care for them but all are welcome. This encourages mixed ability friendships and is a wonderful example of inclusion and hospitality. WAVE also hosts a monthly coffee morning which is held in the nearby church hall which belongs to the Anglican Church for space purposes. A Craft and Chat Group meets fortnightly and is open to all, not just church members. The Group is supportive of church events, especially the Christmas Fair. The church is situated in a village setting and actively supports local community events.

Interconnexion for Mission, Mutual Encouragement and Help (continued)

- The Well Community Hosting Space offers a range of activities and services including Baby Bank, Thrift Shop, weekly community lunch, Coffee Shop and a Giving Garden. During each week of the school holidays, in partnership with another charity, TLG, (Transforming Lives for Good) a team of volunteers provide "Make Lunch" for families. This free activity incorporates a session of season-related craft activities followed by a healthy two-course lunch. The Well is also a hub for The Bread and Butter Thing (TBBT) and provides 'Shed' activities based around DIY-type work as a means of promoting positive mental health. The Well also hosts a number of support related community and uniformed groups and enjoys good collaborative relationships with a wide range of other organisations.

Hospitality projects across the Circuit make effective links with local communities. through regular coffee mornings. Some are involved in more specific community outreach work.

- The Mustard Tree Cafe at Hurworth Methodist Church opens six days a week and continues to flourish, including working with vulnerable young adults, offering vocational opportunities and providing resources for mental wellbeing to the local community.

- Haughton, which is fully accessible, runs a community cafe (Coffee@Haughton) staffed solely by volunteers, not all of whom are church members. This is a thriving cafe which opens two days each week and has proved to be increasingly popular, providing valuable opportunities for social interaction, addresses loneliness and isolation. The work of the café is supporting the church in working towards being Dementia Friendly.

- The Well Community Hosting Space operates a cafe alongside its Thrift Shop and Baby Bank.

- Elm Ridge Church hosts a weekly drop-in café on Monday mornings, offering 'coffee and cake' and company. The church is planning to open a Garden Cafe which would be open throughout the week. This is supported by the Circuit through a grant of 100k and a loan of £50k.

Safeguarding

Lyn Cookson is the Circuit's Safeguarding Officer.

A Safeguarding Policy for both Children and Vulnerable Adults is in place. Safeguarding training is a continuous process of updating as it is required for those in volunteer roles and those in employment as appropriate to their roles and can include foundation and advanced training. Post holders are required to update their training every four years.

In addition, post holders are required to undertake an appropriate level of DBS check before taking up roles in the circuit. These must be kept up to date and are required to be renewed every five years.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Cathryn Warden is the Circuit's Data Champion.

The Circuit and the churches are able to demonstrate a good level of compliance in respect of GDPR regulations. Guidelines are available in all the churches and GDPR awareness sessions are held across the circuit for all post holders.

Financial Review (continued)

Financial Review

The annual accounts for the year 2024-25 are attached to this report.

At the close of the period, the Circuit held net current assets of £852,000 (2024: £931,000). All of these funds are unrestricted. However, of this amount, the figure of £238,000 is regarded as required to satisfy our Reserves Policy (see note below). Also, amounts are set aside for specific projects.

All of the funds held at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church ("CFB") are available for the purposes of the Circuit, however if any were to be requested for specific developments, for example, major property expenditure, these would be subject to a project Review by the Methodist Church.

The principal source of funds is through assessments levied on Circuit churches. This supports the costs of Presbyters and lay workers, who lead worship, provide pastoral and safeguarding services, and seek to extend God's Kingdom through mission. These funds also support an assessment paid to the Darlington Methodist District.

No professional advice was sought on any financial matters during the year.

Risk

The Circuit Meeting, acting as Trustees, have considered the key areas of risk to which the Circuit is subject and as part of our comprehensive insurance policy with Methodist Insurance, insurance is in place and is considered adequate to cover the range of known risks, including the manse portfolio, employers' liability, public liability and trustee indemnity.

Aside from the financial risks above, the key risk to the Circuit meeting its purpose lies in the provision of Presbyters and governance by the Methodist Church. Absence of such would severely hamper the work of the Circuit.

No professional advice was sought on any financial matters during the year.

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Reserves Policy

The Circuit Reserves Policy, agreed by the Trustees, seeks to ensure a minimum reserve equal to six months' operating costs. At August 2025 this is equivalent to £238,000.

The Circuit has adequate reserve funds to cover the planned deficit and this Reserves Policy has been approved by the Trustees.

Investment Policy

The Circuit Investment Policy requires that funds held in excess of day-to-day needs are invested in the funds of the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church via the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes. This requirement has been met throughout the year.

ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES

D. Hinch

Revd. David Hinchliffe
Trustee and Superintendent Minister

Date 30/11/26

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

		Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Re-valuation Reserve (Unrestricted) £	Total 2024-25 £	Total 2023-24 £
Income							
1	Donations and legacies	S1	15,150	-	-	15,150	-
2	Refund of donation	S2	-	-	-	-	24,895
3	Income from monetary investments	S3	3,235	30,533	-	33,768	51,239
4	Income from properties		-	-	-	-	-
5	Assessments on Churches	S4	208,739	-	-	208,739	218,066
6	Capital receipts	S5	-	-	-	-	-
7	Grants received		2,000	-	-	2,000	2,000
8	Other charitable income	S6	55	-	-	55	332
9	The Well	S7	27,810	-	-	27,810	(24,869)
	Rental income		7,813	-	-	7,813	-
	Connexional Priority Fund Levy refund	BS1	-	-	-	-	206,991
10	**Total income**		**264,802**	**30,533**	**-**	**295,335**	**478,654**
Expenditure							
11	Grants and donations	S8	13,093	-	-	13,093	23,314
12	Salaries and associated costs	S9	226,942	-	-	226,942	226,614
13	Property expenses	S10	99,445	-	-	99,445	13,831
14	Connexional model trust levy	S11	-	33,046	-	33,046	47,344
15	District assessment and levy	S12	53,752	-	-	53,752	53,752
16	Costs of activities	S13	33,282	-	-	33,282	24,611
17	Costs of administration	S14	15,685	1,888	-	17,573	16,387
18	Other outgoings		-	-	-	-	-
19	**Total charitable expenditure**		**442,199**	**34,934**	**-**	**477,133**	**405,853**
20	Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		-	-	-	-	-
21	Gains/(losses) on investment properties		-	-	-	-	-
22	**Net income/(expenditure)**		**(177,397)**	**(4,401)**	**-**	**(181,798)**	**72,801**
23	Transfers between funds		172,451	(172,451)	-	-	-
	Introduced funds	S15	104,344	-	-	104,344	24,950
24	Other gains/(losses)		-	-	-	-	-
26	**Net movement in funds**		**99,398**	**(176,852)**	**-**	**(77,454)**	**97,751**
27	Total funds brought forward		963,448	788,029	262,626	2,014,103	1,916,352
28	**Total funds carried forward**		**1,062,846**	**611,177**	**262,626**	**1,936,649**	**2,014,103**

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

		Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Revaluation Reserve (Unrestricted) £	Total 2023-24 £
Income						
1	Donations and legacies	S1	-	-	-	-
2	Repayment of donation	S2	-	24,895	-	24,895
3	Income from monetary investments	S3	2,831	48,408	-	51,239
4	Income from properties		-	-	-	-
5	Assessments on Churches	S4	218,066	-	-	218,066
6	Capital receipts	S5	-	-	-	-
7	Grants received		2,000	-	-	2,000
8	Other charitable income	S6	332	-	-	332
9	The Well	S7	(24,869)	-	-	(24,869)
	Connexional Priority Fund Levy refund	BS1	-	206,991	-	206,991
10	**Total income**		**198,360**	**280,294**	**-**	**478,654**
Expenditure						
11	Grants and donations	S8	23,314	-	-	23,314
12	Salaries and associated costs	S9	226,614	-	-	226,614
13	Property expenses	S10	13,831	-	-	13,831
14	Connexional model trust levy	S11	-	47,344	-	47,344
15	District assessment and levy	S12	53,752	-	-	53,752
16	Costs of activities	S13	24,611	-	-	24,611
17	Costs of administration	S14	14,188	2,199	-	16,387
18	Other outgoings		-	-	-	-
19	**Total charitable expenditure**		**356,310**	**49,543**	**-**	**405,853**
20	Gains/(losses) on monetary investments -		-	-	-	
21	Gains/(losses) on investment properties		-	-	-	-
22	**Net income/(expenditure)**		**(157,950)**	**230,751**	**-**	**72,801**
23	Transfers between funds		497,415	(497,415)	-	-
24	Other gains/(losses)		-	-	-	-
25	Introduced funds	S15	24,950	-	-	24,950
26	**Net movement in funds**		**364,415**	**(266,664)**	**-**	**97,751**
27	Total funds brought forward		599,033	1,054,693	262,626	1,916,352
28	**Total funds carried forward**		**963,448**	**788,029**	**262,626**	**2,014,103**

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Total 2024-25 £	Total 2023-24 £
Fixed Assets					
Circuit manses and equipment	BS1	1,079,660	-	1,079,660	1,077,629
Investment properties		-	-	-	-
Investments	BS2	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
Total fixed assets		**1,084,660**	**-**	**1,084,660**	**1,082,629**
Current Assets					
Debtors	BS3	14,689	-	14,689	220,297
Investments with TMCP	BS4	-	611,177	611,177	581,038
Central Finance Board deposits	BS4	198,131	-	198,131	137,171
Cash at bank and in hand	BS4	65,908	-	65,908	35,982
Total current assets		**278,728**	**611,177**	**889,905**	**974,488**
Current liabilities					
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	BS5	37,916	-	37,916	43,014
Grants payable within 2025-26		-	-	-	-
Total current liabilities		**37,916**	**-**	**37,916**	**43,014**
Net current assets		**240,812**	**611,177**	**851,989**	**931,474**
Total assets less current liabilities		**1,325,472**	**611,177**	**1,936,649**	**2,014,103**
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)		-	-	-	-
Grants payable after 2025-26		-	-	-	-
Loans to the circuit		-	-	-	-
Net assets		**1,325,472**	**611,177**	**1,936,649**	**2,014,103**
Funds of the Circuit					
General Fund (Unrestricted)		1,062,846	-	1,062,846	963,448
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)		-	611,177	611,177	788,029
Revaluation Reserve		262,626	-	262,626	262,626
Total unrestricted funds		**1,325,472**	**611,177**	**1,936,649**	**2,014,103**
Restricted Funds		-	-	-	-
Endowment Funds		-	-	-	-
Total Funds		**1,325,471**	**611,177**	**1,936,649**	**2,014,103**

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 30/04/2026 and were signed by:

Rev David Hinchliffe
Trustee and Superintendent Minister

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Total 2023-24 £
Circuit manses and equipment	BS1	1,077,629	-	1,077,629
Investment properties		-	-	-
Investments	BS2	5,000	-	5,000
Total fixed assets		**1,082,629**	**-**	**1,082,629**
Current Assets				
Debtors	BS3	13,306	206,991	220,297
Investments with TMCP	BS4	-	581,038	581,038
Central Finance Board deposits	BS4	137,171	-	137,171
Cash at bank and in hand	BS4	35,982	-	35,982
Total current assets		**186,459**	**788,029**	**974,488**
Current liabilities				
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	BS6	43,014	-	43,014
Grants payable within 2024-25		-	-	-
Total current liabilities		**43,014**	**-**	**43,014**
Net current assets		**143,445**	**788,029**	**931,474**
Total assets less current liabilities		**1,226,074**	**788,029**	**2,014,103**
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)		-	-	-
Grants payable after 2024-25		-	-	-
Loans to the circuit		-	-	-
Net assets		**1,226,074**	**788,029**	**2,014,103**
Funds of the Circuit				
General Fund (Unrestricted)		963,448	-	963,448
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)		-	788,029	788,029
Revaluation Reserve		262,626	-	262,626
Total unrestricted funds		**1,226,074**	**788,029**	**2,014,103**
Restricted Funds		-	-	-
Endowment Funds		-	-	-
Total Funds		**1,226,074**	**788,029**	**2,014,103**

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Note A1 - Accounting Framework and accounting policies

i ***Accounting framework***

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (issued 16 July 2014) with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Charities Act 2011.

ii. ***Public benefit entity***

Darlington and Teesdale Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s) below.

iii ***Basis***

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost, except that certain freehold properties are shown at valuation, and on the accruals basis to show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

iv ***Content***

The accounts are expressed in £Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

v ***Going concern***

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2025, the Trustees believe that the Circuit is a going concern.

vi ***Consolidation***

The financial statements of the Churches within the Circuit are not consolidated in these financial statements.

vii ***Income recognition***

Income is brought into account when there is entitlement and the amount is reliably measurable once it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will accrue to the Circuit. No attempt is made to measure the value of services donated by volunteers.

viii ***Tangible fixed assets***

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and individually cost at least £1,000. The freehold property is shown in the accounts at cost or valuation. No depreciation is provided on the buildings because the Trustees consider the current residual fair value of the Manse buildings (on the assumption that they had reached the end of their useful economic life by the year end) to be not less than the carrying value. The properties have been reviewed for impairment.

Equipment is depreciated at the rate of 33.3% per annum.

Improvements to property are depreciated at the rate of 10% per annum

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Note A1 - Accounting Framework and accounting policies (Continued)

ix *VAT*

As the Circuit is not VAT registered all input VAT is charged with the expenditure to which it relates.

Note A2 - Payments to Trustees

No payments are made to Trustees as remuneration for their work in that capacity.

The Superintendent Minister and other Presbyters of the Circuit undertake the primary executive roles within the Circuit and receive stipends at standard rates.

Remuneration was also paid to non-Presbyteral Trustees as follows for employment other than their position as Trustee at the same time as being a Trustee:-

	2025	2024
	£	£
Mrs L Cookson	26,592	21,634
Mr G Bright	35,668	27,209
Mrs S Case	4,723	-
	66,983	48,843

Trustees are also reimbursed for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties. The total amounts and number of Trustees were:-

	2025	2024
	£	£
Total paid	8,680	2,088
Number of Trustees paid	5	4

There were no other related party transactions to disclose.

Note A3 - Independent examiner

An accrual had been made for the fee of the independent examiner of £3,200 including VAT, and for additional charges for other services of £1,360 including VAT.

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Note S1 - Donations and legacies

This comprises all free-will giving received by the Circuit as a contribution to its work.

Note S2 - Refund of Donation

A contribution was made to the ministers pension fund in the year to 31 August 2022. This was repaid to the Circuit in the prior year, with interest.

Note S3 - Income from monetary investments

This is interest received on accounts held at the Methodist Central Finance Board ("CFB") and Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes ("TMCP").

Note S4 - Assessments on churches

Assessments levied upon the Circuit churches. Details are as follows:-

Church:	2024-25 £	2023-24 £
Barnard Castle	38,864	38,864
Barton	4,000	4,000
Cockerton	43,000	43,000
Elm Ridge	57,236	57,236
Harrowgate Hill	10,130	20,260
Haughton	14,808	14,808
Hurworth	12,885	11,620
Middleton (Pathway)	16,016	16,016
Staindrop	5,500	5,500
The Well	6,300	6,762
	208,739	218,066

Note S5 - Capital receipts

No church buildings have been sold in the last two years.

Note S6 - Other charitable income

This includes income received specifically as part of the activities of the Circuit and miscellaneous receipts.

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Note S7 - The Well

The Well Community Hub is now operated by the Circuit. Income and expenditure comprises:-

	2024-25	2023-24
Income	£	£
Letting income	1,842	1,580
Interest	21	49
Connexion property fund grant	47,500	-
Other grant income	7,885	8,038
Donations	3,650	-
Charity shop income	8,201	8,408
Other income	95	247
Transfer re wages	-	7,200
Total income	69,194	25,522
Expenditure	£	£
Salaries	8,576	14,619
Property expenses	19,983	20,238
Cost of activities	6,200	7,513
Costs of admin	1,360	2,171
Depreciation	5,265	5,850
Total expenditure	41,384	50,391
Net income/(expenditure)	27,810	(24,869)

Note S8 - Grants and donations

Total donations, as approved by the Circuit meeting are shown below:-

	2024-25	2023-24
from General Fund:	£	£
Darlington Area Churches Youth Ministry (DACYM)	3,480	3,480
The Pathway Methodist Church	-	10,000
Cockerton Methodist Church	3,530	-
Seed Corn Grant	1,699	1,450
NY Dales Methodist Church	4,384	4,384
Barnard Castle	-	4,000
	13,093	23,314
from Circuit Model Trust Fund:	-	-
Total grants and donations	13,093	23,314

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Note S9 - Salaries and associated costs

Payroll is administered on the Circuit's behalf by a central Methodist department.

During the year, the Circuit was served by two full-time presbyters, plus one part-time presbyter. The Circuit is also served by a number of Lay Workers covering Pastoral and Youth Missionary work, plus administrative support. The total costs consist of the following:-

	2024-25	2023-24
	£	£
Presbyters and presbyteral support	90,491	118,291
Lay Workers	134,996	106,605
Apprenticeship levy	1,265	1,512
Life assurance	190	206
Total paid through Methodist Central Payroll	226,942	226,614

	2024-25	2023-24
	£	£
Payroll costs are made up of:		
Stipends and salaries	192,502	180,627
Employers National Insurance Contributions	17,927	16,364
Employers pension contributions	18,392	27,905
Apprenticeship levy	1,265	1,512
Life assurance	190	206
Prior years overpaid tax	(3,334)	-
	226,942	226,614

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Note S10 - Property expenses

Throughout the year, the Circuit owned three properties (20 Peterhouse Close, 29 Ashtree Drive and 18 Killhope Crescent). 20 Peterhouse Close was refurbished in the year. The Harrowgate Hill church building was repaired upon transfer to the circuit.

Details of the costs are given below:-

		2024-25	2023-24
		£	£
Council Tax	- manses	4,887	6,363
	- churches	-	69
Water Rates	- manses	1,531	997
	- churches	68	708
Insurance	- manses	3,065	1,789
	- churches	2,540	(1,023)
Utilities	- empty manses	932	198
	- empty churches	9,792	303
Maintenance and repairs	- manses	66,319	4,427
	- other	10,311	-
		99,445	13,831

Note S11 - Connexional Model Trust Levy

This is applied annually to balances held in TMCP funds.

Note S12 - District Assessment Levy

This is paid quarterly to support the work of the Darlington Methodist District.

Note S13 - Costs of activities

This represents the costs of the primary purpose of the Circuit, excluding stipend and salary costs.

	2024-25	2023-24
	£	£
Presbyters	22,098	14,919
Pastoral Missioners	708	552
Youth Work	365	-
Preaching and worship	2,900	3,527
Other worship costs	592	366
Depreciation of equipment	6,619	5,247
	33,282	24,611

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Note S14 - Costs of administration

This represents the costs of administering the circuit, excluding salary costs:-

	2024-25	2023-24
	£	£
Telephone and internet	58	31
Postage and stationery	4,444	2,871
Circuit communications, website and email administration	2,791	3,111
Independent examiner's fee	4,590	4,350
Other costs	1,933	2,179
Circuit office costs	3,757	3,845
Circuit equipment	-	-
	17,573	16,387

Circuit office costs relate to the rent of an office from Elm Ridge Methodist Church for £3,600 (PY £3,800) together with refurbishment costs.

Note S15 – Funds Introduced

This represents funds received from closed churches etc.

	2024-25	2023-24
	£	£
Harrowgate Hill	104,344	-
The Well	-	24,950
	104,344	24,950

Note BS1 - Fixed Assets

The Circuit owned three properties throughout the year, 20 Peterhouse Close, 29 Ashtree Drive and 18 Killhope Crescent. They were used as manses by Presbyters. 20 Peterhouse Close was empty for most of the year and was refurbished before being occupied by a new Presbyter.

A full revaluation of the properties was conducted in 2016-17 enabling the individual values of the manses to be accounted for separately. The Barnard Castle manse was revalued on the merger. The Trustees did not consider it necessary to conduct a revaluation in 2024-25. The Killhope manse is included at cost.

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Note BS1 - Fixed Assets (Continued)

	Manses £	Manse Improve -ments £	Equipment £	Equipment The Well £	Total £
Cost or valuation					
At 1 September 2024	997,056	27,007	7,637	58,502	1,090,202
Additions	-	12,841	1,074	-	13,915
Revaluations (+/-)	-	-	-	-	-
Grant reserves (-)	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals (-)	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers* (+/-)	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2025	997,056	39,848	8,711	58,502	1,104,117
Accumulated depreciation					
At 1 September 2024	-	2,701	4,022	5,850	12,573
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluations (+/-)	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals (-)	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers* (+/-)	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	3,715	2,904	5,265	11,884
At 31 August 2025	-	6,416	6,926	11,115	24,457
Net book value					
At 31 August 2025	997,056	33,432	1,785	47,387	1,079,660
At 31 August 2024	997,056	24,306	3,615	52,652	1,077,629

The valuation of manses carried forward is made up of:-

	2024-25 £	2023-24 £
20 Peterhouse Close, Darlington	275,000	275,000
29 Ashtree Drive, Barnard Castle	350,000	350,000
18 Killope Crescent, Darlington (at cost)	372,056	372,056
	997,056	997,056

Manse improvements include installation of a new boiler at 20, Peterhouse Close.

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Note BS1 - Contingent Liability

Although the financial effect of revaluation is shown in full above, a proportion of any receipt on sale of manses would be expected to become payable to the Methodist Church in the event that the manse is sold and not directly replaced.

The Methodist Connexional Priority Fund levy is currently charged at 20% of the first £100,000 and 40% of any excess over £100,000.

Levies can be refunded after a subsequent replacement.

Actual levies charged/refunded amount to:

	2024-25 £	2023-24 £
Raby Avenue Manse	-	(109,758)
Mowbray Drive Manse	-	(97,223)
	-	(206,991)

Note BS2 - Investments

	2024-25 £	2023-24 £
Cotherstone Old Chapel Project Ltd	5,000	5,000

Note BS3 - Debtors and prepayments

	2024-25 £	2023-24 £
Pre-paid stipends for current year	10,912	7,419
Pre-paid apprenticeships levy	45	29
Payroll control	3,732	5,858
Levy refunds	-	206,991
	14,689	220,297

Last year, a debtor was included for levy refunds that arose due to a property replacement in the year.

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Note BS4 - Details of cash funds

The CAF General Account is used for day to day expenses. The CFB accounts are the main current accounts held at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and the TMCP accounts hold interest bearing deposit values.

Values held in each account are shown below:-

Unrestricted Fund Name	Opening Balance	Introduced	Income	Expend-iture	Transfers	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£	£	£
CAF General Account	30,235	-	198,191	(174,492)	(7,188)	46,746
CFB General Account	137,171	-	203,911	(360,962)	218,011	198,131
TMCP Model Trust Fund	557,275	-	326,996	(34,857)	(262,000)	587,414
TMCP Various Bequests	23,763	-	1,088	(77)	(1,011)	23,763
CAF The Well Account	5,747	-	30,708	(69,481)	52,188	19,162
Total Cash Funds of the Circuit	**754,191**	**-**	**760,894**	**(639,869)**	**-**	**875,216**

Note BS5 - Liabilities under 1 year

Represents church assessments for 2025-26 received in the period and expenses relating to the current year but unpaid at 31 August 2025:-

	2025	2024
	£	£
Church assessments	29,172	37,697
Accrued expenditure	8,744	5,317
	37,916	43,014

In the allocation of church assessments:

1. The receipt from Elm Ridge in August 2023 has been taken to be the late payment of the amount due in May 2023, meaning they are one quarter in arrears.

2. There is no specific assessment due for The Well Community Project. Payments are transferred from the Well in lieu of an assessment.

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT

DECLARATIONS

Treasurer

I confirm that these accrual based accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit Meeting.

Signature of Treasurer	Stephen Sutcliffe	Date	29/04/2026
Name of Treasurer	Stephen Sutcliffe		
Address	5 Manor Gate, Long Newton, Stockton-on-Tees S21 1DD		

Presentation to the Circuit Meeting for approval

I confirm that the annual reports and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 ~~were~~, or will be* presented to the Circuit Meeting at its meeting on and were approved	16/06/2026
Signature of the Chair of the meeting	D. Hinchliffe
Name of the Chair of the meeting	Revd David Hinchliffe
Date:	30.04.2026

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Darlington Circuit

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Darlington and Teesdale Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2025, which are set out on pages 16 to 29.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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

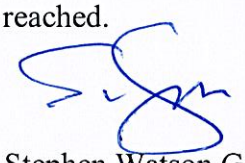
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

(1) accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or

(2) the accounts did not accord with those records; or

(3) the accounts did 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.

Signed: 

Name: Stephen Watson Gardner

Relevant professional qualification or Member of professional body: Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Address: King Hope
31 Victoria Road
Darlington
DL1 5SB

Date: 18 May 2026

Darlington and Teesdale Methodist Circuit

England & Wales - Charity number 1132005

Accounts

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
(Charity Registration No: 1132005)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 AUGUST 2024

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT

CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1	Circuit Information
4	Trustees Annual Report
15	Statement of Financial Activities
17	Balance Sheet
19	Notes to the Accounts
29	Declarations
30	Independent Examiner's Report

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

CIRCUIT INFORMATION

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Address:	Circuit Office, Elm Ridge Methodist Church, Carmel Road South, Darlington DL3 8DJ
Examiner:	Stephen Watson Gardner F.C.A. of King Hope, 31 Victoria Road, Darlington DL1 5SB

Managing Trustees in the year ended 31 August 2024:-

Chair:	Revd Tim Boocock	(to 1 April 2024)
	Revd John Howard	Acting Superintendent Minister (from 1 April 2024)
Secretary:	Mrs Valerie Tooth	
Circuit Staff:	Revd Graham Cutler	Presbyter
	Revd Brian Hutton	Presbyter (to 31 August 2024)
	Revd John Howard	Supernumerary Presbyter (see above)
	Revd Colin Roberts	Supernumerary Presbyter
Resident in Circuit:	*Revd Catherine Minor	Hospital Chaplain
Circuit Stewards:	Anthony Mawer	
	Josephine Pollard	
	Valerie Tooth	
	Dr Stephen Sutcliffe	(Circuit Treasurer)
	Cathryn Warden	
Lay Employees:	Graham Bright	Community Pastor at The Well
	Lyn Cookson	Local Church Community Development Worker & Circuit Safeguarding Officer
	*Lindy Lowis	Circuit Admin/Communications
	*Emma Walden	Hub Manager (Community Hosting Space) at The Well
Church Representatives:	Wendy Charlton	Barnard Castle
	Deborah Coggrave	Barnard Castle (from 10 March 2024)
	Heather Coustick	Barnard Castle (to 12 February 2024)
	Keith Lewis	Barnard Castle
	Alex Thompson	Barnard Castle
	Alison Banner	Barton
	Carol Heslop	Barton
	Joan Marwood	Barton
	*Judith Varley	Barton

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

CIRCUIT INFORMATION

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Church Representatives (Continued):	Brian Cooper	Cockerton
	Robert Dean	Cockerton
	Alison Hunter	Cockerton
	Irene Taylor	Cockerton
	Tony Allen	Elm Ridge
	Peter Gallop	Elm Ridge
	David Hall	Elm Ridge (to 16 October 2023)
	Dr Stephen Sutcliffe	Elm Ridge
	Elaine Armer	Harrowgate Hill (from 15 May 2024)
	Sue Case	Harrowgate Hill
	Margaret Cuthbert	Harrowgate Hill
	Vanessa Simpson	Harrowgate Hill (to 15 May 2024)
	Helen Hamilton	Harrowgate Hill
	Barbara Carter	Haughton
	Ann Thubron	Haughton
	Margaret Garret	Hurworth (to 31 August 2023)
	Eric Miller	Hurworth
	Jane Miller	Hurworth
	Hazel Neasham	Hurworth (from 1 September 2023)
	Andy Robinson	Hurworth
	Dorothy Matthews	The Pathway (to 27 September)
	Carol Mitchell	The Pathway
	Ian Tallentire	The Pathway
	Lorne Tallentire	The Pathway
	Judith Tarn	The Pathway
	Kenneth Robson	Staindrop
	Julia Petty	Staindrop
	Judith Rutter	Staindrop
	Ann-Marie Wade	Staindrop
	Graham Bright	The Well
	Brian Russell	The Well
	Chris Russell	The Well
	Morvyn Sanderson	The Well (from November 2023)
	Dr Stephen Sutcliffe	The Well
Other:	Revd John Bower	Supernumerary Minister (resigned 31 August 2024)
	Revd Oluyemisi Adetokumbo Jaiyesimi	Supernumerary Minister (from 1 September 2023)
	Karen Riley	Action for Children
	Peter Collins	All We Can and Joint Public Issues
	Liz McAllister	Circuit Complaints Officer
	Catheryn Warden	Circuit GDPR Champion

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

CIRCUIT INFORMATION

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Other	Margaret Wearmouth	Methodist Women in Britain (to 25 July 2024 deceased)
(Continued):	Josanne Hall	Methodist Homes for the Aged
	Brian Simpson	Secretary of Leaders of Worship & Local Preachers (LWLP)

**denotes a member of the Circuit Meeting who is not a trustee*

There are no Trustees holding title to any of the Circuit's property.

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Trustees Annual Report

Introduction

Welcome to the Trustees Annual Report of Darlington and Teesdale Methodist Circuit (**"the Circuit"**) for the year ended 31 August 2024. The Circuit was formed on 1 September 2021 when the Barnard Castle and Teesdale Methodist Circuit amalgamated with the Darlington Methodist Circuit under the existing charity registration of the Darlington Circuit. Whilst primarily a financial report we hope to also provide insight into our aims and mission.

Public Benefit

The Circuit provides a seven-day week Christian ministry across, Barnard Castle and Teesdale, Darlington and the surrounding areas through its network of staff, volunteers, members and premises. Its activities are open to the whole community. More details are provided under the paragraphs "Interconnexion for Mission, Mutual Encouragement and Help" and "Life of the Circuit".

The trustees have had due regard to the Charities Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Mission Statement

The Circuit has adopted the Methodist Church's strategic document 'Our Calling' as our core mission statement. This invites church members to live out their discipleship by following a lifestyle that embraces the principles of 'A Methodist Way of Life'. This is done through Worship, Learning & Caring, Service and Evangelism.

Purpose and Aims

The purposes of the Methodist Church are 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.

Purpose and Aims (continued)

The Circuit aims:

a. To provide varied, relevant and inclusive worship across the Circuit Churches.

b. To provide training to nurture faith in Christ, as well as to develop local preachers and leaders of worship, and to equip staff and volunteers with best practice, including pastoral care and safeguarding.

c. To increase awareness of and support voluntary charitable work in Darlington and Teesdale and around the UK and beyond.

d. To participate in ecumenical relationships.

e. To continue to give active support to the wider Methodist District and Connexion.

f. To promote the exploration of sustainable futures for all the churches in the Circuit

Organisation

The Circuit acts as an umbrella or resource body. The Circuit is the primary unit in which local churches express and experience their interconnexion in the Body of Christ, for purposes of mission, mutual encouragement and help.

It is in the Circuit that ministers are stationed, and local preachers are trained and admitted and exercise their calling. The purposes of the Circuit include the effective deployment of the resources of ministry, which include people, property and finance, as they relate to the Methodist churches in the Circuit, to churches of other denominations and to participation in the life of the communities served by the Circuit, including local schools and colleges and in ecumenical work in the area.

Governance

The Circuit is primarily governed by the rules and guidance of The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church ("CPD") which is updated and approved annually by the Conference of the Methodist Church. This document is available on the Methodist Church website: www.methodist.org.uk

Governance (continued)

New trustees are appointed primarily by the Circuit churches, in accordance with CPD. When the new Circuit was formed it was agreed that each church would have up to four representatives on the Circuit Meeting (Church Treasurer, Church Steward and two church members). Guidance documents for new trustees are provided online at the Methodist Church website.

Appointments to lay posts within the Circuit are by proposal, seconder and vote within the Circuit Meeting, again in accordance with CPD.

Where a post is considered essential for the purpose of the Circuit, but no lay person is available, the Circuit has authority to employ a member of staff to carry out that post. The Circuit follows Methodist Church policy of providing at least the Living Wage. Actual salaries are determined in conjunction with the Methodist District, taking into account the tasks of the role.

All decisions of the Circuit, including employment of lay workers, are made at Circuit Meetings, where all Trustees may vote. Circuit Meetings occur at least four times each year, more may be called if required. All activities of the Circuit Meeting are also governed by CPD. The Circuit Meeting agreed to establish a sub-committee (the Governance Committee) which gives detailed consideration to property and financial issues raised by churches and makes recommendations to the Circuit Meeting.

The Methodist Church operates on a Connexional Year which runs from 1 September to 31 August. Thus, any references to the start/end of the year relate to September and August respectively.

People

The Circuit has three full-time paid presbyters, Revd Tim Boocock (Superintendent Minister), Revd Graham Cutler and Revd Brian Hutton. Supernumerary ministers residing in the Circuit regularly take preaching appointments on a voluntary basis as do lay members of the church who are recognised as Local Preachers.

At the beginning of the year, Revd Brian Hutton notified the Circuit of his wish to curtail his appointment for family reasons and leave the Circuit on 31 August 2024 - a year earlier than when his five year appointment would have been completed. Consequently the Circuit entered the Methodist Church's annual stationing process and was successful in securing the appointment of Revd Gavin Hume who would join the circuit on 1 September 2024

People (continued)

Revd Tim Boocock returned to his ministerial duties on 1 September 2023 after a period of recuperative leave but he subsequently became unwell and retired on grounds of ill-health. From 1 April 2024, Revd John Howard, one of the Circuits supernumerary ministers, took on the role of Acting Superintendent. Three retired Ministers (Revd Roy Burley and Rev Phil Clarke, who reside in neighbouring Circuits and Revd Colin Roberts a supernumerary minister In the Darlington and Teesdale Circuit) kindly agreed to provide presbyteral support on a part-time basis to the two churches for which Revd Boocock had oversight. In September 2024 the Circuit will enter the Connexion's annual stationing process to seek to appoint a new Circuit Superintendent to commence on 1 September 2025.

The team of presbyters was supported across the year by a Lay Ministerial Team constituted of five personnel:-

a. Two Community Development Workers (one of whom was employed by the Circuit to work with Cockerton and Elm Ridge Churches in Darlington - Lyn Cookson) and another (Debbie Andrew) who was employed directly by the Pathway Church in Middleton in Teesdale. (From September 2024, this post will be funded by the Circuit).

b. A Community Pastor (Graham Bright) and a Hub Manager (Emma Walden) both appointed to work at The Well Methodist Church and Community Hosting Space (commenced 1 September 2023).

c. Lindy Lowis, the Circuit Admin/Communications Officer.

The Circuit has decided to seek to recruit two more Local Community Development Workers to work with the other churches in the Circuit (see below).

As reported in last year's Annual Report, The Circuit's post of Children's and Youth Worker became vacant when the postholder was successful in becoming The Well Hub Manager and remained unfilled whilst following the Circuit Leadership Team's conscious decision to pause and discern how best to take this work forward across the Circuit (see below).

The Circuit partners with the North Yorkshire Dales Circuit in employing a Schools Chaplain to work in schools in both circuits. This includes Melsonby Methodist Primary School for which our Circuit provides presbyteral support and has two places on the Governing Body held by Debbie Andrew and Jude Cutler.

Treasurer Responsibilities are undertaken by the Circuit Treasurer, Dr Stephen Sutcliffe, assisted by the Circuit Administrative Officer, Lindy Lowis.

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Property

Legal title to church land and buildings is held by "Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes".

There are 10 active churches in the Circuit: Barnard Castle, Barton, Cockerton, Elm Ridge, Haughton, Harrowgate Hill, Hurworth, Staindrop, The Pathway (Middleton in Teesdale) and The Well. The sale of Bondgate Church, which closed for worship in 2020, was completed in August 2023.

Trusteeship of The Well and its Community Hosting Space transferred to the Circuit Meeting, on 1 September 2023, following agreement of The Well Church Council. A Leadership/Oversight Team established by the Circuit Meeting has delegated authority to make decisions on day to day matters relating to the building and finance.

With the exception of The Well, the trustees of each church are responsible for the maintenance of the premises. All churches are subject to quinquennial inspections by a qualified surveyor.

During the course of the year Harrowgate Hill Church reached the difficult decision to submit a formal request for cessation of public worship. This was accepted by the Circuit Meeting and it was subsequently decided that the final service would take place on 29 December 2024. The Circuit Meeting determined that there would be an advantage in keeping the premises open whilst the long-term future of the building was decided. This would avoid the risks associated with a building standing empty and provide breathing space for the user groups which met regularly on the premises under a licence arrangement.

The Circuit owns three manses. Two are in Darlington and the other is in Barnard Castle. One of the Darlington manses was a new build completed in Spring 2024 and was funded by the sale of two manses which had been sold by the former Darlington Methodist Circuit as they did not meet the standards required by the Methodist Church and it was not viable to upgrade either property to meet the required standards. As with churches, circuit owned manses are subject to quinquennial surveys. There is an approved budget for maintenance of the manses. The Circuit Manse Secretary deals with any recommendations made in the quinquennial report and any day-to-day maintenance issues that arise.

Life of the Circuit

Circuit Vision

The Methodist Church, along with other churches, faces significant challenges with declining and ageing congregations. The Circuit continues to ask itself questions about the future and how it might develop strategies which take us forward in a way which is consistent with the Circuit's Mission Statement "Our Calling" and the Darlington District plan "Every Church Growing".

Life of the Circuit (continued)

To that end, the Circuit Staff, supported by the Circuit Leadership Team has endeavoured to encourage church members to form a deeper identity by developing their discipleship through a series of study opportunities based on the characteristics identified in A Methodist Way of Life under a title "Following Jesus Together". The theme for this connexional year was Prayer. In September a Retreat Day was held at Egglestone Abbey near Barnard Castle and subsequent group sessions across the Circuit studied the Prayer of Jabez, supported by themed preaching at Sunday services.

The Well Methodist Church and Community Hosting Space ("The Well")

The work being carried out at The Well, which serves a deprived area in the north of Darlington, has evolved resulting in significant growth of the social outreach activities. The Circuit has committed significant funds, albeit for a limited period, to support the work and much effort is expended in obtaining grants from external providers. The level of investment brings with it a level of complexity and burdens. The Well Community Hosting Space relies on the support of a number of volunteers who are recruited in accordance with the Methodist Church safeguarding guidelines.

Circuit Lay Ministry

The merger of the two circuits in 2021 had highlighted a difference of approach in how lay workers were employed. The former Darlington Circuit had employed its lay workers centrally, whereas in the former Barnard Castle and Teesdale Circuit, lay workers were attached to specific churches. Following a review, and with the exception of the Children and Young People's Work, it had been agreed to adopt the model of attaching lay workers to specific churches, or groups of churches to build local community partnerships to discern opportunities for community outreach as Local Church Community Development Workers (LCCDW). Taking this a step further, the Circuit decided to create three new LCCDW posts, two of which were transitioned from the former Pastoral Missioner posts. One post (serving Elm Ridge and Cockerton Churches) is filled. The other two (one serving Barnard Castle, Barton and Staindrop Churches and the other serving Haughton and Hurworth Churches) are being advertised. These posts will be funded by the Circuit for three years after which, for the posts to continue, the funding would need to be locally sourced.

As a matter of policy, the Methodist Church pays the Living Wage to its Lay Workers.

Future Plans for Children's and Young People's Work in the Circuit

The post of Children and Young People's Worker has been vacant since 1 September 2023. The Circuit decided to not seek to fill the post immediately but to pause and take time to review and discern how best this work can be carried out across the Circuit as a whole. A working group was set up take this work forward and after thoughtful discussion brought a proposal to the Circuit Meeting. The proposal was to focus on young people in their teens., More thought would be given to develop this proposal but the Circuit Meeting agreed that this should be the 'direction of travel'.

Eco Church - Action for Hope

In response to the climate change emergency, the Methodist Church has set an aspirational target of becoming a net zero carbon emissions Church by 2030. The Circuit is encouraging churches to consider what they can do to help achieve this. Some churches have registered with A Rocha UK, a Christian organisation which provides a framework for churches to take practical actions to reduce their carbon footprint and ways to encourage members to lead more sustainable lives. A Circuit Environmental Champion has been appointed to support and encourage churches in this.

Communications

The Circuit covers a large geographical area extending beyond Darlington into the dales and the Circuit has invested in upgrading its IT capacity to avoid unnecessary travel and to enable folk who are unable to travel to attend meetings remotely using the Zoom facility.

Interconnexion for Mission, Mutual Encouragement and Help

The Circuit has continued with two initiatives that started, by necessity, during lockdown which offer alternative Sunday worship – a Circuit Media Service which is available via YouTube and The Telephone Service, centred on Staindrop Church. Both of these offerings mean that folk who are unable to attend church, not least the housebound and their carers, are no longer excluded from regular Sunday worship. The Pathway offers Sunday evening "gatherings" via Zoom which support those who are unable to attend services in person and once a month an Afternoon Tea service is held, providing time for worship, food and fellowship, and helping with rural isolation.

The Circuit's bi-monthly Magazine, The Teesdale Worm, is a valuable resource for both church members and the wider public to help folk get to know each other as well as find out what is going on across the Circuit. The magazine is available electronically and in paper copy.

Every weekday morning, Revd Brian Hutton shares a verbal message of encouragement via WhatsApp and Email to those who register to receive it. These messages have been uplifting and very well received.

The Circuit has purchased a Digital Hymnal System for use by churches when no organist is available.

The Circuit purchased a share for £5,000 in the Cotherstone Old Chapel Project based in the former Methodist Chapel. This serves to cement the good relationship which the Circuit has with the community group who purchased the building from the Circuit and to support plans to hold acts of worship in the café space.

A wide variety of immeasurable good work continues to be carried out by churches across the circuit, often supported by our lay ministry, examples include:

Interconnexion for Mission, Mutual Encouragement and Help (continued)

- Barnard Castle provides missional activities such as a weekly prayer meeting, weekly coffee mornings, Lego Church, a light party and Christian pumpkin carving at Halloween and a cascade of poppies with Tommy on the front steps for Remembrance. The church is lit up from within to mark special times such as Christmas and Remembrance and Cancer Awareness Week. The church building is used by various groups from round the town including the Opera Group, Parkinson's Support and other groups.

- Cockerton run a popular Mother and Toddler group and a well-attended Lunch Club. Cockerton also runs a thriving Girls' Brigade.

- The Pathway at Middleton in Teesdale, which employs a Community Development Worker, offers regular church and community activities. These include an active relationship with the local primary school leading assemblies and hosting services at The Pathway at Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Family Celebration Services for pupils, staff and family members. Community outreach includes Baby and Toddler Group, Holiday at Home in Summer, Lego Church and Christmas Diner for older folk and those who are lonely (supported by the local butcher and Co-op store). The Pathway also supports local community events through an Upper Teesdale Churches Together Group.

- Harrowgate Hill supports a weekly Craft Group and has good relationship with the playgroup which is held daily during term time. Harrowgate Hill is also extremely supportive of Darlington Town Mission

- Haughton Church hosts a monthly WAVE (We are All Valued Equally) service. These services of worship are aimed at people with learning difficulties and those who care for them.

- The Well Community Hosting Space in Darlington offers a range of activities, including a weekly Community Lunch, Baby Bank, Thrift Shop, Coffee Shop and a Giving Garden. During each week of the school holidays, in partnership with another charity (Transforming Lives Together) a team of volunteers provide "Make Lunch" for families. This free activity incorporates a session of season-related craft activities followed by a healthy two-course lunch. The Well is also a hub for The Bread and Butter Thing (TBBT). The Well also hosts a number of support related community groups.

- In December 2023, over three days Elm Ridge hosted the Circuit's Journey to Bethlehem, an interactive performance where visitors walk through the set seeing and hearing the story of the birth of Jesus as church members from across the Circuit act out the various roles.

Hospitality projects across the Circuit make effective links with local communities. through coffee mornings. Some are involved in more specific community outreach work.

Interconnexion for Mission, Mutual Encouragement and Help (continued)

- The Mustard Tree Café at Hurworth Methodist Church opens six days a week and continues to flourish, including working with vulnerable young adults, offering vocational opportunities and providing resources for mental wellbeing to the local community.

- A community café (Coffee@Haughton) at Haughton Church is staffed solely by volunteers, not all of whom are church members, and opens two days each week. Haughton is fully accessible, has proved to be increasingly popular and provides valuable opportunities for social interaction. The church has been recognised as Dementia Friendly.

- The Well Community Hosting Space operates a café alongside its Thrift Shop and Baby Bank.

- Elm Ridge Church is planning to open a Garden Café and this will be supported by the Circuit through a grant of £100k and a loan of £50k.

Some churches have their own Boys and Girls Brigades attached to them. Other churches have other uniformed organisations meeting on the premises. It is hoped that these organisations will be involved in church life and take part in worship at Parade services.

The Circuit provides presbyteral support to Melsonby Methodist Primary School and, in partnership with the North Yorkshire Dales Circuit, provides a School Chaplain to spend time working in the school. The Circuit is represented on the school's Governing Body by two Foundation Governors.

Safeguarding

A Safeguarding Policy for both Children and Vulnerable Adults is in place. Safeguarding training is a continuous process of updating as it is required for those in volunteer roles and those in employment as appropriate to their roles and can include foundation and advanced training. Post holders are required to update their training every four years.

In addition, post holders are required to undertake an appropriate level of DBS check before taking up roles in the circuit. These must be kept up to date and are required to be renewed every five years.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The Circuit and the churches are able to demonstrate a good level of compliance in respect of GDPR regulations. Guidelines are available in all the churches and GDPR awareness sessions are held across the circuit for all post holders.

Financial Review (continued)

Financial Review

The annual accounts for the year 2023-24 are attached to this report.

At the close of the period, the Circuit held net current assets of £931,000 (2023: £1,288,000). All of these funds are unrestricted. However, of this amount, the figure of £178,000 is regarded as required to satisfy our Reserves Policy (see note below). Also, amounts are set aside for specific projects.

All of the funds held at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church ("CFB") are available for the purposes of the Circuit, however if any were to be requested for specific developments, for example, major property expenditure, these would be subject to a project Review by the Methodist Church.

Following the purchase of the replacement manse, the Circuit became entitled to a refund of the Connexional Priority Fund Levy of £207,000 previously paid.

The principal source of funds is through assessments levied on Circuit churches. This supports the costs of Presbyters and lay workers, who lead worship, provide pastoral and safeguarding services, and seek to extend God's Kingdom through mission. These funds also support an assessment paid to the Darlington Methodist District.

No professional advice was sought on any financial matters during the year.

Risk

The Circuit Meeting, acting as Trustees, have considered the key areas of risk to which the Circuit is subject and as part of our comprehensive insurance policy with Methodist Insurance, insurance is in place and is considered adequate to cover the range of known risks, including the manse portfolio, employers' liability, public liability and trustee indemnity.

Aside from the financial risks above, the key risk to the Circuit meeting its purpose lies in the provision of Presbyters and governance by the Methodist Church. Absence of such would severely hamper the work of the Circuit.

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Reserves Policy

The Circuit Reserves Policy, agreed by the Trustees, seeks to ensure a minimum reserve equal to six months' operating costs. At August 2024 this is equivalent to £178,000.

The Circuit has adequate reserve funds to cover the planned deficit and this Reserves Policy has been approved by the Trustees.

Investment Policy

The Circuit Investment Policy requires that funds held in excess of day-to-day needs are invested in the funds of the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church via the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

This requirement has been met throughout the year.

ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES

Revd. John Howard
Trustee and Superintendent Minister

Date

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

		Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Revaluation Reserve (Unrestricted) £	Total 2023-24 £	Total 2022-23 £
Income							
1	Donations and legacies	S1	-	-	-	-	357
2	Repayments of donation	S2	-	24,895	-	24,895	-
3	Income from monetary investments	S3	2,831	48,408	-	51,239	28,904
4	Income from properties		-	-	-		-
5	Assessments on Churches	S4	218,066	-	-	218,066	218,066
6	Capital receipts	S5	-	-	-	-	575,569
7	Grants received		2,000	-	-	2,000	2,000
8	Other charitable income	S6	332	-	-	332	819
9	The Well	S7	(24,869)	-	-	(24,869)	-
	Connexional Priority Fund Levy refund	BS1	-	206,991	-	206,991	-
10	**Total income**		**198,360**	**280,294**	**-**	**478,654**	**825,715**
Expenditure							
11	Grants and donations	S8	23,314	-	-	23,314	26,899
12	Salaries and associated costs	S9	226,614	-	-	226,614	145,373
13	Property expenses	S10	13,831	-	-	13,831	30,645
14	Connexional model trust levy	S11	-	47,344	-	47,344	51,178
15	District assessment and levy	S12	53,752	-	-	53,752	53,752
16	Costs of activities	S13	24,611	-	-	24,611	17,784
17	Costs of administration	S14	14,188	2,199	-	16,387	18,611
	Connexional Priority Fund Levy - property sales	BS1	-	-	-	-	180,325
18	Other outgoings		-	-	-	-	-
19	**Total charitable expenditure**		**356,310**	**49,543**	**-**	**405,853**	**524,567**
20	Gains/(losses) on monetary investments	-	-	-	-	-	
21	Gains/(losses) on investment properties		-	-	-	-	-
22	**Net income/(expenditure)**		**(157,950)**	**230,751**	**-**	**72,801**	**301,148**
23	Transfers between funds		497,415	(497,415)	-	-	-
24	Other gains/(losses)		-	-	-	-	-
25	Introduced funds - The well		24,950	-	-	24,950	-
26	**Net movement in funds**		**364,415**	**(266,664)**	**-**	**97,751**	**301,148**
27	Total funds brought forward		599,033	1,054,693	262,626	1,916,352	1,615,204
28	**Total funds carried forward**		**963,448**	**788,029**	**262,626**	**2,014,103**	**1,916,352**

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

		Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Revaluation Reserve (Unrestricted) £	Total 2022-23 £
Income						
1	Donations and legacies	S1	357	-	-	357
2	Repayment of donation	S2	-	-	-	-
3	Income from monetary investments	S3	3,295	25,609	-	28,904
4	Income from properties		-	-	-	-
5	Assessments on Churches	S4	218,066	-	-	218,066
6	Capital receipts	S5	4,757	570,812	-	575,569
7	Grants received		2,000	-	-	2,000
8	Other charitable income	S6	819	-	-	819
9	The Well	S7	-	-	-	-
10	**Total income**		**229,294**	**596,421**	**-**	**825,715**
Expenditure						
11	Grants and donations	S8	16,899	10,000	-	26,899
12	Salaries and associated costs	S9	145,373	-	-	145,373
13	Property expenses	S10	30,645	-	-	30,645
14	Connexional model trust levy	S11	-	51,178	-	51,178
15	District assessment and levy	S12	53,752	-	-	53,752
16	Costs of activities	S13	17,784	-	-	17,784
17	Costs of administration	S14	16,266	2,345	-	18,611
	Connexial priority levy - property sales	BS1	-	180,325	-	180,325
18	Other outgoings		-	-	-	-
19	**Total charitable expenditure**		**280,719**	**243,848**	**-**	**524,567**
20	Gains/(losses) on monetary investments	-	-	-	-	
21	Gains/(losses) on investment properties		-	-	-	-
22	**Net income/(expenditure)**		**(51,425)**	**352,573**	**-**	**301,148**
23	Transfers between funds		120,687	(120,687)	-	-
24	Other gains/(losses)	BS1/S15	-	-	-	-
25	Introduced funds		-	-	-	-
26	**Net movement in funds**		**69,262**	**231,886**	**-**	**301,148**
27	Total funds brought forward		529,771	822,807	262,626	1,615,204
28	**Total funds carried forward**		**599,033**	**1,054,693**	**262,626**	**1,916,352**

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Total 2023-24 £	Total 2022-23 £
Fixed Assets					
Circuit manses and equipment	BS1	1,077,629	-	1,077,629	627,951
Investment properties		-	-	-	-
Investments	BS2	5,000	-	5,000	-
Total fixed assets		**1,082,629**	**-**	**1,082,629**	**627,951**
Current Assets					
Debtors	BS3	13,306	206,991	220,297	450,991
Investments with TMCP	BS4	-	581,038	581,038	771,677
Central Finance Board deposits	BS4	137,171	-	137,171	149,243
Cash at bank and in hand	BS4	30,235	-	30,235	114,363
The Well	BS4	5,747	-	5,747	-
Total current assets		**186,459**	**788,029**	**974,488**	**1,486,274**
Current liabilities					
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	BS5	43,014	-	43,014	197,873
Grants payable within 2024-25		-	-	-	-
Total current liabilities		**43,014**	**-**	**43,014**	**197,873**
Net current assets		**143,445**	**788,029**	**931,474**	**1,288,401**
Total assets less current liabilities		**1,226,074**	**788,029**	**2,014,103**	**1,916,352**
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)		-	-	-	-
Grants payable after 2024-25		-	-	-	-
Loans to the circuit		-	-	-	-
Net assets		**1,226,074**	**788,029**	**2,014,103**	**1,916,352**
Funds of the Circuit					
General Fund (Unrestricted)		963,448	-	963,448	599,033
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)		-	788,029	788,029	1,054,693
Revaluation Reserve		262,626	-	262,626	262,626
Total unrestricted funds		**1,226,074**	**788,029**	**2,014,103**	**1,916,352**
Restricted Funds		-	-	-	-
Endowment Funds		-	-	-	-
Total Funds		**1,226,074**	**788,029**	**2,014,103**	**1,916,352**

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on and were signed by:

Rev John Howard
Trustee and Superintendent Minister

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Total 2022-23 £
Circuit manses and equipment	BS1	627,951	-	627,951
Investment properties		-	-	-
Investments		-	-	-
Total fixed assets		**627,951**	**-**	**627,951**
Current Assets				
Debtors	BS3	19,297	431,694	450,991
Investments with TMCP	BS4	-	771,677	771,677
Central Finance Board deposits	BS4	149,243	-	149,243
Cash at bank and in hand	BS4	114,363	-	114,363
The Well	BS5	-	-	-
Total current assets		**282,903**	**1,203,371**	**1,486,274**
Current liabilities				
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	BS6	49,195	148,678	197,873
Grants payable within 2023-24		-	-	-
Total current liabilities		**49,195**	**148,678**	**197,873**
Net current assets		**233,708**	**1,054,693**	**1,288,401**
Total assets less current liabilities		**861,659**	**1,054,693**	**1,916,352**
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)		-	-	-
Grants payable after 2023-24		-	-	-
Loans to the circuit		-	-	-
Net assets		**861,659**	**1,054,693**	**1,916,352**
Funds of the Circuit				
General Fund (Unrestricted)		599,033	-	599,033
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)		-	1,054,693	1,054,693
Revaluation Reserve		262,626	-	262,626
Total unrestricted funds		**861,659**	**1,054,693**	**1,916,352**
Restricted Funds		-	-	-
Endowment Funds		-	-	-
Total Funds		**861,659**	**1,054,693**	**1,916,352**

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Note A1 - Accounting Framework and accounting policies

i ***Accounting framework***

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (issued 16 July 2014) with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Charities Act 2011.

ii. ***Public benefit entity***
Darlington and Teesdale Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s) below.

iii ***Basis***
These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost, except that certain freehold properties are shown at valuation, and on the accruals basis to show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

iv ***Content***
The accounts are expressed in £Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

v ***Going concern***
Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2024, the Trustees believe that the Circuit is a going concern.

vi ***Consolidation***
The financial statements of the Churches within the Circuit are not consolidated in these financial statements.

vii ***Income recognition***
Income is brought into account when there is entitlement and the amount is reliably measurable once it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will accrue to the Circuit. No attempt is made to measure the value of services donated by volunteers.

viii ***Tangible fixed assets***
These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and individually cost at least £1,000. The freehold property is shown in the accounts at cost or valuation. No depreciation is provided on the buildings because the Trustees consider the current residual fair value of the Manse buildings (on the assumption that they had reached the end of their useful economic life by the year end) to be not less than the carrying value. The properties have been reviewed for impairment.

Equipment is depreciated at the rate of 33.3% per annum.

Improvements to property are depreciated at the rate of 10% per annum

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Note A1 - Accounting Framework and accounting policies (Continued)

ix *VAT*
As the Circuit is not VAT registered all input VAT is charged with the expenditure to which it relates.

Note A2 - Payments to Trustees

No payments are made to Trustees as remuneration for their work in that capacity.

The Superintendent Minister and other Presbyters of the Circuit undertake the primary executive roles within the Circuit and receipt stipends at standard rates.

Remuneration was also paid to non-Presbyteral Trustees as follows for employment other than their position as Trustee at the same time as being a Trustee:-

	2024	2023
	£	£
Mrs L C Russell	-	873
Mrs L Cookson	21,634	23,170
Mr G Bright	27,209	-
	48,843	24,043

Trustees are also reimbursed for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties. The total amounts and number of Trustees were:-

	2024	2023
	£	£
Total paid	2,088	6,378
Number of Trustees paid	4	9

There were no other related party transactions to disclose.

Note A3 - Independent examiner

An accrual had been made for the fee of the independent examiner of £3,050 including VAT, and for additional charges for other services of £1,300 including VAT.

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Note S1 - Donations and legacies

This comprises all free-will giving received by the Circuit as a contribution to its work.

Note S2 - Refund of Donation

A contribution was made to the ministers pension fund in the year to 31 August 2022. This was repaid to the Circuit this year, with interest.

Note S3 - Income from monetary investments

This is interest received on accounts held at the Methodist Central Finance Board ("CFB") and Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes ("TMCP").

Note S4 - Assessments on churches

Assessments levied upon the Circuit churches. Details are as follows:-

Church:	2023-24 £	2022-23 £
Barnard Castle	38,864	38,864
Barton	4,000	4,000
Cockerton	43,000	43,000
Elm Ridge	57,236	57,236
Harrowgate Hill	20,260	20,260
Haughton	14,808	14,808
Hurworth	11,620	11,620
Middleton (Pathway)	16,016	16,016
Staindrop	5,500	5,500
The Well	6,762	6,762
	218,066	218,066

Note S5 - Capital receipts

Two church buildings were sold in 2022-23: Cotherstone Church and Bondgate Church. The accounting for this is shown in capital receipts as legal ownership was with "Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes".

Note S6 - Other charitable income

This includes income received specifically as part of the activities of the Circuit and miscellaneous receipts.

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Note S7 - The Well

The Well Community Hub is now operated by the Circuit. Income and expenditure comprises:-

Income	**£**
Letting income	1,580
Interest	49
Grant income	8,038
Charity shop income	8,408
Other income	247
Transfer re wages	7,200
Total income	25,522

Expenditure	**£**
Salaries	14,619
Property expenses	20,238
Cost of activities	7,513
Costs of admin	2,171
Depreciation	5,850
Total expenditure	50,391
Net expenditure	(24,869)

Note S8 - Grants and donations

Total donations, as approved by the Circuit meeting are shown below:-

	2023-24	**2022-23**
from General Fund:	**£**	**£**
Darlington Area Churches Youth Ministry (DACYM)	3,480	3,480
The Wall Methodist Church	-	1,769
The Pathway Methodist Church	10,000	-
Hurworth Methodist Church	-	10,000
Seed Corn Grant	1,450	1,650
NY Dales Methodist Church	4,384	-
Barnard Castle	4,000	-
	23,314	16,899
from Circuit Model Trust Fund:		
The Pathway Methodist Church	-	10,000
Total grants and donations	23,314	26,899

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Note S9 - Salaries and associated costs

Payroll is administered on the Circuit's behalf by a central Methodist department.

During the year, the Circuit was served by three full-time presbyters. The Circuit is also served by a number of Lay Workers covering Pastoral and Youth Missionary work, plus administrative support. The total costs consist of the following:-

	2023-24	2022-23
	£	£
Presbyters and presbyteral support	118,291	75,751
Lay Workers	106,605	68,379
Apprenticeship levy	1,512	1,229
Life assurance	206	194
Total paid through Methodist Central Payroll	226,614	145,373

	2023-24	2022-23
	£	£
Payroll costs are made up of:		
Stipends and salaries	180,627	117,750
Employers National Insurance Contributions	16,364	8,715
Employers pension contributions	27,905	17,485
Apprenticeship levy	1,512	1,229
Life assurance	206	194
	226,614	145,373

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Note S10 - Property expenses

At the start of the year, the Circuit owned two properties (20 Peterhouse Close and 29 Ashtree Drive) and a further property (18 Killhope Crecent) was acquired in the year.

Details of the costs are given below:-

		2023-24	2022-23
		£	£
Council Tax	- manses	6,363	5,261
	- churches	69	2,183
Water Rates	- manses	997	899
	- churches	708	2,783
Insurance	- manses	1,789	1,177
	- churches	(1,023)	7,559
Utilities	- empty manses	198	-
	- empty churches	303	4,204
Manse maintenance and repairs	- manses	4,427	5,193
	- other	-	1,386
		13,831	30,645

Note S11 - Connexional Model Trust Levy

This is applied annually to balances held in TMCP funds.

Note S12 - District Assessment Levy

This is paid quarterly to support the work of the Darlington Methodist District.

Note S13 - Costs of activities

This represents the costs of the primary purpose of the Circuit, excluding stipend and salary costs.

	2023-24	2022-23
	£	£
Presbyters	14,919	10,403
Pastoral Missioners	552	574
Youth Work	-	2,800
Preaching and worship	3,527	2,531
Other worship costs	366	-
Depreciation of equipment	5,247	1,476
	24,611	17,784

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Note S14 - Costs of administration

This represents the costs of administering the circuit, excluding salary costs:-

	2023-24	2022-23
	£	£
Telephone and internet	31	255
Postage and stationery	2,871	2,732
Circuit communications, website and email administration	3,111	3,329
Independent examiner's fee	4,350	4,680
Other costs	2,179	622
Circuit office costs	3,845	6,993
Circuit equipment	-	-
	16,387	18,611

Circuit office costs relate to the rent of an office from Elm Ridge Methodist Church for £3,800 (PY £1,600, together with refurbishment costs).

Note BS1 - Fixed Assets

The Circuit owned two properties at the start of the year, 20 Peterhouse Close and 29 Ashtree Drive. They were used as manses by Presbyters. In March 2024, the Circuit purchased a new manse, 18 Killhope Crescent.

A full revaluation of the properties was conducted in 2016-17 enabling the individual values of the manses to be accounted for separately. The Barnard Castle manse was revalued on the merger. The Trustees did not consider it necessary to conduct a revaluation in 2023-24 with the Killhope manse being included at cost.

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Note BS1 - Fixed Assets (Continued)

	Manses £	Manse Improve -ments £	Equipment £	Equipment The Well £	Total £
Cost or valuation					
At 1 September 2023	625,000	-	4,427	-	629,427
Additions	372,056	27,007	3,210	58,502	460,775
Revaluations (+/-)	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals (-)	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers* (+/-)	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2024	997,056	27,007	7,637	58,502	1,090,202
Accumulated depreciation					
At 1 September 2023	-	-	1,476	-	1,476
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluations (+/-)	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals (-)	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers* (+/-)	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	2,701	2,546	5,850	11,097
At 31 August 2024	-	2,701	4,022	5,850	12,573
Net book value					
At 31 August 2024	997,056	24,306	3,615	52,652	1,077,629
At 31 August 2023	625,000	-	2,951	-	627,951

The valuation of manses carried forward is made up of:-

	2023-24 £	2022-23 £
20 Peterhouse Close, Darlington	275,000	275,000
29 Ashtree Drive, Barnard Castle	350,000	350,000
18 Killope Crescent, Darlington (at cost)	372,056	-
	997,056	625,000

The costs in relation to The Well were for a kitchen installation and associated costs.

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Note BS1 - Contingent Liability

Although the financial effect of revaluation is shown in full above, a proportion of any receipt on sale of manses would be expected to become payable to the Methodist Church in the event that the manse is sold and not directly replaced.

The Methodist Connexional Priority Fund levy is currently charged at 20% of the first £100,000 and 40% of any excess over £100,000.

Levies can be refunded after a subsequent replacement.

Actual levies charged/refunded amount to:

	2023-24 £	2022-23 £
Cotherstone Church	-	31,647
Bondgate Church	-	148,678
Raby Avenue Manse	(109,758)	-
Mowbray Drive Manse	(97,233)	-
	(206,991)	180,325

Note BS2 - Investments

	2023-24 £	2022-23 £
Cotherstone Old Chapel Project Ltd	5,000	-

Note BS3 - Debtors and prepayments

	2023-24 £	2022-23 £
Pre-paid stipends for current year	7,419	10,924
Pre-paid apprenticeships levy	29	41
Payroll control	5,858	1,529
Levy refunds	206,991	-
Sale proceeds of Bondgate Church building	-	431,694
Killhope manse fees	-	1,595
Other re: Bondgate	-	5,208
	220,297	450,991

The debtor has been included for levy refunds as they arise due to a property replacement in the year.

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Note BS4 - Details of cash funds

The CAF General Account is used for day to day expenses. The CFB accounts are the main current accounts held at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and the TMCP accounts hold interest bearing deposit values.

Values held in each account are shown below:-

Unrestricted Fund Name	Opening Balance	Introduced	Income	Expend-iture	Transfers	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£	£	£
CAF General Account	114,363	-	198,929	(237,057)	(46,000)	30,235
CFB General Account	149,243	-	266,214	(431,475)	153,189	137,171
TMCP Model Trust Fund	747,914	-	503,741	(524,380)	(170,000)	557,275
TMCP Various Bequests	23,763	-	1,257	(68)	(1,189)	23,763
The Well	-	24,950	19,440	(102,643)	64,000	5,747
Total Cash Funds of the Circuit	**1,035,283**	**24,950**	**989,581**	**(1,295,623)**	**-**	**754,191**

Note BS5 - Liabilities under 1 year

Represents church assessments for 2024-25 received in the period and expenses relating to the current year but unpaid at 31 August 2024:-

	2024	2023
	£	£
Church assessments	37,697	41,898
Accrued expenditure	5,317	155,975
	43,014	197,873

In the allocation of church assessments:

1. The receipt from Elm Ridge in August 2023 has been taken to be the late payment of the amount due in May 2023, meaning they are one quarter in arrears.

2. The receipts from The Well in 2022/23 have been assumed to include £3,381 for 2023-24.

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT

DECLARATIONS

Treasurer

I confirm that these accrual based accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit Meeting.

Signature of Treasurer		Date	
Name of Treasurer	Stephen Sutcliffe		
Address	5 Manor Gate, Long Newton, Stockton-on-Tees S21 1DD		

Presentation to the Circuit Meeting for approval

I confirm that the annual reports and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 were, or will be* presented to the Circuit Meeting at its meeting on and were approved	
Signature of the Chair of the meeting	
Name of the Chair of the meeting	Revd John Howard
Date:	

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Darlington Circuit

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Darlington and Teesdale Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2023, which are set out on pages 13 to 26.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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

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 accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or

(2) the accounts did not accord with those records; or

(3) the accounts did 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.

Signed:

Name: Stephen Watson Gardner

Relevant professional qualification or Member of professional body: Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Address: King Hope
31 Victoria Road
Darlington
DL1 5SB

Date:

Darlington and Teesdale Methodist Circuit

England & Wales - Charity number 1132005

Accounts

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
(Charity Registration No: 1132005)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 AUGUST 2023

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT

CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1	Circuit Information
3	Trustees Annual Report
13	Statement of Financial Activities
15	Balance Sheet
17	Notes to the Accounts
27	Declarations
28	Independent Examiner's Report

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

CIRCUIT INFORMATION

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Address:	Circuit Office, Elm Ridge Methodist Church, Carmel Road South, Darlington DL3 8DJ
Examiner:	Stephen Watson Gardner F.C.A. of King Hope, Chartered Accountants, 31 Victoria Road, Darlington DL1 5SB

Managing Trustees in the year ended 31 August 2023:-

Chair:	Revd Richard Andrew	
Secretary:	Mrs Valerie Tooth	
Circuit Staff:	Revd Graham Cutler	Presbyter
	Revd Brian Hutton	Presbyter
	Revd John Howard	Supernumerary Presbyter
	Revd Colin Roberts	Supernumerary Presbyter
Resident in Circuit:	*Revd Catherine Minor	Hospital Chaplain
Circuit Stewards:	Anthony Mawer	
	Josephine Pollard	
	Valerie Tooth	
Manse Steward:	Cathryn Warden	
Lay Employees:	Lyn Cookson	Local Church Community Development Worker & Circuit Safeguarding Officer
	*Emma Waldon	Children's and Young People's Worker
	Graham Bright	Community Development Worker
	*Lindy Lowis	Admin/Communications
Church Representatives:	Wendy Charlton	Barnard Castle
	Heather Coustick	Barnard Castle
	Keith Lewis	Barnard Castle (from 22 September 2022)
	Alex Thompson	Barnard Castle
	Alison Banner	Barton
	Carol Heslop	Barton
	Joan Marwood	Barton
	*Judith Varley	Barton

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

CIRCUIT INFORMATION

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Church Representatives (Continued):	Brian Cooper	Cockerton
	Robert Dean	Cockerton
	Alison Hunter	Cockerton
	Irene Taylor	Cockerton (to 24 April 2023)
	Tony Allen	Elm Ridge
	Peter Gallop	Elm Ridge
	David Hall	Elm Ridge
	Dr Stephen Sutcliffe	Elm Ridge
	Sue Case	Harrowgate Hill
	Margaret Cuthbert	Harrowgate Hill
	Vanessa Simpson	Harrowgate Hill
	Helen Hamilton	Harrowgate Hill
	Barbara Carter	Haughton
	Ann Thubron	Haughton
	Margaret Garret	Hurworth
	Eric Miller	Hurworth
	Jane Miller	Hurworth
	Andy Robinson	Hurworth
	Dorothy Matthews	The Pathway (to 29 September 2022)
	Carol Mitchell	The Pathway
	Ian Tallentire	The Pathway
	Lorne Tallentire	The Pathway (from 27 September 2022)
	Judith Tarn	The Pathway (from 27 September 2022)
	Kenneth Robson	Staindrop
	Julia Petty	Staindrop
	Judith Rutter	Staindrop
	Ann Marie Wade	Staindrop
	Graham Bright	The Well
	Brian Russell	The Well (to 23 November 2022)
	Chris Russell	The Well
	*Morvyn Sanderson	The Well (from 23 November 2022)
	Dr Stephen Sutcliffe	The Well
Other:	Revd John Bower	Supernumerary Minister
	Karen Riley	Action for Children
	Peter Collins	All We Can and Joint Public Issues
	Liz McAllister	Circuit Complaints Officer
	Catheryn Warden	Circuit GDPR Champion

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

CIRCUIT INFORMATION

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Other (Continued):	Margaret Wearmouth	Methodist Women in Britain
	Josanne Hall	Methodist Homes for the Aged
	Brian Simpson	Secretary of Leaders of Worship & Local Preachers (LWLP)

**denotes a member of the Circuit Meeting who is not a trustee*

There are no Trustees holding title to any of the Circuit's property.

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Trustees Annual Report

Introduction

Welcome to the Trustees Annual Report of Darlington and Teesdale Methodist Circuit (**"the Circuit"**) for the year ended 31 August 2023. The Circuit was formed on 1 September 2021 when the Barnard Castle and Teesdale Methodist Circuit amalgamated with the Darlington Methodist Circuit under the existing charity registration of the Darlington Circuit. Whilst primarily a financial report we hope to also provide insight into our aims and mission.

Public Benefit

The Circuit provides a seven-day week Christian ministry across, Barnard Castle and Teesdale, Darlington and the surrounding areas through its network of staff, volunteers, members and premises. Its activities are open to the whole community. More details are provided under the paragraphs "Interconnexion for Mission, Mutual Encouragement and Help" and "Life of the Circuit".

The trustees have had due regard to the Charities Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Mission Statement

The new Circuit has adopted the Methodist Church's strategic document 'Our Calling' as our core mission statement. This invites church members to live out their discipleship by following a lifestyle that embraces the principles of 'A Methodist Way of Life'. This is done through Worship, Learning & Caring, Service and Evangelism.

Purpose and Aims

The purposes of the Methodist Church are 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.

Purpose and Aims (continued)

The Circuit aims:

a. To provide varied, relevant and inclusive worship across the Circuit Churches.

b. To provide training to nurture faith in Christ, as well as to develop local preachers and leaders of worship, and to equip staff and volunteers with best practice, including pastoral care and safeguarding.

c. To increase awareness of and support voluntary charitable work in Darlington and Teesdale and around the UK and beyond.

d. To participate in ecumenical relationships.

e. To continue to give active support to the wider Methodist District and Connexion.

f. To promote the exploration of sustainable futures for all the churches in the Circuit

Organisation

The Circuit acts as an umbrella or resource body. The Circuit is the primary unit in which local churches express and experience their interconnexion in the Body of Christ, for purposes of mission, mutual encouragement and help.

It is in the Circuit that ministers are stationed, and local preachers are trained and admitted and exercise their calling. The purposes of the Circuit include the effective deployment of the resources of ministry, which include people, property and finance, as they relate to the Methodist churches in the Circuit, to churches of other denominations and to participation in the life of the communities served by the Circuit, including local schools and colleges and in ecumenical work in the area.

Governance

The Circuit is primarily governed by the rules and guidance of The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church ("CPD") which is updated and approved annually by the Conference of the Methodist Church. This document is available on the Methodist Church website: www.methodist.org.uk

Governance (continued)

New trustees are appointed primarily by the Circuit churches, in accordance with CPD. When the new Circuit was formed it was agreed that each church would have up to four representatives on the Circuit Meeting (Church Treasurer, Church Steward and two church members). Guidance documents for new trustees are provided online at the Methodist Church website.

Appointments to lay posts within the Circuit are by proposal, seconder and vote within the Circuit Meeting, again in accordance with CPD.

Where a post is considered essential for the purpose of the Circuit, but no lay person is available, the Circuit has authority to employ a member of staff to carry out that post. The Circuit follows Methodist Church policy of providing at least the Living Wage. Actual salaries are determined in conjunction with the Methodist District, taking into account the tasks of the role.

All decisions of the Circuit, including employment of lay workers, are made at Circuit Meetings, where all Trustees may vote. Circuit Meetings occur at least four times each year, more may be called if required. All activities of the Circuit Meeting are also governed by CPD. The Circuit Meeting agreed to establish a sub-committee (the Governance Committee) which gives detailed consideration to property and financial issues raised by churches and makes recommendations to the Circuit Meeting.

People

The Circuit has three full-time paid presbyters, Revd Tim Boocock (Superintendent Minister), Revd Graham Cutler and Revd Brian Hutton. Supernumerary ministers residing in the Circuit regularly take preaching appointments on a voluntary basis as do lay members of the church who are recognised as Local Preachers.

As it was, Revd Tim Boocock was absent on recuperative leave during the period of this report and Revd Richard Andrew (Chair of Darlington Methodist District) took on the role of Acting Superintendent for governance purposes. Two supernumerary ministers (retired Ministers resident in the Circuit), Revd John Howard and Revd Colin Roberts, kindly agreed to provide temporary presbyteral support on a part-time basis to the two churches for which Revd Boocock had oversight. This arrangement was in place until 31 August 2023.

The team of presbyters was supported across the year by a Lay Ministerial Team which included a Children and Young People's Worker, four Community Development Worker (two of whom were employed by the Circuit and two employed directly by individual churches) and a Circuit Admin/Communications Officer.

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Property

Legal title to church land and buildings is held by "Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes".

There are 10 active churches in the Circuit: Barnard Castle, Barton, Cockerton, Elm Ridge, Haughton, Harrowgate Hill, Hurworth, Staindrop, The Pathway (Middleton in Teesdale) and The Well (Darlington). The trustees of each church are responsible for the maintenance of the premises. Churches are subject to quinquennial inspections by a qualified surveyor.

During the year two church buildings - Bondgate and Cotherstone – which had become surplus to requirements were sold. Proceeds less levy are retained for the Circuit in the Circuit Model Trust Fund.

The Circuit owns two manses. One of the presbyters lives in their own property. The Circuit is in the process of purchasing a third manse which will be rented out until it is required. The purchase of this property is being funded by the sale of two manses which had been sold by the former Darlington Methodist Circuit, neither of which met the standards required by the Methodist Church. As with churches, circuit owned manses are subject to quinquennial surveys. There is an approved budget for maintenance of the manses. The Circuit Manse Secretary deals with any recommendations made in the quinquennial report and any day-to-day maintenance issues that arise.

Life of the Circuit

Circuit Vision

The Methodist Church, along with other churches, faces significant challenges with declining and ageing congregations. The Circuit has started to ask itself questions about the future and how it might develop a strategy which takes us forward in a way which is consistent with the Circuit's Mission Statement "Our Calling" and the Darlington District plan "Every Church Growing".

In his capacity as Acting Circuit Superintendent, Revd Richard Andrew, encouraged the Circuit to take steps to form a deeper identity by developing discipleship in the Circuit and it was agreed to develop a series of study opportunities based on the characteristics identified in "A Methodist Way of Life" under a title "Following Jesus Together".

Trusteeship of The Well Methodist Church and Community Hosting Space ("The Well")

The work being carried out at The Well, which serves a deprived area in the north of Darlington, has evolved resulting in significant growth of the social outreach activities. The Circuit has committed significant funds, albeit for a limited period, to support the work and much effort is expended in obtaining grants from external providers. The levels of investment brings with it a level of complexity and burdens. The Circuit agreed that there should be greater circuit involvement and support in oversight and governance to support the local team and also to enable an appropriate level of scrutiny. As a first step, in July 2023, the Circuit Meeting agreed to take on trustee responsibility for The Well with effect from 1 September 2023 with responsibility for the building and finance. This was subject to the agreement of The Well Church Council. Going forward the Circuit Meeting would delegate its trustee responsibility to a Leadership/Oversight Team.

Circuit Lay Ministry

The merger of the two circuits in 2021 had highlighted a difference of approach in how lay workers were employed. The former Darlington Circuit had employed its lay workers centrally, whereas in the former Barnard Castle and Teesdale Circuit, lay workers were attached to specific churches. Following a review, and with the exception of the Children and Young People's Work, it had been agreed to adopt the model of attaching lay workers to specific churches, or groups of churches to build local community partnerships to discern opportunities for community outreach as Local Church Community Development Workers (LCCDW). Taking this a step further, the Circuit decided to create three new LCCDW posts, two of which were transitioned from the former Pastoral Missioner posts. One post (serving Elm Ridge and Cockerton Churches) is filled. The other two (one serving Barnard Castle, Barton and Staindrop Churches and the other serving Harrowgate Hill, Haughton and Hurworth Churches) are being advertised. These posts will be funded by the Circuit for three years after which, for the posts to continue, the funding would need to be locally sourced.

Community and Social Outreach work has developed at The Well to such an extent that it was agreed that two new roles (funded initially by the Circuit for a limited period) should be created – that of a Pioneer Minister and a Community Hub Manager, with the posts to commence on 1 September 2023.

As a matter of policy, the Methodist Church pays the Living Wage to its Lay Workers. Mindful of the Cost of Living Crisis, the Circuit agreed to bring forward implementation of the increase due on 1 April 2023 with the new rate paid from 1 December 2022.

Future Plans for Children's and Young People's Work in the Circuit

The post of Children and Young People's Worker became vacant on 1 September 2023. The Circuit has decided to not seek to fill the post immediately but to pause and take time to review and discern how best this work can be carried out across the Circuit as a whole. A review group is being set up take this work forward.

Eco Church

In response to the climate change emergency, the Circuit is encouraging churches to consider what they can do to help the environment with an aim of making church buildings net zero by 2030. Some churches have registered with A Rocha UK, a Christian organisation which provides a framework for churches to take practical actions to reduce their carbon footprint and ways to encourage members to lead more sustainable lives.

Communications

The Circuit covers a large geographical area extending beyond Darlington into the dales and the Circuit has invested in upgrading its IT capacity to avoid unnecessary travel and to enable folk who are unable to travel to attend meetings remotely using the Zoom facility.

Interconnexion for Mission, Mutual Encouragement and Help

The Circuit has continued with two initiatives that started, by necessity, during lockdown which offer alternative Sunday worship – a Circuit Media Service which is available via YouTube and The Telephone Service, centred on Staindrop Church. Both of these offerings mean that folk who are unable to attend church, not least the housebound and their carers, are no longer excluded from regular Sunday worship. The Pathway offers Sunday evening "gatherings" via Zoom which support those who are unable to attend services in person and once a month an Afternoon Tea service is held, providing time for worship, food and fellowship, and helping with rural isolation.

The Circuit's bi-monthly Magazine, The Teesdale Worm, is a valuable resource for both church members and the wider public to help folk get to know each other as well as find out what is going on across the Circuit. The magazine is available electronically and in paper copy.

Every weekday morning, Revd Brian Hutton shares a verbal message of encouragement via WhatsApp and Email to those who register to receive it. These messages have been uplifting and very well received.

A wide variety of immeasurable good work continues to be carried out by churches across the circuit, often supported by our lay ministry, examples include:

- Barnard Castle provides missional activities such as a weekly prayer meeting, weekly coffee mornings, Lego Church, a light party and Christian pumpkin carving at Halloween and a cascade of poppies with Tommy on the front steps for Remembrance. The church is lit up from within to mark special times such as Christmas and Remembrance and Cancer Awareness Week. The church building is used by various groups from round the town including the Opera Group and Parkinson's Support. and other groups.

- Cockerton run a popular Mother and Toddler group and a well-attended Lunch Club. Cockerton also runs a thriving Girls' Brigade.

Interconnexion for Mission, Mutual Encouragement and Help (continued)

- The Pathway at Middleton in Teesdale, which employs a Community Development Worker, offers regular activities including a weekly baby and toddler group, 'Chat and Play', baking cakes for the staff at the local primary school, plus Pray Bake Chat for older members of the community. Lego Church was launched and sessions now take place every school holiday. A weekly Warm Space was provided from the beginning of December through to the end of March, serving hot drinks plus soup and toast. The church provided the community with Bags of Hope in February, Hot Cross Bun Giveaway and Easter Egging at Easter time, as well as a Holiday at Home Club during the School summer break. The Pathway supports local community events through an Upper Teesdale Churches Together Group.

- Harrowgate Hill supports a weekly Craft Group and has good relationship with the playgroup which is held daily during term time. Harrowgate Hill is also extremely supportive of Darlington Town Mission

- Haughton Church hosts a monthly WAVE (We are All Valued Equally) service. These services of worship are aimed at people with learning difficulties and those who care for them.

- The Well Community Hosting Space in Darlington offers a range of activities, including a weekly Community Lunch, Baby Bank, Thrift Shop, Coffee Shop and a Giving Garden. During each week of the school holidays, in partnership with another charity (Transforming Lives Together) a team of volunteers provide "Make Lunch" for families. This free activity incorporates a session of season-related craft activities followed by a healthy two-course lunch. The Well is also a hub for The Bread and Butter Thing (TBBT). The Well also hosts a number of support related community groups.

Hospitality projects across the Circuit make effective links with local communities. through coffee mornings. Some are involved in more specific community outreach work.

- The Mustard Tree Café at Hurworth Methodist Church opens six days a week and continues to flourish, including working with vulnerable young adults, offering vocational opportunities and providing resources for mental wellbeing to the local community.

- A community café (Coffee@Haughton) at Haughton Church is staffed solely by volunteers, not all of whom are church members, and opens two days each week. Haughton is fully accessible, has proved to be increasingly popular and provides valuable opportunities for social interaction. The church is currently working towards becoming recognised as Dementia Friendly.

- The Well Community Hosting Space operates a café alongside its Thrift Shop and Baby Bank.

- Elm Ridge Church is planning to open a Garden Café during 2024.

Interconnexion for Mission, Mutual Encouragement and Help (continued)

Some churches have their own Boys and Girls Brigades attached to them. Other churches have other uniformed organisations meeting on the premises. It is hoped that these organisations will be involved in church life and take part in worship at Parade services.

The Circuit provides presbyteral support to Melsonby Methodist Primary School and, in partnership with the North Yorkshire Dales Circuit, provides a School Chaplain to spend time working in the school. The Circuit is represented on the school's Governing Body by two Foundation Governors.

Safeguarding

A Safeguarding Policy for both Children and Vulnerable Adults is in place. Safeguarding training is a continuous process of updating as it is required for those in volunteer roles and those in employment as appropriate to their roles and can include foundation and advanced training. Post holders are required to update their training every four years.

In addition, post holders are required to undertake an appropriate level of DBS check before taking up roles in the circuit. These must be kept up to date and are required to be renewed every five years.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The Circuit and the churches are able to demonstrate a good level of compliance in respect of GDPR regulations. Guidelines are available in all the churches and GDPR awareness sessions are held across the circuit for all post holders.

Financial Review

The annual accounts for the year 2022-23 are attached to this report.

At the close of the period, the Circuit held net current assets of £1,288,000 (2022: £986,000). All of these funds are unrestricted. However, of this amount, the figure of £140,000 is regarded as required to satisfy our Reserves Policy (see note below). Also, amounts are set aside for specific projects and the purchase of a new manse to replace the two that were sold during 2020-21.

All of the funds held at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church ("CFB") are available for the purposes of the Circuit, however if any were to be requested for specific developments, for example, major property expenditure, these would be subject to a project Review by the Methodist Church.

Proceeds of £570,000 arose in the year from the sale of two church buildings resulting in a levy of £180,000.

Financial Review (continued)

The principal source of funds is through assessments levied on Circuit churches. This supports the costs of Presbyters and lay workers, who lead worship, provide pastoral and safeguarding services, and seek to extend God's Kingdom through mission. These funds also support an assessment paid to the Darlington Methodist District.

No professional advice was sought on any financial matters during the year.

Risk

The Circuit Meeting, acting as Trustees, have considered the key areas of risk to which the Circuit is subject and as part of our comprehensive insurance policy with Methodist Insurance, insurance is in place and is considered adequate to cover the range of known risks, including the manse portfolio, employers' liability, public liability and trustee indemnity.

Aside from the financial risks above, the key risk to the Circuit meeting its purpose lies in the provision of Presbyters and governance by the Methodist Church. Absence of such would severely hamper the work of the Circuit.

Reserves Policy

The Circuit Reserves Policy, agreed by the Trustees, seeks to ensure a minimum reserve equal to six months' operating costs. At August 2023 this is equivalent to £140,000.

The Circuit has adequate reserve funds to cover the planned deficit and this Reserves Policy has been approved by the Trustees.

Investment Policy

The Circuit Investment Policy requires that funds held in excess of day-to-day needs are invested in the funds of the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church via the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

This requirement has been met throughout the year.

ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES

Revd. John Howard
Trustee and Superintendent Minister

Date 27/6/24

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

		Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Revaluation Reserve (Unrestricted) £	Total 2022-23 £	Total 2021-22 £
Income							
1	Donations and legacies	S1	357	-	-	357	380
2	Income from monetary investments	S2	3,295	25,609	-	28,904	4,024
3	Income from properties	S3	-	-	-	-	5,883
4	Assessments on Churches	S4	218,066	-	-	218,066	215,112
5	Capital receipts	S5	4,757	570,812	-	575,569	137,212
6	Grants received		2,000	-	-	2,000	-
7	Other charitable income	S6	891	-	-	819	2,241
8	**Total income**		**229,294**	**596,421**	-	**825,715**	**364,852**
Expenditure							
9	Grants and donations	S7	16,899	10,000	-	26,899	46,772
10	Salaries and associated costs	S8	145,373	-	-	145,373	182,108
11	Property expenses	S9	30,645	-	-	30,645	24,876
12	Connexional model trust levy	S10	-	51,178	-	51,178	35,628
13	District assessment and levy	S11	53,752	-	-	53,752	56,580
14	Costs of activities	S12	17,784	-	-	17,784	13,331
15	Costs of administration	S13	16,266	2,345	-	18,611	12,820
	Connexional Priority Levy - property sales	S5/BS1	-	180,325	-	180,325	40,330
16	Other outgoings	S14	-	-	-	-	434
17	**Total charitable expenditure**		**280,719**	**243,848**	-	**524,567**	**412,879**
18	Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		-	-	-	-	-
19	Gains/(losses) on investment properties		-	-	-	-	-
20	**Net income/(expenditure)**		**(51,425)**	**352,573**	-	**301,148**	**(48,027)**
21	Transfers between funds		120,687	(120,687)	-	-	-
22	Other gains/(losses)	BS1/S15	-	-	-	-	106,882
23	**Net movement in funds**		**69,262**	**231,886**	-	**301,148**	**58,855**
24	Total funds brought forward		529,771	822,807	262,626	1,615,204	1,556,349
25	**Total funds carried forward**		**599,033**	**1,054,693**	**262,626**	**1,916,352**	**1,615,204**

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

		Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Revaluation Reserve (Unrestricted) £	Total 2021-22 £
Income						
1	Donations and legacies	S1	380	-	-	380
2	Income from monetary investments	S2	449	3,575	-	4,024
3	Income from properties	S3	5,883	-	-	5,883
4	Assessments on Churches	S4	215,112	-	-	215,112
5	Capital receipts	S5	8,775	128,457	-	137,212
6	Grants received		-	-	-	-
7	Other charitable income	S6	2,241	-	-	2,241
8	**Total income**		**232,820**	**132,032**	-	**364,852**
Expenditure						
9	Grants and donations	S7	14,377	32,395	-	46,772
10	Salaries and associated costs	S8	182,108	-	-	182,108
11	Property expenses	S9	24,876	-	-	24,876
12	Connexional model trust levy	S10	-	35,628	-	35,628
13	District assessment and levy	S11	56,580	-	-	56,580
14	Costs of activities	S12	13,331	-	-	13,331
15	Costs of administration	S13	10,838	1,982	-	12,820
	Connexial priority levy - property sales	S5/BS1	-	40,330	-	40,330
16	Other outgoings	S14	434	-	-	434
17	**Total charitable expenditure**		**302,544**	**110,335**	-	**412,879**
18	Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		-	-	-	-
19	Gains/(losses) on investment properties		-	-	-	-
20	**Net income/(expenditure)**		**(69,724)**	**21,697**	-	**(48,027)**
21	Transfers between funds		(85,709)	85,709	-	-
22	Other gains/(losses)	BS1/S15	(15,017)	-	121,899	106,882
23	**Net movement in funds**		**(170,450)**	**107,406**	**121,899**	**58,855**
24	Total funds brought forward		700,221	715,401	140,727	1,556,349
25	**Total funds carried forward**		**529,771**	**822,807**	**262,626**	**1,615,204**

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Total 2022-23 £	Total 2021-22 £
Fixed Assets					
Circuit manses and equipment	BS1/2	627,951	-	627,951	629,427
Investment properties		-	-	-	-
Investments		-	-	-	-
Total fixed assets		**627,951**	**-**	**627,951**	**629,427**
Current Assets					
Debtors	BS3	19,297	431,694	450,991	20,971
Investments with TMCP	BS4	-	771,677	771,677	822,807
Central Finance Board deposits	BS4	149,243	-	149,243	108,309
Cash at bank and in hand	BS4	114,363	-	114,363	91,569
Total current assets		**282,903**	**1,203,371**	**1,486,274**	**1,043,656**
Current liabilities					
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	BS5	49,195	148,678	197,873	57,879
Grants payable within 2023-24		-	-	-	-
Total current liabilities		**49,915**	**148,678**	**197,873**	**57,879**
Net current assets		**233,708**	**1,054,693**	**1,288,401**	**985,777**
Total assets less current liabilities		**861,659**	**1,054,693**	**1,916,352**	**1,615,204**
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)		-	-	-	-
Grants payable after 2023-24		-	-	-	-
Loans to the circuit		-	-	-	-
Net assets		**861,659**	**1,054,693**	**1,916,352**	**1,615,204**
Funds of the Circuit					
General Fund (Unrestricted)		599,033	-	599,033	529,771
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)		-	1,054,693	1,054,693	822,807
Revaluation Reserve		262,626	-	262,626	262,626
Total unrestricted funds		**861,659**	**1,054,693**	**1,916,352**	**1,615,204**
Restricted Funds		-	-	-	-
Endowment Funds		-	-	-	-
Total Funds		**861,659**	**1,054,693**	**1,916,352**	**1,615,204**

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 27 June 2024 and were signed by:

Rev John Howard
Trustee and Superintendent Minister

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2022

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Total 2021-22 £
Fixed Assets				
Circuit manses and equipment	BS1	629,427	-	629,427
Investment properties		-	-	-
Investments		-	-	-
Total fixed assets		**629,427**	**-**	**629,427**
Current Assets				
Debtors	BS3	20,971	-	20,971
Investments with TMCP	BS4	-	822,807	822,807
Central Finance Board deposits	BS4	108,309	-	108,309
Cash at bank and in hand	BS4	91,569	-	91,569
Total current assets		**220,849**	**822,807**	**1,043,656**
Current liabilities				
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	BS5	57,879	-	57,879
Grants payable within 2022-23		-	-	-
Total current liabilities		**57,879**	**-**	**57,879**
Net current assets		**162,970**	**822,807**	**985,777**
Total assets less current liabilities		**792,397**	**822,807**	**1,615,204**
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)		-	-	-
Grants payable after 2022-23		-	-	-
Loans to the circuit		-	-	-
Net assets		**792,397**	**822,807**	**1,615,204**
Funds of the Circuit				
General Fund (Unrestricted)		529,771	-	529,771
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)		-	822,807	822,807
Revaluation Reserve		262,626	-	262,626
Total unrestricted funds		**792,397**	**822,807**	**1,615,204**
Restricted Funds		-	-	-
Endowment Funds		-	-	-
Total Funds		**792,397**	**822,807**	**1,615,204**

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Note A1 - Accounting Framework and accounting policies

i ***Accounting framework***

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (issued 16 July 2014) with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Charities Act 2011.

ii. ***Public benefit entity***
Darlington and Teesdale Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s) below.

iii ***Basis***
These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost, except that freehold properties are shown at valuation, and on the accruals basis to show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

iv ***Content***
The accounts are expressed in £Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

v ***Going concern***
Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2023, the Trustees believe that the Circuit is a going concern.

vi ***Consolidation***
The financial statements of the Churches within the Circuit are not consolidated in these financial statements.

vii ***Income recognition***
Income is brought into account when there is entitlement and the amount is reliably measurable once it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will accrue to the Circuit. No attempt is made to measure the value of services donated by volunteers.

viii ***Tangible fixed assets***
These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and individually cost at least £1,000. The freehold property is shown in the accounts at valuation. No depreciation is provided on the buildings because the Trustees consider the current residual fair value of the Manse buildings (on the assumption that they had reached the end of their useful economic life by the year end) to be not less than the carrying value. The properties have been reviewed for impairment.

Equipment is depreciated at the rate of 33.3% per annum.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Note A1 - Accounting Framework and accounting policies (Continued)

ix *VAT*
As the Circuit is not VAT registered all input VAT is charged with the expenditure to which it relates.

Note A2 - Payments to Trustees

No payments are made to Trustees as remuneration for their work in that capacity.

The Presbyters of the Circuit undertake the primary executive roles within the Circuit.

Remuneration was also paid to non-Presbyteral Trustees as follows for employment other than their position as Trustee at the same time as being a Trustee:-

	2023	2022
	£	£
Mrs M Sanderson	-	8,645
Mrs L C Russell	873	8,084
Mrs L Cookson	23,170	18,099
Mr D Fairer	-	6,620
Mrs G Bright	-	6,307
	24,043	47,754

Trustees are however, reimbursed for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties. The total amounts and number of Trustees were:-

	2023	2022
	£	£
Total paid	6,378	11,614
Number of Trustees paid	9	13

There were no other related party transactions to disclose.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Note A3 - Independent examiner

An accrual had been made for the fee of the independent examiner of £2,940 including VAT. Additional charges were made for other services of £1,200 including VAT.

Note S1 - Donations and legacies

This comprises all free-will giving received by the Circuit as a contribution to its work.

Note S2 - Income from monetary investments

This is interest received on accounts held at the Methodist Central Finance Board ("CFB") and Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes ("TMCP").

Note S3 - Income from properties

This included rentals received in respect of no. 1 Chapel Cottages, Mickleton, up to the point at which it was sold.

Note S4 - Assessments on churches

Assessments levied upon the Circuit churches. Details are as follows:-

Church:	2022-23 £	2021-22 £
Barnard Castle	38,864	29,148
Barton	4,000	4,000
Cockerton	43,000	43,000
Elm Ridge	57,236	57,236
Harrowgate Hill	20,260	20,260
Haughton	14,808	14,808
Hurworth	11,620	11,620
Middleton (Pathway)	16,016	16,016
Staindrop	5,500	5,500
The Well	6,762	13,524
	218,066	215,112

Note S5 - Capital receipts

Two church buildings were sold in the year: Cotherstone Church and Bondgate Church. The accounting for this is shown in capital receipts as legal ownership was with "Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes".

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Note S6 - Other charitable income

This includes income received specifically as part of the activities of the Circuit and miscellaneous receipts.

Note S7 - Grants and donations

Total donations, as approved by the Circuit meeting are shown below:-

	2022-23	2021-22
from General Fund:	£	£
Darlington Area Churches Youth Ministry (DACYM)	3,480	3,480
The Wall Methodist Church	1,769	9,897
The Pathway Methodist Church	-	1,000
Hurworth Methodist Church	10,000	-
Seed Corn Grant	1,650	-
	16,899	14,377
from Circuit Model Trust Fund:		
The Pathway Methodist Church	10,000	7,500
The Well Methodist Church	-	24,845
	10,000	32,395
Total grants and donations	26,899	46,772

Note S8 - Salaries and associated costs

Payroll is administered on the Circuit's behalf by a central Methodist department.

During the year, the Circuit was served by three full-time presbyters. The Circuit is also served by a number of Lay Workers covering Pastoral and Youth Missionary work, plus administrative support. The total costs consist of the following:-

	2022-23	2021-22
	£	£
Presbyters and presbyteral support	75,751	102,902
Lay Workers	68,379	77,892
Apprenticeship levy	1,229	1,168
Life assurance	194	146
Total paid through Methodist Central Payroll	145,373	182,108

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Note S8 - Salaries and associated costs (continued)

	2022-23 £	2021-22 £
Payroll costs are made up of:		
Stipends and salaries	117,750	154,580
Employers National Insurance Contributions	8,715	11,099
Employers pension contributions	17,485	22,615
Apprenticeship levy	1,229	1,168
Life assurance	194	146
	145,373	182,108

Note S9 - Property expenses

At the start of the year, the Circuit owned two properties (20 Peterhouse Close and 29 Ashtree Drive) These were used as properties for Presbyters. At the end of the year, the Circuit was in the process of purchasing a new manse at Killhope. This was purchased in March 2024.

Details of the costs are given below:-

		2022-23 £	2021-22 £
Council Tax	- manses	5,261	5,054
	- churches	2,183	571
Water Rates	- manses	899	1,082
	- churches	2,783	225
Insurance	- manses	1,177	758
	- churches	7,559	10,385
Utilities	- empty manses	-	-
	- empty churches	4,204	5,073
Manse maintenance and repairs	- manses	5,193	1,697
	- other	1,386	31
		30,645	24,876

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Note S10 - Connexional Model Trust Levy

This is applied annually to balances held in TMCP funds.

Note S11 - District Assessment Levy

This is paid quarterly to support the work of the Darlington Methodist District.

Note S12 - Costs of activities

This represents the costs of the primary purpose of the Circuit, excluding stipend and salary costs.

	2022-23	2021-22
	£	£
Presbyters	10,403	6,703
Pastoral Missioners	574	1,402
Youth Work	2,800	3,116
Preaching and worship	2,531	1,710
Other mission	-	400
Depreciation of equipment	1,476	-
	17,784	13,331

Note S13 - Costs of administration

This represents the costs of administering the circuit, excluding salary costs:-

	2022-23	2021-22
	£	£
Telephone and internet	255	603
Travel	-	341
Postage and stationery	2,732	2,229
Circuit communications, website and email administration	3,329	3,055
Independent examiner's fee	4,680	3,750
Other costs	622	1,435
Circuit office costs	6,993	-
Circuit equipment	-	1,407
	18,611	12,820

Circuit office costs relate to the rent of an office from Elm Ridge Methodist Church for £1,600, together with refurbishment costs.

The 2021-22 figure of £1,407 in Circuit equipment relates to the purchase of an office chair, a shredder and laptops.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Note S14 - Other outgoings

The 2021-22 figure relates to the cost of a CLT away day.

Note S15 - Other gains and losses

	General Fund £	Model Trust Fund £	Total £	Total 2021-22 £
Deficit on sale of 1 Chapel Cottage	-	-	-	(1,744)
Revaluation of 29 Ashtree Drive on merger	-	-	-	121,899
Revaluation of 1 Chapel Cottage on merger	-	-	-	(13,273)
	-	-	-	106,822

In the previous year, on merger, the 29 Ashtree Drive manse was re-valued from £228,101 to £350,000. 1 Chapel Cottage was revalued to market value of £87,500 from £110,773. A further deficit arose from the sale.

Note BS1 - Fixed Assets

The Circuit owned two properties at the start of the year, 20 Peterhouse Close and 29 Ashtree Drive. They were used as manses by Presbyters. At the year end, the Circuit was in the process of purchasing a manse at Killhope. This took place in March 2024

A full revaluation of the properties was conducted in 2016-17 enabling the individual values of the manses to be accounted for separately. The Barnard Castle manse was revalued on the merger. The Trustees did not consider it necessary to conduct a revaluation in 2022-23.

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Note BS1 - Fixed Assets (Continued)

	Manses £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 September 2022	625,000	4,427	629,427
Additions	-	-	-
Revaluations (+/-)	-	-	-
Disposals (-)	-	-	-
Transfers* (+/-)	-	-	-
At 31 August 2023	625,000	4,427	629,427
Accumulated depreciation			
At 1 September 2022	-	-	-
Additions	-	-	-
Revaluations (+/-)	-	-	-
Disposals (-)	-	-	-
Transfers* (+/-)	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	1,476	1,476
At 31 August 2023	-	1476	1,476
Net book value			
At 31 August 2023	625,000	2,951	627,951
At 31 August 2022	625,000	4,427	629,427

The valuation of manses carried forward is made up of:-

	2022-23 £	2021-22 £
20 Peterhouse Close, Darlington	275,000	275,000
29 Ashtree Drive, Barnard Castle	350,000	350,000
	625,000	625,000

Note BS2 - Contingent Liability

Although the financial effect of revaluation is shown in full above, a proportion of any receipt on sale of manses would be expected to become payable to the Methodist Church in the event that the manse is sold and not directly replaced.

The Methodist Connexional Priority Fund levy is currently charged at 20% of the first £100,000 and 40% of any excess over £100,000.

Note BS2 - Contingent Liability (continued)

Actual levies charged amount to:

	2022-23 £	2021-22 £
Cotherstone Church	31,647	-
Bondgate Church	148,678	-
Pierremont	-	27,179
1 Chapel Cottages	-	13,151
	180,325	40,330

Note BS3 - Debtors and prepayments

	2022-23 £	2021-22 £
Pre-paid stipends for current year	10,924	6,143
Pre-paid apprenticeships levy	41	22
Payroll control	1,529	1,372
Pre-paid advice re sale of Cotherstone	-	3,197
Pre-paid 3gen tickets	-	1,560
Pre-paid manse insurance	-	1,177
Other	-	7,500
Sale proceeds of Bondgate Church building	431,694	-
Killhope manse fees	1,595	-
Other re: Bondgate	5,208	-
	450,991	20,971

Note BS4 - Details of cash funds

The CAF General Account is used for day to day expenses. The CFB accounts are the main current accounts held at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and the TMCP accounts hold interest bearing deposit values.

Note BS4 - Details of cash funds (continued)

Values held in each account are shown below:-

Unrestricted Fund Name	Opening Balance £	Income £	Expend-iture £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
CAF General Account	91,569	135,963	(88,169)	(25,000)	114,363
CFB General Account	108,309	223,537	(328,289)	145,686	149,243
TMCP Model Trust Fund	799,044	163,973	(95,103)	(120,000)	747,914
TMCP Various Bequests	23,763	754	(68)	(686)	23,763
Total Cash Funds of the Circuit	**1,022,685**	**524,227**	**(511,629)**	**-**	**1,035,283**

Note BS5 - Liabilities under 1 year

Represents church assessments for 2023-24 received in the period, plus levy work done and staff expenses relating to the current year but unpaid at 31 August 2023:-

	2023 £	2022 £
Church assessments	41,898	46,491
Accrued expenditure	155,975	11,388
	197,873	57,879

In the allocation of church assessments:

1. The receipt from Elm Ridge in August 2023 has been taken to be the late payment of the amount due in May 2023.

2. The receipts from The Well have been assumed to include £3,381 for 2023-24.

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT

DECLARATIONS

Treasurer

I confirm that these accrual based accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit Meeting.

Signature of Treasurer	Stephen Sutcliffe	Date	June 27th 2024
Name of Treasurer	Stephen Sutcliffe		
Address	5 Manor Gate, Long Newton, Stockton-on-Tees S21 1DD		

Presentation to the Circuit Meeting for approval

I confirm that the annual reports and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 ~~were; or~~ will be* presented to the Circuit Meeting at its meeting on 16/9/24. and were approved

Signature of the Chair of the meeting	
Name of the Chair of the meeting	Revd John D. Hoyard
Date:	24/6/24.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Darlington Circuit

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Darlington and Teesdale Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2023, which are set out on pages 13 to 26.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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

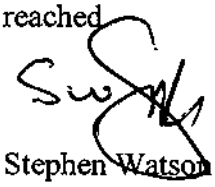
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

(1) accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or

(2) the accounts did not accord with those records; or

(3) the accounts did 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.

Signed: 

Name: Stephen Watson Gardner

Relevant professional qualification or Member of professional body: Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Address: King Hope
31 Victoria Road
Darlington
DL1 5SB

Date: 27 June 2024

Darlington and Teesdale Methodist Circuit

England & Wales - Charity number 1132005

Accounts

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
(Charity Registration No: 1132005)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 AUGUST 2022

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT

CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

1	Circuit Information
3	Trustees Annual Report
14	Statement of Financial Activities
16	Balance Sheet
18	Notes to the Accounts
28	Declarations
29	Independent Examiner's Report

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

CIRCUIT INFORMATION

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Address:	Circuit Office, Elm Ridge Methodist Church, Carmel Road South, Darlington DL3 8DJ
Examiner:	Stephen Watson Gardner F.C.A. of King Hope, Chartered Accountants, 31 Victoria Road, Darlington DL1 5SB

Managing Trustees in the year ended 31 August 2022:-

Chair:	Revd Tim Boocock	(to 20 June 2022)
	Revd Richard Andrew	(from 20 June 2022)
Secretary:	Mrs Valerie Tooth	
Circuit Staff:	Revd Graham Cutler	Presbyter
	Revd Brian Hutton	Presbyter
Resident in Circuit:	*Revd Catherine Minor	Hospital Chaplain
Circuit Stewards:	Hazel Neasham	(to 31 August 2022)
	Simon Charters	(to 31 August 2022)
	Anthony Mawer	(from 1 September 2021)
	Judith Tarn	(from 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022)
	Josephine Pollard	(from 1 September 2021)
	Valerie Tooth	
	Cathryn Warden	
Lay Employees:	Morvyn Sanderson	(to 31 December 2021) Children's and Young People's Worker
	*Emma Waldon	Children's and Young People's Worker
	Graham Bright	(from 1 January 2022) Community Development Worker
	*Lindy Lowis	Admin/Communications
	Edwin Hird	(to 10 January 2022) Property and Finance
	Lyn Cookson	Circuit Safeguarding Office & Pastoral Missioner
	Chris Russell	Pastoral Missioner
Church Representatives:	Wendy Charlton	Barnard Castle (from 1 September 2021)
	Heather Coustick	Barnard Castle (from 1 September 2021)
	Alex Thompson	Barnard Castle (from 1 September 2021)
	Alison Banner	Barton
	Carol Heslop	Barton (from 12 October 2021)
	*Judith Varley	Barton

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

CIRCUIT INFORMATION

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Church Representatives (Continued):	Norma Krishnan	Bondgate Management Group (to 31 August 2021)
	Glenys Drummond	Bondgate Management Group
	Revd John Howard	Bondgate Management Group
	Hazel Neasham	Bondgate Management Group
	Brian Cooper	Cockerton
	Robert Dean	Cockerton
	David Fairer	Cockerton
	Alison Hunter	Cockerton (from 1 May 2022)
	Susan Ashmore	Cockerton (to 30 April 2022)
	Tony Allen	Elm Ridge (from 1 July 2022)
	Mary Everitt	Elm Ridge (to 29 June 2022)
	Peter Gallop	Elm Ridge (from 10 June 2022)
	Ann Haley	Elm Ridge (to 30 April 2022)
	David Hall	Elm Ridge
	Stephen Sutcliffe	Elm Ridge
	Sue Case	Harrowgate Hill
	Margaret Cuthbert	Harrowgate Hill
	Vanessa Simpson	Harrowgate Hill
	Barbara Carter	Haughton
	Ann Thubron	Haughton
	Maureen Mitchell	Haughton (from 18 October 2021 to 30 July 2022)
	Margaret Garret	Hurworth (from 1 September 2021)
	Eric Miller	Hurworth (from 30 January 2022)
	Jane Miller	Hurworth
	Hazel Neasham	Hurworth
	Andy Robinson	Hurworth
	Peter Collins	The Pathway (from 1 September 2021)
	Dorothy Matthews	The Pathway (from 1 September 2021)
	Carol Mitchell	The Pathway (from 1 September 2021)
	Ian Tallentire	The Pathway (from 1 September 2021)
	Kenneth Robson	Staindrop (from 1 September 2021)
	Julia Petty	Staindrop (from 1 September 2021)
	Judith Rutter	Staindrop (from 1 September 2021)
	Ann Marie Wade	Staindrop (from 1 September 2021)
	Graham Bright	The Well
	Brian Russell	The Well
	Chris Russell	The Well
Other:	Revd John Bower	Supernumerary Minister
	Revd Alan Coustick	Supernumerary Minister (from 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022)
	Revd John Howard	Supernumerary Minister (from 1 September 2021)
	Revd Colin Roberts	Supernumerary Minister (from 1 June 2022)

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

CIRCUIT INFORMATION

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Other (Continued):	Margaret Wearmouth	Methodist Women in Britain
	Josanne Hall	Methodist Homes for the Aged
	Karen Riley	Action for Children
	Brian Simpson	Secretary for Worship & Local Preachers (LWLP)
	Liz McAllister	Circuit Complaints Officer
	Catheryn Warden	GDPR Officer

**denotes a member of the Circuit Meeting who is not a trustee*

There are no Trustees holding title to any of the Circuit's property.

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Trustees Annual Report

Introduction

Welcome to the Trustees Annual Report of Darlington and Teesdale Methodist Circuit (**"the Circuit"**) for the year ended 31 August 2022. The Circuit was formed on 1 September 2021 when the Barnard Castle and Teesdale Methodist Circuit amalgamated with the Darlington Methodist Circuit under the existing charity registration of the Darlington Circuit. Whilst primarily a financial report we hope to also provide insight into our aims and mission.

Public Benefit

The Circuit provides a seven-day week Christian ministry across Darlington and the surrounding area, Barnard Castle and Teesdale, through its network of staff, volunteers, members and premises. Its activities are open to the whole community. More details are provided under the paragraphs "Interconnexion for Mission, Mutual Encouragement and Help" and "Life of the Circuit".

The trustees have had due regard to the Charities Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Mission Statement

The new Circuit has recently agreed to adopt the Methodist Church's strategic document 'Our Calling' as our core mission statement. This invites church members to live out their discipleship by following a lifestyle that embraces the principles of 'A Methodist Way of Life'. This is done through Worship, Learning & Caring, Service and Evangelism. How the Circuit will take this forward is in the planning stage but will utilise a range of study material which can be adapted to create a mixed portfolio of options for people to study as relevant to their church's (or their personal) context.

Purpose and Aims

The purposes of the Methodist Church are 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.

Purpose and Aims (continued)

The Circuit aims:

a. To provide varied, relevant and inclusive worship across the Circuit Churches.

b. To provide training to nurture faith in Christ, as well as to develop local preachers and leaders of worship, and to equip staff and volunteers with best practice, including pastoral care and safeguarding.

c. To increase awareness of and support voluntary charitable work in Darlington and Teesdale and around the UK and beyond.

d. To participate in ecumenical relationships.

e. To continue to give active support to the wider Methodist District and Connexion.

f. To promote the exploration of sustainable futures for all the churches in the Circuit

Organisation

The Circuit acts as an umbrella or resource body. The Circuit is the primary unit in which local churches express and experience their interconnexion in the Body of Christ, for purposes of mission, mutual encouragement and help.

It is in the Circuit that ministers are stationed, and local preachers are trained and admitted and exercise their calling. The purposes of the Circuit include the effective deployment of the resources of ministry, which include people, property and finance, as they relate to the Methodist churches in the Circuit, to churches of other denominations and to participation in the life of the communities served by the Circuit, including local schools and colleges and in ecumenical work in the area.

Discussions on the possibility of an amalgamation of Barnard Castle & Teesdale Methodist Circuit and Darlington Methodist Circuit started in 2017. Once the Trustees of each Circuit had agreed to the merger in principle, a formal process was followed in accordance with The Methodist Church's Constitutional Practice and Discipline rules and the new circuit was treated as commencing 1 September 2021.

Governance

The Circuit is primarily governed by the rules and guidance of The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church ("CPD") which is updated and approved annually by the Conference of the Methodist Church. This document is available on the Methodist Church website: www.methodist.org.uk.

Governance (continued)

New trustees are appointed primarily by the Circuit churches, in accordance with CPD. When the new Circuit was formed it was agreed that each church would have up to four representatives on the Circuit Meeting (Church Treasurer, Church Steward and two church members). Guidance documents for new trustees are provided online at the Methodist Church website.

Appointments to lay posts within the Circuit are by proposal, seconder and vote within the Circuit Meeting, again in accordance with CPD.

Where a post is considered essential for the purpose of the Circuit, but no lay person is available, the Circuit has authority to employ a member of staff to carry out that post. The Circuit follows Methodist Church policy of providing at least the Living Wage. Actual salaries are determined in conjunction with the Methodist District, taking into account the tasks of the role.

All decisions of the Circuit, including employment of lay workers, are made at a Circuit Meeting, where all Trustees may vote. Circuit Meetings occur at least four times each year, more may be called if required. All activities of the Circuit Meeting are also governed by CPD.
The Circuit Meeting agreed to establish a sub-committee (the Governance Committee) which gives detailed consideration to property and financial issues raised by churches and makes recommendations to the Circuit Meeting.

People

The Circuit has three paid presbyters, Revd. Tim Boocock (Superintendent Minister), Revd Graham Cutler and Revd Brian Hutton who all took up their appointments on 1st September 2020 replacing two presbyters who had left the Darlington Circuit and the one presbyter who had left the Barnard Castle & Teesdale Circuit. The supernumerary ministers regularly take preaching appointments across the Circuit on a voluntary basis,

In June 2022, due to the absence of Revd Tim Boocock on recuperative leave, Revd Richard Andrew, Chair of Darlington Methodist District, took on the role of Acting Superintendent for governance purposes. Two supernumerary ministers (retired Ministers resident in the Circuit), Revd John Howard and Revd Colin Roberts, kindly agreed to provide temporary presbyteral support to the two churches for which Revd Boocock had oversight on a part-time basis.

The team of presbyters was supported across the year by a Lay Ministerial Team which included two Children and Young People's Workers, two Pastoral Missioners and three Community Development Workers (two of whom were employed directly by individual churches), a Circuit Admin/Communications Officer and a Finance & Property Officer (who left in January 2022).

People (continued)

Treasurer Responsibilities: These duties have been undertaken by the Circuit Treasurer, Simon Charters, and the Circuit Finance and Property Officer (Edwin Hird) until January 2022. Since January 2022, the Treasurer has been assisted by the Circuit Administrative Officer, Lindy Lowis. Simon Charters stood down as Treasurer on 31 August 2022 and the role has been filled by Stephen Sutcliffe.

Property

There are 10 active churches in the Circuit: Barnard Castle, Barton, Cockerton, Elm Ridge, Haughton, Harrowgate Hill, Hurworth, Staindrop, The Pathway and The Well. The trustees of each church are responsible for the maintenance of the premises. Churches are subject to quinquennial inspections by a qualified surveyor. Churches are not included as assets of the Circuit.

Three church buildings have become surplus to requirements and the position is as follows::

a. Pierremont Methodist Church was sold in 2022. The church building became vacant and surplus to requirements in 2019 when, with Circuit Trustees' approval, the Pierremont Society decided to move to the (empty) Northland Methodist Church building and site which offered more extensive and more modern facilities. Northland Church was renamed The Well.

b. Bondgate Methodist Church Society ceased to worship in 2020 and responsibility fell to the Circuit Trustees who appointed a Management Group to oversee the extensive premises whilst the building's future was considered. In due course, the Circuit Trustees made the difficult decision to sell the property. Bondgate had been the Circuit's town centre church and the Trustees accepted a resolution to ring-fence the proceeds of the sale for a specified time limit (initially set at one year) to ensure town centre ministry could continue. The property is currently under offer.

c. Cotherstone Methodist Church, closed in December 2020 when the Cotherstone society ceased to meet. The Circuit looked into the possibility of entering into a lease arrangement with a Community Group which planned to use the premises for community purposes, which would include a shop and a café. The arrangement would also offer a missional opportunity for the Circuit by maintaining a Christian presence in the village. In the event, it did not prove possible to agree a lease that was acceptable to both parties and the property was put on the market.

Property (continued)

The Circuit currently owns two manses. One of the presbyters lives in their own property. The Circuit is in the process of purchasing a third manse which will be rented out until it is required. The purchase of this property is being funded by the sale of two manses which had been sold by the former Darlington Methodist Circuit, neither of which met the standards required by the Methodist Church. As with churches, circuit owned manses are subject to quinquennial surveys. There is an approved budget for maintenance of the manses. The Circuit Manse Secretary deals with any recommendations made in the quinquennial report and any day-to-day maintenance issues that arise.

On the amalgamation with Barnard Castle and Teesdale Methodist Circuit, the Circuit also acquired a property, 1 Chapel Cottages, Mickleton. This property was sold in the year.

Life of the Circuit

Circuit Vision

During the Connexional year 2021-2022 time was taken to allow the two former circuits to establish as a new Circuit and get to know each other. The next step was to adopt a new Mission Statement and this will be based on the Methodist Church's strategic document, "Our Calling" as a core mission statement. The Methodist Church, along with other churches, faces significant challenges in the next 10 years with declining and ageing congregations. It is important that the circuit asks itself questions about the future and how it might develop a strategy which takes us forward in a way which is consistent both with Our Calling and A Methodist Way of Life. The Circuit is currently planning how it might take this forward.

Circuit Lay Ministry

The merger of the two circuits highlighted a difference of approach in how lay workers were employed. The former Darlington Circuit employed its lay workers centrally, whereas in the former Barnard Castle and Teesdale Circuit, lay workers were attached to specific churches. Following a review, and with the exception of the Children and Young People's Work, it was agreed to adopt the model of attaching lay workers to specific churches, or groups of churches to build local community partnerships to discern opportunities for community outreach as Local Church Community Development Workers.

At the start of the year the Circuit employed two Children and Young People's Workers (one full-time and one part-time). The full-time worker left in December 2021 for a change of career. In the light of the above-mentioned lay ministry review, the Circuit did not immediately seek to recruit a replacement youth worker but a temporary appointment of a part-time Development and Community Worker, based at The Well, was made in order to maintain continuity.

Life of the Circuit (continued)

Eco Church

In response to the climate change emergency, the Circuit is encouraging churches to consider what they can do to help the environment with an aim of making church buildings net zero by 2030. Some churches have registered with A Rocha UK, a Christian organisation which provides a framework for churches to take practical actions to reduce their carbon footprint and ways to encourage members to lead more sustainable lives.

Communications

The new Circuit covers a large geographical area extending beyond the town into the dales and the Circuit is investing in upgrading its IT capacity to avoid unnecessary travel and to enable folk who are unable to travel to attend meetings remotely using the Zoom facility, which had proved to be of great use during lockdown and, subsequently, whilst gatherings were avoided because of social distancing guidance.

Interconnexion for Mission, Mutual Encouragement and Help

Although the Circuit churches have returned to the "new normal" of gathering face to face at our local churches for Sunday worship, the Circuit has continued with two initiatives that started, by necessity, during lockdown which offer alternative Sunday worship – a Circuit Media Service which is available via YouTube and The Telephone Service, centred on Staindrop Church. Both of these offerings mean that folk who are unable to attend church, not least the housebound and their carers, are no longer excluded from regular Sunday worship. During lockdown and for a time after, worship sheets provided by the District were distributed to those who did not have access to the internet and email. In addition, one church started an evening prayer meeting on Zoom which continues.

The Circuit Magazine, The Teesdale Worm which was introduced in November 2020, to help folk across the new Circuit get to know each other, has become a permanent feature and is regarded as a valuable community resource.

Every weekday morning, Revd Brian Hutton shares a verbal message of encouragement via WhatsApp and Email to those who register to receive it. These messages have been uplifting and very well received.

A wide variety of immeasurable good work continues to be carried out by churches across the circuit, often supported by our lay ministry, including:

- Work in care homes, bereavement support, home visits and a summer "Holiday at Home" week organised by the two pastoral missioners who were based in Darlington until September 2022.

Interconnexion for Mission, Mutual Encouragement and Help (continued)

- Activities at the Community Hub at The Well includes Weekly Community Lunch, Baby Bank, Thrift Shop, Coffee Shop and a Giving Garden. During each week of each of the school holidays the youth worker, with the help of a team of volunteers organises "Make Lunch" for families at no charge which incorporates a variety of season-related craft activities followed by a healthy two course lunch. In May 2022, The Well launched as a hub for The Bread and Butter Thing (TBBT). The local community were invited to celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee when picnics and puddings were enjoyed by all.

- The Pathway at Middleton in Teesdale, which employs a Community Development Worker, offers regular activities including a weekly baby and toddler group, 'Chat and Play', baking sessions at the local primary school, baking for delivery (with a doorstep chat) to the local community, In addition to Christmas and Easter activities, the church provided the community with Bags of Love in February, Holiday at Home during the Summer and a Pumpkin Party in October. Sunday evening "gatherings" via Zoom have continued to support those who are unable to attend services in person.

- The Pathway supported local community events through an Upper Teesdale Churches Together stall at Eggleston Show and joining with the community celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

- Barnard Castle Church has a weekly prayer meeting, giving a good start to the week and is well attended and appreciated by those who attend. Following lockdown, the premises are used by various groups from round the town such as the Opera Group, Dog training, ballet, Parkinson's support and other groups. A weekly Coffee morning is well-supported by the community. Prayer cards are on the tables, and members of the church are available for prayer support if required. Once a month the money from the coffee morning goes to a local or national charity.

Hospitality projects across the Circuit make effective links with local communities. through coffee mornings. Some are involved in more specific community outreach work. The Mustard Tree café at Hurworth Methodist Church opens six days a week and continues to flourish, including working with vulnerable young adults, offering vocational opportunities and providing resources for mental wellbeing to the local community. A community café (Coffee@Haughton) at Haughton Church is staffed by volunteers, not all of whom are church members, and opens two days each week. Haughton is fully accessible, has proved to be increasingly popular and provides valuable opportunities for social interaction. The church is currently working towards becoming recognised as Dementia Friendly.

Looking ahead, Haughton Church is planning a new venture by starting a monthly WAVE (We are All Valued Equally) service. These services - due to start in Autumn 2022 - are aimed at people with learning difficulties and those who care for them.

Interconnexion for Mission, Mutual Encouragement and Help (continued)

Some churches have their own Boys and Girls Brigades attached to them. Other churches have other uniformed organisations meeting on the premises. It is hoped that these organisations will be involved in church life and take part in worship at Parade services.

The Circuit provides presbyteral support to Melsonby Methodist Primary School and the Circuit is represented on the school's Governing Body.

Children and Young People's Work

The Circuit employed two Young People's and Children's Workers, although one of the workers left in December 2021 and has not yet been replaced. In September of 2021, a group of young people from the Circuit attended 3Generate Youth Conference. This was the first time it was held at Birmingham NEC and saw 16 young people and four leaders camping indoors.

Work in schools in the Darlington part of the Circuit included Harvest, Christmas and Easter assemblies and, in addition, Christingle lessons were taught in two schools. At Easter, two churches hosted the 'Easter Journey' when pupils from nearby primary schools learned about the Easter story through different station points, each with a story, craft and 'thinking' point linked with the days and stories of Holy Week. Staff and students alike loved the experience.

Twinkle Toes Toddler group at The Well continues to grow after the disruption of COVID.

Safeguarding

A Safeguarding Policy for both Children and Vulnerable Adults is in place.
Safeguarding training is a continuous process of updating as it is required for those in volunteer roles and those in employment as appropriate to their roles and can include foundation and advanced training. Post holders are required to update their training every four years.

In addition, post holders are required to undertake an appropriate level of DBS check before taking up roles in the circuit. These must be kept up to date and are required to be renewed every five years.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The Circuit and the churches are able to demonstrate a good level of compliance in respect of GDPR regulations. Guidelines are available in all the churches and GDPR awareness sessions are held across the circuit for all post holders.

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Financial Review

The annual accounts for the year 2021-22 are attached to this report.

At the close of the period, the Circuit held net current assets of £986,000 (2021: £953,000). All of these funds are unrestricted. However, of this amount, the figure of £142,000 is regarded as required to satisfy our Reserves Policy (see note below). Also, a total of £50,000 has been set aside for the development of mission at The Well Methodist Church, £20,000 for work at Pathway Church (Middleton-in-Teesdale) and £15,000 at Hurworth Methodist Church. It is also expected to purchase a new manse to replace the two that were sold during 2020-21.

All of the funds held at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church ("CFB") are available for the purposes of the Circuit, however if any were to be requested for specific developments, for example, major property expenditure, these would be subject to a project Review by the Methodist Church.

On amalgamation with the Barnard Castle and Teesdale Methodist Circuit on 1st September 2021, the Circuit acquired two properties: 29 Ashtree Drive, Barnard Castle, and 1 Chapel Cottages, Mickleton. The property in Ashtree Drive is valued at cost of £350,000, having been purchased in 2020. No. 1 Chapel Cottages was in the process of being sold at the point of acquisition and is valued at the value realised on sale during the period. Consequently, the value of Fixed Assets consists of £625,000 in respect of the two remaining and £4,000 net value of video equipment purchased in August 2022. The value of manses may only be realised on sale. A Connexional Priority Levy of £13,000 was paid in respect of the sale of No. 1 Chapel cottages and £27,000 in respect of Pierremont Church. In 2020-21 a total of £177,000 levy was paid in respect of the sales of the Barnes Road and Mowbray Drive manses. £110,000 was paid by the Barnard Castle and Teesdale Methodist Circuit on sale of Raby Road. Full financial details are given in notes BS1 and BS2.

The principal source of funds is through assessments levied on Circuit churches. This supports the costs of Presbyters and lay workers, who lead worship, provide pastoral and safeguarding services, and seek to extend God's Kingdom through mission. These funds also support an assessment paid to the Darlington Methodist District.

The Circuit has run a deficit of Income less Expenditure during the year with budget approved by the Trustees, to pursue the purposes of the Circuit. The Circuit believes that any surplus funds, subject to its Risk and Reserves Policies, should be put to good use.

Whilst this cannot continue indefinitely, the Circuit continues to plan and budget its activities within the reasonable constraints of its balance sheet and Policies. This is reviewed annually as the budget is formed and agreed by the Trustees.

No professional advice was sought on any financial matters during the year.

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Risk

The Circuit Meeting, acting as Trustees, have considered the key areas of risk to which the Circuit is subject and as part of our comprehensive insurance policy with Methodist Insurance, insurance is in place and is considered adequate to cover the range of known risks, including the manse portfolio, employers' liability, public liability and trustee indemnity.

Aside from the financial risks above, the key risk to the Circuit meeting its purpose lies in the provision of Presbyters and governance by the Methodist Church. Absence of such would severely hamper the work of the Circuit.

Reserves Policy

The Circuit Reserves Policy, agreed by the Trustees, seeks to ensure a minimum reserve equal to six months' operating costs. At August 2022 this is equivalent to £142,000.

The Circuit has adequate reserve funds to cover the planned deficit and this Reserves Policy has been approved by the Trustees.

Investment Policy

The Circuit Investment Policy requires that funds held in excess of day-to-day needs are invested in the funds of the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church via the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

This requirement has been met throughout the year.

ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES

Revd. Richard Andrew
Trustee and Superintendent Minister

Date:

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

		Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Revaluation Reserve (Unrestricted) £	Total 2021-22 £	Restated Total 2020-21 £
Income							
1	Donations and legacies	S1	380	-	-	380	20,355
2	Income from monetary investments	S2	449	3,575	-	4,024	1,614
3	Income from properties	S3	5,883	-	-	5,883	7,053
4	Assessments on Churches	S4	215,112	-	-	215,112	225,776
5	Capital receipts	S5	8,755	128,457	-	137,212	-
6	Grants received		-	-	-	-	1,000
7	Other charitable income	S6	2,241	-	-	2,241	5,791
8	**Total income**		**232,820**	**132,032**	**-**	**364,852**	**261,589**
Expenditure							
9	Grants and donations	S7	14,377	32,395	-	46,772	9,030
10	Salaries and associated costs	S8	182,108	-	-	182,108	181,214
11	Property expenses	S9	24,876	-	-	24,876	23,531
12	Connexional model trust levy	S10	-	35,628	-	35,628	5,654
13	District assessment and levy	S11	56,580	-	-	56,580	63,396
14	Costs of activities	S12	13,331	-	-	13,331	10,093
15	Costs of administration	S13	10,838	1,982	-	12,820	15,791
	Connexional Priority Levy - property sales	S5/BS1	-	40,330	-	40,330	286,452
16	Other outgoings	S14	434	-	-	434	19,166
17	**Total charitable expenditure**		**302,544**	**110,335**	**-**	**412,879**	**614,327**
18	Gains/(losses) on monetary investments	-	-	-	-	-	
19	Gains/(losses) on investment properties		-	-	-	-	-
20	**Net income/(expenditure)**		**(69,724)**	**21,697**	**-**	**(48,027)**	**(352,738)**
21	Transfers between funds		(85,709)	85,709	-	-	-
22	Other gains/(losses)	BS1/S15	(15,017)	-	121,899	106,882	(130,348)
23	**Net movement in funds**		**(170,450)**	**107,406**	**121,899**	**58,855**	**(483,086)**
24	Total funds brought forward		700,221	715,401	140,727	1,556,349	2,039,435
25	**Total funds carried forward**		**529,771**	**822,807**	**262,626**	**1,615,204**	**1,556,349**

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021: RESTATED

		Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Revaluation Reserve (Unrestricted) £	Total 2020-21 £
Income						
1	Donations and legacies	S1	355	20,000	-	20,355
2	Income from monetary investments	S2	287	1,327	-	1,614
3	Income from properties	S3	7,053	-	-	7,053
4	Assessments on Churches	S4	225,776	-	-	225,776
5	Capital receipts	S5	-	-	-	-
6	Grants received		1,000	-	-	1,000
7	Other charitable income	S6	5,791	-	-	5,791
8	**Total income**		**240,262**	**21,327**	**-**	**261,589**
Expenditure						
9	Grants and donations	S7	3,530	5,500	-	9,030
10	Salaries and associated costs	S8	181,214	-	-	181,214
11	Property expenses	S9	23,531	-	-	23,531
12	Connexional model trust levy	S10	-	5,654	-	5,654
13	District assessment and levy	S11	63,396	-	-	63,396
14	Costs of activities	S12	10,093	-	-	10,093
15	Costs of administration	S13	15,407	384	-	15,791
	Connexial priority levy - property sales	S5/BS1	-	286,452	-	286,452
16	Other outgoings	S14	19,166	-	-	19,166
17	**Total charitable expenditure**		**316,337**	**297,990**	**-**	**614,327**
18	Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		-	-	-	-
19	Gains/(losses) on investment properties		-	-	-	-
20	**Net income/(expenditure)**		**(76,075)**	**(276,663)**	**-**	**(352,738)**
21	Transfers between funds		(523,587)	799,923	(276,336)	-
22	Other gains/(losses)	BS1/S15	(130,348)	-	-	(130,348)
23	**Net movement in funds**		**(730,010)**	**523,260**	**(276,336)**	**(483,086)**
24	Total funds brought forward	BS6	1,430,231	192,141	417,063	2,039,435
25	**Total funds carried forward**		**700,221**	**715,401**	**140,727**	**1,556,349**

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2022

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Total 2021-22 £	Restated Total 2020-21 £
Fixed Assets					
Circuit manses and equipment	BS1/2	629,427	-	629,427	603,874
Investment properties		-	-	-	-
Investments		-	-	-	-
Total fixed assets		**629,427**	**-**	**629,427**	**603,874**
Current Assets					
Debtors	BS3	20,971	-	20,971	11,355
Investments with TMCP	BS4	-	822,807	822,807	715,401
Central Finance Board deposits	BS4	108,309	-	108,309	223,778
Cash at bank and in hand	BS4	91,569	-	91,569	52,787
Total current assets		**220,849**	**822,807**	**1,043,656**	**1,003,321**
Current liabilities					
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	BS5	57,879	-	57,879	50,846
Grants payable within 2022-23		-	-		-
Total current liabilities		**57,879**	**-**	**57,879**	**50,846**
Net current assets		**162,970**	**822,807**	**985,777**	**952,475**
Total assets less current liabilities		**792,397**	**822,807**	**1,615,204**	**1,556,349**
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)		-	-	-	-
Grants payable after 2022-23		-	-	-	-
Loans to the circuit		-	-	-	-
Net assets		**792,397**	**822,807**	**1,615,204**	**1,556,349**
Funds of the Circuit					
General Fund (Unrestricted)		529,771	-	529,771	700,221
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)		-	822,807	822,807	715,401
Revaluation Reserve		262,626	-	262,626	140,727
Total unrestricted funds		**792,397**	**822,807**	**1,615,204**	**1,556,349**
Restricted Funds		-	-	-	-
Endowment Funds		-	-	-	-
Total Funds		**792,397**	**822,807**	**1,615,204**	**1,556,349**

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on and were signed by:

Rev Richard Andrew
Trustee and Superintendent Minister

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2021 : RESTATED

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Total 2020-21 £
Fixed Assets				
Circuit manses and equipment	BS1	603,874	-	603,874
Investment properties		-	-	-
Investments		-	-	-
Total fixed assets		**603,874**	-	**603,874**
Current Assets				
Debtors	BS3	11,355	-	11,355
Investments with TMCP	BS4	-	715,401	715,401
Central Finance Board deposits	BS4	223,778	-	223,778
Cash at bank and in hand	BS4	52,787	-	52,787
Total current assets		**287,920**	**715,401**	**1,003,321**
Current liabilities				
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	BS5	50,846	-	50,846
Grants payable within 2021-22		-	-	-
Total current liabilities		**50,846**	-	**50,846**
Net current assets		**237,074**	**715,401**	**952,475**
Total assets less current liabilities		**949,574**	**715,401**	**1,556,349**
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)		-	-	-
Grants payable after 2021-22		-	-	-
Loans to the circuit		-	-	-
Net assets		**949,574**	**715,401**	**1,556,349**
Funds of the Circuit				
General Fund (Unrestricted)		700,221	-	700,221
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)		-	715,401	715,401
Revaluation Reserve		140,727	-	140,727
Total unrestricted funds		**840,948**	**715,401**	**1,556,349**
Restricted Funds		-	-	-
Endowment Funds		-	-	-
Total Funds		**840,948**	**715,401**	**1,556,349**

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Note A1 - Accounting Framework and accounting policies

i ***Accounting framework***

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (issued 16 July 2014) with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Charities Act 2011.

ii. ***Public benefit entity***
Darlington and Teesdale Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s) below.

iii ***Basis***
These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost, except that freehold properties are shown at valuation, and on the accruals basis to show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities. On the merger with the Barnard Castle and Teesdale Methodist Circuit, the prior year figures have been re-stated to include both circuits.

iv ***Content***
The accounts are expressed in £Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

v ***Going concern***
Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2022, the Trustees believe that the Circuit is a going concern.

vi ***Consolidation***
The financial statements of the Churches within the Circuit are not consolidated in these financial statements.

vii ***Income recognition***
Income is brought into account when there is entitlement and the amount is reliably measurable once it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will accrue to the Circuit. No attempt is made to measure the value of services donated by volunteers.

viii ***Tangible fixed assets***
These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and individually cost at least £1,000. The freehold property is shown in the accounts at valuation. No depreciation is provided on the buildings because the Trustees consider the current residual fair value of the Manse buildings (on the assumption that they had reached the end of their useful economic life by the year end) to be not less than the carrying value. The properties have been reviewed for impairment.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Note A1 - Accounting Framework and accounting policies (Continued)

ix *VAT*
As the Circuit is not VAT registered all input VAT is charged with the expenditure to which it relates.

Note A2 - Payments to Trustees

No payments are made to Trustees as remuneration for their work in that capacity.

The Presbyters of the Circuit undertake the primary executive roles within the Circuit.

Remuneration was also paid to non-Presbyteral Trustees as follows for employment other than their position as Trustee at the same time as being a Trustee:-

	2022	2021
	£	£
Mrs M Sanderson	8,644	25,934
Mrs L C Russell	8,084	7,945
Mrs L Cookson	18,099	17,787
Mr D Fairer	6,620	9,247
Mr G Bright	6,307	-
	47,754	60,913

Trustees are however, reimbursed for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties. The total amounts and number of Trustees were:-

	2022	2021
	£	£
Total paid	11,614	5,777
Number of Trustees paid	13	7

There were no other related party transactions to disclose.

Note A3 - Independent examiner

An accrual had been made for the fee of the independent examiner of £2,760 including VAT. No additional charges were made in the year for other services.

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Note S1 - Donations and legacies

This comprises all free-will giving received by the Circuit as a contribution to its work. There was a bequest of £20,000 received by the Barnard Castle and Teesdale Methodist Circuit in 2020/21.

Note S2 - Income from monetary investments

This is interest received on accounts held at the Methodist Central Finance Board ("CFB") and Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes ("TMCP").

Note S3 - Income from properties

This includes rentals received in respect of no. 1 Chapel Cottages, Mickleton, up to the point at which it was sold.

Note S4 - Assessments on churches

Assessments levied upon the Circuit churches. Details are as follows:-

	2021-22	2020-21
	£	£
Church:		
Barnard Castle	29,148	38,864
Barton	4,000	6,748
Cockerton	43,000	46,504
Elm Ridge	57,236	57,236
Harrowgate Hill	20,260	20,260
Haughton	14,808	14,808
Hurworth	11,620	11,620
Middleton (Pathway)	16,016	12,012
Staindrop	5,500	4,200
The Well	13,524	13,524
	215,112	225,776

Note S5 - Capital receipts

These are funds transferred from Bondgate and Cotherstone Churches, together with the sale proceeds of Pierremont Church.

Note S6 - Other charitable income

This includes income received specifically as part of the activities of the Circuit and miscellaneous receipts.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Note S7 - Grants and donations

Total donations, as approved by the Circuit meeting are shown below:-

	2021-22	2020-21
	£	£
from General Fund:		
Darlington Area Churches Youth Ministry (DACYM)	3,480	3,480
The Wall Methodist Church	9,897	-
The Pathway Methodist Church	1,000	-
Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB)	-	50
	14,377	3,530
from Circuit Model Trust Fund:		
The Pathway Methodist Church	7,500	-
The Wall Methodist Church	24,895	-
Middleton re Layworker	-	5,500
	32,395	5,500
Total grants and donations	46,772	9,030

Note S8 - Salaries and associated costs

Payroll is administered on the Circuit's behalf by a central Methodist department.

During the year, the Circuit was served by three full-time presbyters. The Circuit is also served by a number of Lay Workers covering Pastoral and Youth Missionary work, plus administrative support. The total costs consist of the following. In 2020-21 they were stated net of recoveries under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme:-

	2021-22	2020-21
	£	£
Presbyters and presbyteral support	102,902	104,707
Lay Workers	77,892	74,926
Apprenticeship levy	1,168	1,230
Life assurance	146	351
Total paid through Methodist Central Payroll	182,108	181,214

Note S8 - Salaries and associated costs (continued)

	2021-22 £	2020-21 £
Payroll costs are made up of:		
Stipends and salaries	154,580	152,617
Employers National Insurance Contributions	11,099	10,955
Employers pension contributions	22,615	22,649
Apprenticeship levy	1,168	1230
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	-	(6,588)
Life assurance	146	351
District contribution	(7,500)	-
	182,108	181,214

Note S9 - Property expenses

At the start of the year, the Circuit owned one property 20 Peterhouse Close. It acquired two further properties on amalgamation with the Barnard Castle and Teesdale Circuit, 29 Ashfield Drive and No 1 Chapel Cottages. The Peterhouse Close and Ashtree Drive properties were used as Manses for the Presbyters. No 1 Chapel Cottages was initially rented out, but was sold during the year. The circuit also retained responsibility for the redundant Pierremont Church, which was sold during the year. The Circuit also took responsibility of the Bondgate and Cotherstone Methodist Church buildings which are both for sale at the end of the year.

Details of the costs are given below:-

		2021-22 £	2020-21 £
Council Tax	- manses	5,054	7,125
	- churches	571	-
Water Rates	- manses	1,082	1,144
	- churches	225	-
Insurance	- manses	758	6,583
	- churches	10,385	-
Utilities	- empty manses	-	150
	- empty churches	5,073	-
Manse maintenance and repairs	- manses	1,697	4,384
	- other	31	704
Quinquennial Inspections		-	660
All costs - Northland		-	(54)
All costs - Pierremont		-	2,835
		24,876	23,531

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Note S10 - Connexional Model Trust Levy

This is applied annually to balances held in TMCP funds.

Note S11 - District Assessment Levy

This is paid quarterly to support the work of the Darlington Methodist District.

Note S12 - Costs of activities

This represents the costs of the primary purpose of the Circuit, excluding stipend and salary costs.

	2021-22	2020-21
	£	£
Presbyters	6,703	3,123
Pastoral Missioners	1,402	952
Youth Work	3,116	2,145
Preaching and worship	1,710	1,636
Other mission	400	-
Barnard Castle and Teesdale	-	2,237
	13,331	10,093

Note S13 - Costs of administration

This represents the costs of administering the circuit, excluding salary costs:-

	2021-22	2020-21
	£	£
Telephone and internet	603	1,625
Travel	341	77
Postage and stationery	2,229	1,641
Circuit communications, website and email administration	3,055	1,454
Independent examiner's fee	3,750	2,562
Other costs	1,435	1,599
Property and finance administration	-	4,182
Circuit equipment	1,407	2,651
	12,820	15,791

The figure of £1,407 in circuit equipment relates to the purchase of an office chair, a shredder and laptops.

The 2020-21 figure of £2,651 in Circuit equipment relates to the purchase of a safe.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Note S14 - Other outgoings

The 2020-21 figure primarily related to the running costs of the Bondgate building since the society ceased to worship in August 2020.

Note S15 - Other gains and losses

	General Fund £	Model Trust Fund £	Total £	Total 2020-21 £
Deficit on sale of 1 Chapel Cottage	(1,744)		(1,744)	-
Revaluation of 29 Ashtree Drive on Merger	121,899	-	121,899	
Revaluation of 1 Chapel Cottage on Merger	(13,273)	-	(13,273)	
Deficit on disposal of Raby Avenue	-	-	-	(132,084)
Disposal of Barnes Road, Darlington	-	-	-	3,654
Disposal of Mowbray Drive, Darlington	-	-	-	(1,918)
	106,882	-	106,882	(130,348)

On merger, the 29 Ashtree Drive manse was re-valued from £228,101 to £350,000. 1 Chapel Cottage was re-valued to market value of £87,500 from £110,773. A further deficit arose on sale. In the previous year, on the sale of Raby Avenue, proceeds were received of £324,395. £456,479 was removed from the value of manses leaving a deficit of £132,084.

Note BS1 - Fixed Assets

The Circuit owned one property at the start of the year, 20 Peterhouse Close. It acquired two further properties on amalgamation with the Barnard Castle and Teesdale Circuit, 29 Ashfield Drive and No 1 Chapel Cottages. The Peterhouse Close and Ashtree Drive properties were used as manses for the Presbyters. No 1 Chapel Cottages was initially rented out but was sold in the year. Other properties for which the Circuit took responsibility (see note S9) are not held with any value on the balance sheet. In the 2020-21 year, two properties were sold, 26 Barnes Road and 9 Mowbray Drive. The Barnard Castle and Teesdale Circuit also sold their Raby Avenue manse in that year. In August 2022, the Circuit completed and commissioned new video recording equipment at a gross cost of £6,427, partially offset by a grant from the Darlington District of £2,000. This equipment will start depreciating in 2022-23.

A full revaluation of the properties was conducted in 2016-17 enabling the individual values of the manses to be accounted for separately. The Barnard Castle and Teesdale manses were revalued on the merger. The Trustees did not consider it necessary to conduct a revaluation in 2021-22

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Note BS1 - Fixed Assets (Continued)

	Manses	2021-22 Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Balance brought forward	603,874	-	603,874
Additions	-	4,427	4,427
Revaluations (+/-)	108,626	-	108,626
Disposals (-)	(87,500)	-	(87,500)
Transfers* (+/-)	-	-	-
Balance carried forward	625,000	4,427	629,427
Accumulated depreciation			
Balance brought forward	-	-	-
Additions	-	-	-
Revaluations (+/-)	-	-	-
Disposals (-)	-	-	-
Transfers* (+/-)	-	-	-
Balance carried forward	-	-	-
Net book value Carried forward	625,000	4,427	629,427
Brought forward	603,874	-	603,874

The valuation of manses carried forward is made up of:-

	2021-22	2020-21
	£	£
20 Peterhouse Close, Darlington	275,000	275,000
29 Ashtree Drive, Barnard Castle	350,000	228,101
1 Chapel Cottage, Mickleton	-	100,773
	625,000	603,874

Note BS2 - Contingent Liability

Although the financial effect of revaluation is shown in full above, a proportion of any receipt on sale of manses would be expected to become payable to the Methodist Church in the event that the manse is sold and not directly replaced.

The Methodist Connexional Priority Fund levy is currently charged at 20% of the first £100,000 and 40% of any excess over £100,000.

Note BS2 - Contingent Liability (continued)

These charges amount to:

	2021-22 £	2020-21 £
Barnes Road	-	79,461
Mowbray Drive	-	97,233
Raby Avenue	-	109,758
Pierremont	27,179	-
1 Chapel Cottages	13,151	-
	40,330	286,452

In the event that the Circuit decides to purchase another manse to replace these in the next five years, the Connexion will return a proportionate amount of the levy. A similar liability would apply on a sale of the remaining manse properties.

Note BS3 - Debtors and prepayments

	2021-22 £	2020-21 £
Pre-paid stipends for current year	6,143	9,024
Pre-paid apprenticeships levy	22	33
Pre-paid expenses of Pierremont sale	-	1,847
Payroll control	1,372	376
Pre-paid advice re sale of Cotherstone	3,197	-
Pre-paid 3gen tickets	1,560	-
Pre-paid manse insurance	1,177	-
Other	7,500	75
	20,971	11,355

Note BS4 - Details of cash funds

The CAF General Account is used for day to day expenses. The CFB accounts are the main current accounts held at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and the TMCP accounts hold interest bearing deposit values.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Note BS4 - Details of cash funds (continued)

Values held in each account are shown below:-

Unrestricted Fund Name	Opening Balance £	Income £	Expend-iture £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
CAF General Account	51,567	108,191	(68,189)	-	91,569
CFB General Account	110,594	217,670	(334,406)	114,451	108,309
TMCP Model Trust Fund	531,867	217,826	(105,965)	155,316	799,044
TMCP Various Bequests	23,767	111	(68)	(47)	23,763
TMCP Barnard Castle and Teesdale	159,767	-	(4,451)	(155,316)	-
Other Barnard Castle and Teesdale	114,404	-	-	(114,404)	-
Total Cash Funds of the Circuit	**991,966**	**543,798**	**(513,079)**	**-**	**1,022,685**

Note BS5 - Liabilities under 1 year

Represents church assessments for 2022-22 received in the period, plus work done and staff expenses relating to the current year but unpaid at 31 August 2022:-

	2022 £	2021 £
Church assessments	46,491	46,491
Accrued expenditure	11,388	4,355
	57,879	50,846

Note BS6 - Merger accounting

To reflect the merged circuit, comparative figures are restated.

1. Funds brought forward at 1 September 2020 now comprise:

	General Fund £	Model Trust Fund £	Revaluation Reserve £	Total £
Darlington Circuit	526,140	261,567	417,063	1,204,770
Barnard Castle and Teesdale:				
Cash funds	118,738	10,574	-	129,312
Manses	785,353	-	-	785,353
Owed to Darlington	-	(80,000)	-	(80,000)
	1,430,231	192,141	417,063	2,039,435

2. Barnard Castle and Teesdale receipts and payments are treated as reasonably equivalent to income and expenditure and amalgamated with Darlington amounts to give restated totals for the year ended 31 August 2021.

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT

DECLARATIONS

Treasurer

I confirm that these accrual based accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit Meeting.

Signature of Treasurer	Stephen Sutcliffe	Date	Jun 9th 2023
Name of Treasurer	Stephen Sutcliffe		
Address	5 Manor Gate, Long Newton, Stockton-on-Tees S21 1DD		

Presentation to the Circuit Meeting for approval

I confirm that the annual reports and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 were, or will be* presented to the Circuit Meeting at its meeting on and were approved	15/6/23
Signature of the Chair of the meeting	
Name of the Chair of the meeting	Richard Andrew
Date:	9/6/23

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Darlington Circuit

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Darlington and Teesdale Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2022, which are set out on pages 14 to 27.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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

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 accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or

(2) the accounts did not accord with those records; or

(3) the accounts did 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.

Signed: SWG

Name: Stephen Watson Gardner

Relevant professional qualification or Member of professional body: Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Address: King Hope
31 Victoria Road
Darlington
DL1 5SB

Date: 12/6/23

Darlington and Teesdale Methodist Circuit

England & Wales - Charity number 1132005

Accounts

DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT
(Charity Registration No: 1132005)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 AUGUST 2021

DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1	Circuit Information
3	Trustees Annual Report
11	Statement of Financial Activities
13	Balance Sheet
15	Notes to the Accounts
25	Declarations
26	Independent Examiner's Report

DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

CIRCUIT INFORMATION

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Address:	Circuit Office, Elm Ridge Methodist Church, Carmel Road South, Darlington DL3 8DJ	
Examiner:	Stephen Watson Gardner F.C.A. of King Hope, Chartered Accountants, 31 Victoria Road, Darlington DL1 5SB	

Managing Trustees in the year ended 31 August 2021:-

Chair:	Revd Tim Boocock	(from 1 September 2020)	
Secretary:	Mrs Valerie Tooth		
Circuit Staff:	Revd Graham Cutler	(from 1 September 2020)	Presbyter
	Revd Brian Hutton	(from 1 September 2020)	Presbyter
Resident in Circuit:	*Revd Catherine Minor	Hospital Chaplain	
Circuit Stewards:	Hazel Neasham		
	Simon Charters		
	Paul Kane	(from 21 September 2020 to 21 June 2021)	
	Valerie Tooth	(from 21 June 2021)	
	Cathryn Warden	(from 21 June 2021)	
Lay Employees:	Morvyn Sanderson	Children's and Young People's Worker	
	Emma Waldon	Children's and Young People's Worker	
	*Lindy Lowis	Admin/Communications	
	Edwin Hird	Property and Finance	
	Lyn Cookson	Pastoral Missioner & Safeguarding Officer	
	Chris Russell	Pastoral Missioner	
Church Representatives:	Alison Banner	Barton	
	*Joan Marwood	Barton	
	Norma Krishnan	Bondgate/Bondgate Management group	
	Glenys Drummond	Bondgate/Bondgate Management group	

Bondgate Church Society ceased to worship on 16 August 2020 but the building has remained in use by a number of non-church groups under the oversight of the Management Group.

Brian Cooper	Cockerton
Robert Dean	Cockerton
David Fairer	Cockerton

DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

CIRCUIT INFORMATION

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Church Representatives (Continued):	Irene Taylor	Cockerton
	Susan Ashmore	Cockerton (from 23 July 2020)
	Ali Dinsdale	Elm Ridge
	Mary Everitt	Elm Ridge
	Ann Haley	Elm Ridge (from 19 May 2021)
	David Hall	Elm Ridge
	Richard McElheran	Elm Ridge (to 19 May 2021)
	Stephen Sutcliffe	Elm Ridge
	Sue Case	Harrowgate Hill
	Margaret Cuthbert	Harrowgate Hill
	Vanessa Simpson	Harrowgate Hill
	Barbara Carter	Haughton
	Ann Thubron	Haughton
	Cathryn Warden	Haughton
	Jane Miller	Hurworth
	Hazel Neasham	Hurworth
	Andy Robinson	Hurworth
	Graham Bright	The Well
	Brian Russell	The Well
	Chris Russell	The Well
Other:	Revd John Bower	Supernumerary Minister
	Revd Selby White	Supernumerary Minister
	Margaret Wearmouth	Methodist Women in Britain
	Josanne Hall	Methodist Homes for the Aged
	David Hogg	Circuit Archivist
	Karen Riley	Action for Children
	Brian Simpson	Secretary for Worship & Local Preachers (LWLP)
	Helen Hamilton	LWLP Representative
	Susan Jaleel	LWLP Representative (to 29 September 2020)
	Liz McAllister	Circuit Complaints Officer
	Catheryn Warden	Manse Steward (to 21 June 2021) & GDPR Officer

**denotes a member of the Circuit Meeting who is not a trustee*

There are no Trustees holding title to any of the Circuit's property.

DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Introduction

Welcome to the Trustees Annual Report of Darlington Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2021. Whilst primarily a financial report we hope to also provide insight into our aims and mission.

Public Benefit

The Darlington Methodist Circuit provides a seven-day week Christian ministry across Darlington and the surrounding area, through its network of staff, volunteers, members and premises. Its activities are open to the whole community. More details are provided under the paragraphs "Interconnexion for Mission, Mutual Encouragement and Help" and "Life of the Circuit".

The trustees have had due regard to the Charities Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Mission Statement

The Circuit Meeting's Statement of Purpose is: The Darlington Methodist Circuit exists to challenge and equip every Methodist community in the circuit to grow together in identity (who God calls us to be) and in mission (what God calls us to do). The Circuit's Mission is to be "Disciples Making Disciples" and has adopted a Mission Prayer summarising our aspirations:-

> Our Father, heaven and earth are in your hands.
> As we pray, may you embrace us,
> as we praise, may we embrace you,
> as we give, may you embrace our world,
> as we go, may our world embrace you.
> Because of Jesus, we are in your hands.
> Break through into our lives
> with the power of your Holy Spirit.
> Make us into disciples who make disciples,
> hungry for your kingdom to come here and now. Amen.

Aims

The purposes of the Methodist Church are 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;

Aims (Continued)

d. any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church.

The Darlington Methodist Circuit aims:

1. To provide varied, relevant and inclusive worship across the Circuit Churches.

2. To provide training to nurture faith in Christ, as well as to develop local preachers and leaders of worship, and to equip staff and volunteers with best practice, including pastoral care and safeguarding.

3. To increase awareness of and support voluntary charitable work in Darlington and around the UK and beyond.

4. To participate in ecumenical relationships, including Darlington Churches Together partnerships.

5. To continue to give active support to the wider Methodist District and Connexion.

6. To promote the exploration of sustainable futures for all the Churches in the Circuit

Organisation

The Darlington Methodist Circuit acts as an umbrella or resource body. The Circuit is the primary unit in which local churches express and experience their interconnexion in the Body of Christ, for purposes of mission, mutual encouragement and help.

It is in the Circuit that ministers are stationed and local preachers are trained and admitted and exercise their calling. The purposes of the Circuit include the effective deployment of the resources of ministry, which include people, property and finance, as they relate to the Methodist churches in the Circuit, to churches of other denominations and to participation in the life of the communities served by the Circuit, including local schools and colleges and in ecumenical work in the area.

In September 2017, the Superintendent had received a request from the Superintendent of the Barnard Castle and Teesdale Circuit about the possibility of opening a conversation about the two Circuits joining together. The Circuit agreed to discuss this possibility and a Joint Circuit Leadership Team was established. After much consideration in June 2019 both Circuits voted on the matter and the result was unanimous agreement to form a new Circuit by September 2021. The Methodist Church's Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD) for the formal process for Circuit changes has been triggered.

DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Interconnexion for Mission, Mutual Encouragement and Help

In recent years, the Circuit has intentionally worked towards a stronger identity, encouraging church communities to be more circuit-minded, to support each other and to work better together.

The last year has been a challenging one due to the Covid situation. The Circuit team has been imaginative in the way that worship and pastoral care has been delivered. Throughout the year the Circuit Pastoral Missioners have continued to work across the Circuit by ensuring that they have maintained telephone contact when it has not been possible to visit in person, they have continued the training and support of pastoral visitors and reworked remote links with care and residential homes across the town. Relationships have been sustained with the elderly - as individuals and with their extended family and friends. All this is conducted whilst having consideration for the best Safeguarding and Covid secure practices. The Methodist course "Creating Safer Space" has been offered a number of times during the year. The restrictions that Covid 19 brought have required the Pastoral Missioners to rethink their work, this has seen more telephone contact, the continuation of the weekly Zoom meeting and deliveries of fish and chips and afternoon teas and activities to replace the usual Holiday at Home and Easter activities.

Hospitality projects across the Circuit continue to make effective links with local communities. The Mustard Tree café at Hurworth Methodist Church continues to flourish, including working with vulnerable young adults, offering vocational opportunities and providing resources for mental wellbeing to the local community. The community café at Haughton (Coffee@Haughton), run by volunteers, proved to be extremely popular and busy prior to Covid offering valuable opportunities for social interaction. The café has remained closed since the start of the Covid crisis. This is, in part, because some of the volunteers were in groups that were high risk and/or vulnerable but also because it would have been difficult to operate whilst complying with the Government restrictions. The relaxation of restrictions has meant that the café reopened in September 2021. Members of the Haughton Craft and Chat group have maintained regular contact with each other during Covid and organised various activities remotely. The group resumed in person in September 2021.

As Lockdown restrictions eased, Elm Ridge Church trialled a new "Take Away Coffee" facility with a group of volunteers. People were encouraged to venture down the drive, this proved to be a simple but effective way of communicating with the community. The best session had attracted a worthwhile number of people and the sessions now provide a regular service 10 am to 3 pm on Fridays and Saturdays. These sessions are encouraging people to explore the grounds. Both projects are facilitating conversations about the Church building and activities.

The society at The Well continued to thrive and had weekly prayer meetings and services that were on Facebook and in the garden area when that was permitted. Sunday Services are now meeting in person. A team of enthusiastic volunteers and the paid host ensured that the charity shop and the café continued to meet local need. Whilst the shop and the café had to close during periods of Lockdown, the baby bank has responded to requests from the community, statutory and voluntary services by operating a call and collect or deliver service. Following an award of a small grant they improved the shelving and storage.

Interconnexion for Mission, Mutual Encouragement and Help (Continued)

The Children and Young People's Workers (lay staff) continued to work remotely with both primary and secondary schools and ran Holiday Club via social media. Older children and youth kept in touch via social media during Lockdown but resumed meetings in person as soon as it became possible. Prior to Covid the lay staff, with the help of volunteers, provided free lunches ("Make Lunch") and craft sessions during school holidays. During Covid, "Make Lunch" was adapted, and the lay staff and volunteers provided prepared meals or bags of groceries to the families most in need. The weekly packs included a craft activity for each child in the family.

Regular worship was resumed in Barton, Cockerton, Elm Ridge, Haughton, Harrowgate Hill, Hurworth and The Well. When it was not possible to meet for worship, weekly services were recorded and broadcast on You Tube. Printed services were distributed for those who do not have access to computers and the internet. DVDs of the services were also made available. Sunday worship is supplemented by various fellowship and study groups and a number of churches host uniformed organisations. Many of our organisations had to stop meeting and put together their own arrangements to ensure that they maintained contact with their members.

Covid restrictions meant that regular activities were suspended and it is only in the last few months that activities are starting to resume. Two young people from One Opportunity North East have been tasked with providing technical support, one running social media and the other making podcasts and images for worship.

People

Two presbyters - Revd Tim Boocock and Revd Brian Hutton took up appointments on 1 September 2020 replacing two presbyters who had left the Darlington Circuit. On the same date, Revd Graham Cutler took up an appointment in the neighbouring Barnard Castle and Teesdale Circuit. Revd Tim Boocock was appointed Superintendent Minister over both circuits. The two circuits will merge on 1 September 2021.

The presbyters are supported by a team of Circuit Stewards and Lay Staff consisting of two Children's and Youth Workers (one full-time and one part-time), two Pastoral Missioners, a part-time Circuit Admin/Communications Officer and a part-time Finance and Property Officer.

Treasurer Responsibilities: These duties have been undertaken by the Circuit Treasurer, Simon Charters and the Circuit Finance and Property Officer, Edwin Hird.

Local Preachers: The Local Preachers from the Darlington Circuit have met regularly with the Local Preachers from Barnard Castle and Teesdale Circuit and shared an Awayday.

DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Safeguarding

A Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy is in place. Safeguarding training (in accordance with Methodist Connectional Policy) has been provided for those who had not completed the training or who were new to roles in the church. This continues to be an active area for work.

Property

Churches: There are seven active churches in the Darlington Circuit.

While the responsibility for the maintenance of the properties lies with the trustees of each church, the Circuit is responsible for arranging quinquennial inspections.

Manses: The Circuit now owns one manse and this is occupied by Revd Brian Hutton and his family. Ongoing repairs continue within the approved budget. A satisfactory independent inspection was undertaken by the Darlington District and found the manse to be in good condition.

Two manses at Barnes Road and Mowbray Drive were sold during the year. It is the intention to undertake a review and purchase a new manse in the coming year.

Pierremont Church building and site was sold in 2021-22. Bondgate Church and its extensive premises are being marketed.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The Circuit and churches actively work towards compliance with GDPR. During the course of the year, the Circuit has held meetings with church representatives and the lay GDPR lead has supported a review of the Darlington District.

Life of the Circuit

Circuit Vision: We continue to develop our understanding of the circumstances of our local churches, with a particular concern due to financial and numerical decline. The Circuit Leadership has endeavoured to encourage the Circuit to fresh thinking about reaching out beyond the walls of the church to the local community, with a focus on inclusion.

When the country went into Lockdown, the circuit's pastoral missioners had established a Fellowship Group which was held virtually using Zoom and continued on this basis throughout 2020-21. The weekly sessions were used for prayer, bible study and discussion. During the year Revd Tim Boocock led a study series on the theme "Holy Habits" and in spring 2021, Revd Brian Hutton started a weekly bible study studying The Lord's Prayer and Pentecost themes. Again, those study groups were held on a virtual basis using Zoom.

Life of the Circuit (Continued)

A new initiative that commenced in November 2020 was the introduction of a magazine called "The Teesside Worm" which includes news and articles from the Darlington Circuit and the Barnard Castle and Teesdale Circuit which is helping folk across the two circuits to "get to know each other" before the formal merger on 1 September 2021.

Every weekday morning, Revd Brian Hutton has shared a verbal message of encouragement via WhatsApp to those who register to receive it. These messages have been uplifting and very well received.

Due to Covid, Messy Church has not met this year. Similarly, the majority of activities in churches along with interdenominational work involving schools, uniformed and youth activities have not been active. The Circuit provides governors and chaplaincy for the Methodist Primary School at Melsonby. The Circuit continues to support the work of Darlington Area Churches' Youth Ministry, including by a grant of £3,500. As has been explained Covid 19 restrictions have impacted on all of the above and we are looking forward to September when they will resume.

Governance

The Circuit is primarily governed by the rules and guidance of The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church ("CPD") which is updated and approved annually by the Conference of the Methodist Church.

This document is available on the Methodist Church website: www.methodist.org.uk

New trustees are appointed primarily by the Circuit churches, in accordance with CPD. The number of trustees appointed by each church is commensurate with the size of the membership of the church. Guidance documents for new trustees are provided online at the Methodist Church website.

Appointments to lay posts within the Circuit are by proposal, seconder and vote within the Circuit Meeting, again in accordance with CPD.

Where a post is considered essential for the purpose of the Circuit, but no lay person is available, the Circuit has authority to employ a member of staff to carry out that post. The Circuit follows Methodist Church policy of providing at least the Living Wage. Actual salaries are determined in conjunction with the Methodist District, taking into account the tasks of the role.

All decisions of the Circuit, including employment of lay workers, are made at a Circuit Meeting, where all Trustees may vote. Circuit Meetings occur at least four times each year, more may be called if required. In the current connexional year, as a consequence of Covid-19, two meetings were held on a virtual basis, relying on email for all exchanges. All activities of the Circuit Meeting are also governed by CPD.

DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Financial Review

The annual accounts for the year 2020-21 are attached to this report.

At the close of the period, the Circuit held net current assets of £678,000 (2020: £390,000). All of these funds are unrestricted. However, of this amount, the figure of £168,000 is regarded as required to satisfy our Reserves Policy (see note below). Also, a total of £60,000 has been set aside for the development of mission now being pursued through The Well Methodist Church. It is also expected to purchase a new manse to replace the two that were sold during the year.

All of the funds held at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church ("CFB") are available for the purposes of the Circuit, however if any were to be requested for specific developments, for example, major property expenditure, these would be subject to a project review by the Methodist Church.

All of the Fixed Asset values are held in manses and may only be realised on sale. In 2020-21 a total of £176,694 levy was paid in respect of the sales of the Barnes Road and Mowbray Drive manses. Full financial details are given in notes BS1 and BS2.

The principal source of funds is through assessments levied on Circuit churches. This supports the costs of Presbyters and lay workers, who lead worship, provide pastoral and safeguarding services, and seek to extend God's Kingdom through mission. These funds also support an assessment paid to the Darlington Methodist District.

The Circuit has run a deficit of Income less Expenditure during the year, with budget approved by the Trustees, to pursue the purposes of the Circuit. The Circuit believes that any surplus funds, subject to its Risk and Reserves Policies, should be put to good use.

Whilst this cannot continue indefinitely, the Circuit continues to plan and budget its activities within the reasonable constraints of its balance sheet and Policies. This is reviewed annually as the budget is formed and agreed by the Trustees.

No professional advice was sought on any financial matters during the year.

On 1 September 2021 the Circuit amalgamated with Barnard Castle and Teesdale Circuit. Whilst no funds or transactions of that Circuit are included in these accounts, the £168,000 reserve noted does take into account the increased size of the combined Circuit.

DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Risk

The Circuit Meeting, acting as Trustees, have considered the key areas of risk to which the Circuit is subject and as part of our comprehensive insurance policy with Methodist Insurance, insurance is in place and is considered adequate to cover the range of known risks, including the manse portfolio, employers' liability, public liability and trustee indemnity.

Aside from the financial risks above, the key risk to the Circuit meeting its purpose lies in the provision of Presbyters and governance by the Methodist Church. Absence of such would severely hamper the work of the Circuit.

Reserves Policy

The Circuit Reserves Policy, agreed by the Trustees, seeks to ensure a minimum reserve equal to six months' operating costs. At August 2021 this is equivalent to £168,000.

The Circuit has adequate reserve funds to cover the planned deficit and this Reserves Policy has been approved by the trustees.

Investment Policy

The Circuit Investment Policy requires that funds held in excess of day-to-day needs are invested in the funds of the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church via the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

This requirement has been met throughout the year.

ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES

G. A. Cutler

Revd Graham Cutler
Trustee

Date 18 - MAY - 2022

DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

		Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Revaluation Reserve (Unrestricted) £	Total 2020-21 £	Total 2019-20 £
Income							
1	Donations and legacies	S1	355	-	-	355	1,224
2	Income from monetary investments	S2	140	986	-	1,126	3,235
3	Income from properties	S3	3,200	-	-	3,200	10,285
4	Assessments on Churches	S4	170,700	-	-	170,700	187,005
5	Capital receipts	S5	-	-	-	-	36,286
6	Grants received		-	-	-	-	-
7	Other charitable income	S6	150	-	-	150	166
8	**Total income**		**174,545**	**986**	**-**	**175,531**	**238,201**
Expenditure							
9	Grants and donations	S7	3,480	-	-	3,480	3,535
10	Salaries and associated costs	S8	143,673	-	-	143,673	136,490
11	Property expenses	S9	11,330	-	-	11,330	21,013
12	Connexional model trust levy	S10	-	5,390	-	5,390	11,887
13	District assessment and levy	S11	47,640	-	-	47,640	48,612
14	Costs of activities	S12	7,856	-	-	7,856	13,747
15	Costs of administration	S13	13,141	363	-	13,504	9,733
	Connexional Priority Levy - property sales	S5/BS1	-	176,694	-	176,694	7,257
16	Other outgoings	S14	19,166	-	-	19,166	912
17	**Total charitable expenditure**		**246,286**	**182,447**	**-**	**428,733**	**253,186**
18	Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		-	-	-	-	-
19	Gains/(losses) on investment properties		-	-	-	-	-
20	**Net income/(expenditure)**		**(71,741)**	**(181,461)**	**-**	**(253,202)**	**(14,985)**
21	Transfers between funds		(199,192)	475,528	(276,336)	-	-
22	Other gains/(losses)	BS1	1,736	-	-	1,736	-
23	**Net movement in funds**		**(269,197)**	**294,067**	**(276,336)**	**(251,466)**	**(14,985)**
24	Total funds brought forward		526,140	261,567	417,063	1,204,770	1,219,755
25	**Total funds carried forward**		**256,943**	**555,634**	**140,727**	**953,304**	**1,204,770**

DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

		Notes	General Fund (Unrest-ricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrest-ricted) £	Revaluation Reserve (Unrest-ricted) £	Total 2019-20 £
Income						
1	Donations and legacies	S1	1,224	-	-	1,224
2	Income from monetary investments	S2	706	2,529	-	3,235
3	Income from properties	S3	10,285	-	-	10,285
4	Assessments on Churches	S4	187,005	-	-	187,005
5	Capital receipts	S5	-	36,286	-	36,286
6	Grants received		-	-	-	-
7	Other charitable income	S6	166	-	-	166
8	**Total income**		**199,386**	**38,815**	**-**	**238,201**
Expenditure						
9	Grants and donations	S7	3,535	-	-	3,535
10	Salaries and associated costs	S8	136,490	-	-	136,490
11	Property expenses	S9	21,013	-	-	21,013
12	Connexional model trust levy	S10	-	11,887	-	11,887
13	District assessment and levy	S11	48,612	-	-	48,612
14	Costs of activities	S12	13,747	-	-	13,747
15	Costs of administration	S13	9,733	-	-	9,733
	Connexial priority levy	S5	-	7,257	-	7,257
16	Other outgoings		314	598	-	912
17	**Total charitable expenditure**		**233,444**	**19,742**	**-**	**253,186**
18	Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		-	-	-	-
19	Gains/(losses) on investment properties		-	-	-	-
20	**Net income/(expenditure)**		**(34,058)**	**19,073**	**-**	**(14,985)**
21	Transfers between funds		56,426	(56,426)	-	-
22	Other gains/(losses)		-	-	-	-
23	**Net movement in funds**		**22,368**	**(37,353)**	**-**	**(14,985)**
24	Total funds brought forward		503,772	298,920	417,063	1,219,755
25	**Total funds carried forward**		**526,140**	**261,567**	**417,063**	**1,204,770**

DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2021

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Total 2020-21 £	Total 2019-20 £
Fixed Assets					
Circuit manses and equipment	BS1/2	275,000	-	275,000	815,000
Investment properties		-	-	-	-
Investments		-	-	-	-
Total fixed assets		**275,000**	**-**	**275,000**	**815,000**
Current Assets					
Debtors	BS3	11,355	-	11,355	11,584
Loans by the Circuit	BS3	-	-	-	80,000
Investments with TMCP	BS4	-	555,634	555,634	181,567
Central Finance Board deposits	BS4	110,594	-	110,594	136,872
Cash at bank and in hand	BS4	51,567	-	51,567	33,127
Total current assets		**173,516**	**555,634**	**729,150**	**443,150**
Current liabilities					
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	BS5	50,846	-	50,846	53,380
Grants payable within 2021-22		-	-	-	-
Total current liabilities		**50,846**	**-**	**50,846**	**53,380**
Net current assets		**122,670**	**555,634**	**678,304**	**389,770**
Total assets less current liabilities		**397,670**	**555,634**	**953,304**	**1,204,770**
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)		-	-	-	-
Grants payable after 2021-22		-	-	-	-
Loans to the circuit		-	-	-	-
Net assets		**397,670**	**555,634**	**953,304**	**1,204,770**
Funds of the Circuit					
General Fund (Unrestricted)		256,943	-	256,943	526,140
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)		-	555,634	555,634	261,567
Revaluation Reserve		140,727	-	140,727	417,063
Total unrestricted funds		**397,670**	**555,634**	**953,304**	**1,204,770**
Restricted Funds		-	-	-	-
Endowment Funds		-	-	-	-
Total Funds		**397,670**	**555,634**	**953,304**	**1,204,770**

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on and were signed by:

Rev Graham Cutler
Trustee

DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2020

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Total 2019-20 £
Fixed Assets				
Circuit manses and equipment	BS1	815,000	-	815,000
Investment properties		-	-	-
Investments		-	-	-
Total fixed assets		**815,000**	**-**	**815,000**
Current Assets				
Debtors	BS3	11,584	-	11,584
Loans by the Circuit		-	80,000	80,000
Investments with TMCP	BS4	-	181,567	181,567
Central Finance Board deposits	BS4	136,872	-	136,872
Cash at bank and in hand	BS4	33,127	-	33,127
Total current assets		**181,583**	**261,567**	**443,150**
Current liabilities				
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	BS5	53,380	-	53,380
Grants payable within 2020-21		-	-	-
Total current liabilities		**53,380**	**-**	**53,380**
Net current assets		**128,203**	**261,567**	**389,770**
Total assets less current liabilities		**943,203**	**261,567**	**1,204,770**
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)		-	-	-
Grants payable after 2020-21		-	-	-
Loans to the circuit		-	-	-
Net assets		**943,203**	**261,567**	**1,204,770**
Funds of the Circuit				
General Fund (Unrestricted)		526,140	-	526,140
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)		-	261,567	261,567
Revaluation Reserve		417,063	-	417,063
Total unrestricted funds		**943,203**	**261,567**	**1,204,770**
Restricted Funds		-	-	-
Endowment Funds		-	-	-
Total Funds		**943,203**	**261,567**	**1,204,770**

DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Note A1 - Accounting Framework and accounting policies

i ***Accounting framework***

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (issued 16 July 2014) with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Charities Act 2011.

ii. ***Public benefit entity***

Darlington Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s) below.

iii ***Basis***

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost, except that freehold properties are shown at valuation, and on the accruals basis to show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

iv ***Content***

The accounts are expressed in £Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

v ***Going concern***

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2021, the Trustees believe that the Circuit is a going concern.

vi ***Consolidation***

The financial statements of the Churches within the Circuit are not consolidated in these financial statements.

vii ***Income recognition***

Income is brought into account when there is entitlement and the amount is reliably measurable once it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will accrue to the Circuit. No attempt is made to measure the value of services donated by volunteers.

viii ***Tangible fixed assets***

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and individually cost at least £1,000. The freehold property is shown in the accounts at valuation. No depreciation is provided on the buildings because the Trustees consider the current residual fair value of the Manse buildings (on the assumption that they had reached the end of their useful economic life by the year end) to be not less than the carrying value. The properties have been reviewed for impairment.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Note A1 - Accounting Framework and accounting policies (Continued)

ix *VAT*

As the Circuit is not VAT registered all input VAT is charged with the expenditure to which it relates.

Note A2 - Payments to Trustees

No payments are made to Trustees as remuneration for their work in that capacity.

The Presbyters of the Circuit undertake the primary executive roles within the Circuit.

Remuneration was also paid to non-Presbyteral Trustees as follows for employment other than their position as Trustee at the same time as being a Trustee:-

	2021	2020
	£	£
Mrs M Sanderson	25,934	25,388
Mrs L C Russell	7,945	7,522
Mrs L Cookson	17,787	16,828
D Fairer	9,247	4,030
Mrs S Case	1,464	605
	62,376	54,373

Trustees are however, reimbursed for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties. The total amounts and number of Trustees were:-

	2021	2020
	£	£
Total paid	5,777	6,239
Number of Trustees paid	7	10

During the year, collections were taken in respect of a leaving gift for the following Trustees:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Revd Solomon Joseph	-	573
Revd Bill Mullally	-	708
	-	1,081

There were no other related party transactions to disclose.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Note A3 - Independent examiner

An accrual had been made for the fee of the independent examiner of £2,550 including VAT. No additional charges were made for other services.

Note S1 - Donations and legacies

This comprises all free-will giving received by the Circuit as a contribution to its work.

Note S2 - Income from monetary investments

This is interest received on accounts held at the Methodist Central Finance Board ("CFB") and Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes ("TMCP").

Note S3 - Income from properties

This includes rentals received in respect of 26 Barnes Road, Darlington, up to the point at which it was sold

Note S4 - Assessments on churches

Assessments levied upon the Circuit churches. Details are as follows:-

Church:	2020-21 £	2019-20 £
Barton	6,748	6,360
Bondgate	-	15,309
Cockerton	46,504	46,588
Elm Ridge	57,236	59,848
Harrowgate Hill	20,260	19,040
Haughton	14,808	14,588
Hurworth	11,620	11,820
Pierremont	-	4,484
The Well	13,524	8,968
	170,700	187,005

Note S5 - Capital receipts

The Circuit sold two manses in the year: 26 Barnes Road and 9 Mowbray Drive. The accounting for this is shown in other gains/losses and note BS1. The amount for 2019-20 includes the net sum received on the sale of North Cowton Church for £36,286 after expenses and the repayment of a grant to TMCP. The connexial priority levy on the sale of properties is included in expenditure.

Note S6 - Other charitable income

This includes income received specifically as part of the activities of the Circuit and miscellaneous receipts.

Note S7 - Grants and donations

A donation of £3,480 was given to Darlington Area Churches Youth Ministry ("DACYM"), as approved by the Circuit Meeting (2019-20 £3,480).

Note S8 - Salaries and associated costs

Payroll is administered on the Circuit's behalf by a central Methodist department.

During the year, the Circuit was served by two full-time presbyters. The Circuit is also served by a number of Lay Workers covering Pastoral and Youth Missionary work, plus administrative support. The total costs consists of the following stated net of recoveries under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme:-

	2020-21	2019-20
	£	£
Presbyters and presbyteral support	72,878	68,325
Lay Workers	69,477	67,433
Apprenticeship levy	967	732
Life assurance	351	-
Total paid through Methodist Central Payroll	143,673	136,490
Payroll costs are made up of:		
Stipends and salaries	123,771	111,398
Employers National Insurance Contributions	8,817	8,016
Employers pension contributions	16,355	16,344
Apprenticeship levy	967	732
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	(6,588)	-
Life assurance	351	-
	143,673	136,490

Note S9 - Property expenses

At the start of the year, the Circuit owned three properties. 26 Barnes Road was let for a short time before being sold in the year. 9 Mowbray Drive was also sold during the year. 20 Peterhouse Close was used as a manse for one of the Presbyters. The Circuit remained responsible for the redundant Pierremont Church.

Note S9 - Property expenses (continued)

Details of the costs are given below:-

	2020-21	2019-20
	£	£
Council Tax - manses	3,305	4,168
Water Rates - manses	719	1,235
Insurance - manses	1,107	1,452
Utilities - empty manses	100	46
Manse maintenance and repairs	3,318	7,505
All costs - Northland	(54)	4,162
All costs - North Cowton	-	(1,058)
All costs - Pierremont	2,835	3,503
	11,330	21,013

Note S10 - Connexional Model Trust Levy

This is applied annually to balances held in TMCP funds.

Note S11 - District Assessment Levy

This is paid annually to support the work of the Darlington Methodist District.

Note S12 - Costs of activities

This represents the costs of the primary purpose of the Circuit, excluding stipend and salary costs.

	2020-21	2019-20
	£	£
Presbyters	3,123	5,304
Pioneer Missioner	-	33
Pastoral Missioners	952	1,428
Youth Work	2,145	5,064
Preaching and worship	1,636	1,918
	7,856	13,747

DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Note S13 - Costs of administration

This represents the costs of administering the circuit, excluding salary costs:-

	2020-21	2019-20
	£	£
Telephone and internet	530	575
Travel	77	33
Postage and stationery	1,199	1,188
Circuit communications, website and email administration	1,454	904
Independent examiner's fee	2,562	2,328
Other costs	849	636
Property and finance administration	4,182	4,069
Circuit equipment	2,651	-
	13,504	9,733

The figure of £2,651 in Circuit equipment relates to the purchase of a safe.

Note S14 - Other outgoings

This primarily relates to the running costs of the Bondgate building since the society ceased to worship in August 2020.

DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Note BS1 - Fixed Assets

At the start of the year, the Circuit owned three properties. 26 Barnes Road was let for a short time before being sold in the year. 9 Mowbray Drive was also sold in the year. 20 Peterhouse Close was used as a manse for one of the presbyters.

A full revaluation of the properties was conducted in 2016-17 enabling the individual values of the manses to be accounted for separately. The Trustees did not consider it necessary to conduct a revaluation in 2020-21, the figures being reflected in the revaluation figures below:-

Valuation -Manses	**2020-21**	**2019-20**
	£	**£**
Balance brought forward	815,000	815,000
Additions	-	-
Revaluations (+/-)	-	-
Disposals (-)	(540,000)	-
Transfers* (+/-)	-	-
Balance carried forward	275,000	815,000
Accumulated depreciation		
Balance brought forward	-	-
Additions	-	-
Revaluations (+/-)	-	-
Disposals (-)	-	-
Transfers* (+/-)	-	-
Balance carried forward	-	-
Net book value		
Carried forward	275,000	815,000
Brought forward	815,000	815,000

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Note BS1 - Fixed Assets (Continued)

The valuation of manses carried forward is made up of:-

	2020-21	2019-20
	£	£
26 Barnes Road	-	245,000
20 Peterhouse Close	275,000	275,000
9 Mowbray Drive	-	295,000
	275,000	815,000

Reconciliation of Disposals:

	Barnes Road	Mowbray Drive	Total
	£	£	£
Cost	119,625	144,039	263,664
Revaluation	125,375	150,961	276,336
Valuation at 1 September 2020	245,000	295,000	540,000
Sale proceeds	255,000	300,000	555,000
Costs of sale	6,346	6,918	13,264
	248,654	293,082	541,736
CPF levy	79,461	97,233	176,694
Net proceeds	169,193	195,849	365,042
Gain before CPF levy	3,654	(1,918)	1,736

Note BS2 - Contingent Liability

Although the financial effect of revaluation is shown in full above, a proportion of any receipt on sale of manses would be expected to become payable to the Methodist Church in the event that the manse is sold and not directly replaced.

The Methodist Connexional Priority Fund levy is currently charged at 20% of the first £100,000 and 40% of any excess over £100,000.

Note BS2 - Contingent Liability (Continued)

In 2020-2021, these charges amount to:

	£
Barnes Road	79,461
Mowbray Drive	97,233
	176,694

In the event that the Circuit decides to purchase another manse to replace these in the next five years, the Connexion will return a proportionate amount of the levy. A similar liability would apply on a sale of the remaining manse property.

Note BS3 - Debtors and prepayments

	2020-21 £	2019-20 £
Pre-paid stipends for current year	9,024	3,134
Pre-paid apprenticeships levy	33	-
Pre-paid expenses of Pierremont sale	1,847	-
Payroll control	376	8,275
Admin fee charges to churches	-	165
Other	75	10
Loan to Barnard Castle and Teesdale Trust	-	80,000
	11,355	91,584

The advance of £80,000 to Barnard Castle and Teesdale Circuit was to support their purchase of a new manse before the sale of their existing manse. This was repaid in November 2020.

Note BS4 - Details of cash funds

The CAF General Account is used for day to day expenses. The CFB accounts are the main current accounts held at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and the TMCP accounts hold interest bearing deposit values.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Note BS4 - Details of cash funds (continued)

Values held in each account are shown below:-

Unrestricted Fund Name	Opening Balance £	Income £	Expend-iture £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
CAF General Account	33,127	110,829	62,389	(30,000)	51,567
CFB General Account	136,872	162,132	284,618	96,208	110,594
TMCP Model Trust Fund	157,804	622,642	182,400	(66,179)	531,867
TMCP Various Bequests	23,763	80	47	(29)	23,767
Total Cash Funds of the Circuit	**351,566**	**895,683**	**529,454**	**-**	**717,795**

Note BS5 - Liabilities under 1 year

Represents church assessments for 2021-22 received in the period, plus work done and staff expenses relating to the current year but unpaid at 31 August 2021:-

	2021 £	2020 £
Church assessments	46,491	42,663
Accrued expenditure	4,355	10,717
	50,846	53,380

Prepaid church assessments include £5,379 from Pathway (Middleton-in-Teesdale) and Staindrop churches as a result of the amalgamation of Darlington and Barnard Castle and Teesdale Methodist Circuits for 2021-22.

DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

DECLARATIONS

Treasurer

I confirm that these accrual based accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit Meeting.

Signature of Treasurer	S. Charters	Date	16/05/2022
Name of Treasurer	Simon Charters		
Address	Meirion House, Tanygrisiau, Blaenau Ffestiniog LL41 3SU		

Presentation to the Circuit Meeting for approval

I confirm that the annual reports and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 were, or will be* presented to the Circuit Meeting at its meeting on and were approved	
Signature of the Chair of the meeting	G. A. Cutler
Name of the Chair of the meeting	REV. GRAHAM A. CUTLER
Date:	31 - MAY - 2022

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Darlington Circuit

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Darlington Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2021, which are set out on pages 10 to 24.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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

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 accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or

(2) the accounts did not accord with those records; or

(3) the accounts did 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.

Signed:

Name: Stephen Watson Gardner

Relevant professional qualification or Member of professional body: Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Address: King Hope
31 Victoria Road
Darlington
DL1 5SB

Date: 23 MAY 2022

Darlington and Teesdale Methodist Circuit

England & Wales - Charity number 1132005

Accounts

DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT
(Charity Registration No: 1132005)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 AUGUST 2020

DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1	Circuit Information
3	Trustees Annual Report
10	Statement of Financial Activities
12	Balance Sheet
14	Notes to the Accounts
23	Declarations
24	Independent Examiner's Report

DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

CIRCUIT INFORMATION

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Address:	Circuit Office, Elm Ridge Methodist Church, Carmel Road South, Darlington DL3 8DJ
Examiner:	Stephen Watson Gardner F.C.A. of King Hope, Chartered Accountants, 31 Victoria Road, Darlington DL1 5SB

Managing Trustees in the year ended 31 August 2020:-

Chair:	Revd Beverly Hollings	Superintendent Minister (to 29 February 2020)	
	Revd John Howard	(from 1 March 2020)	
Secretary:	Mrs Valerie Tooth		
Circuit Staff:	Revd Solomon Joseph	(to 31 August 2020)	Presbyter
	Rev Bill Mullally	(to 31 August 2020)	Presbyter
Resident in Circuit:	*Revd Catherine Minor	Hospital Chaplain	
Circuit Stewards:	Simon Charters		
	Margaret Garrett		
	Hazel Neasham		
Lay Employees:	Morvyn Sanderson	Children's and Young People's Worker	
	*Lindy Lowis	Admin/Communications	
	Lyn Cookson	Pastoral Missioner & Safeguarding Officer	
	Chris Russell	Pastoral Missioner	
Church Representatives:	Alison Banner	Barton	
	*Joan Marwood	Barton	
	Norma Krishnan	Bondgate (to 16 August 2020)	
	*Janet Bryer	Bondgate (to 31 July 2020)	
	Glenys Drummond	Bondgate (to 16 August 2020)	
	Brian Cooper	Cockerton	
	Robert Dean	Cockerton	
	David Fairer	Cockerton	
	Alison Hunter	Cockerton (to 21 July 2020)	

DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

CIRCUIT INFORMATION

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Church Representatives (Continued):	Irene Taylor	Cockerton
	Susan Ashmore	Cockerton (from 23 July 2020)
	Ali Dinsdale	Elm Ridge
	Mary Everitt	Elm Ridge
	David Hall	Elm Ridge
	Richard McElheran	Elm Ridge
	Stephen Sutcliffe	Elm Ridge
	Sue Case	Harrowgate Hill
	Margaret Cuthbert	Harrowgate Hill
	Vanessa Simpson	Harrowgate Hill
	Barbara Carter	Haughton
	Ann Thubron	Haughton
	Catherine Warden	Haughton
	Jane Miller	Hurworth
	Hazel Neasham	Hurworth
	Andy Robinson	Hurworth
	Graham Bright	Pierremont/The Well
	Brian Russell	Pierremont/The Well
	Chris Russell	Pierremont/The Well
Other:	Revd John Bower	Supernumerary Minister
	Revd Selby White	Supernumerary Minister
	Margaret Wearmouth	Methodist Women in Britain
	Josanne Hall	Methodist Homes for the Aged
	David Hogg	Circuit Archivist
	Karen Riley	Action for Children
	Brian Simpson	Secretary for Worship & Local Preachers (LWLP)
	Helen Hamilton	LWLP Representative
	Susan Jaleel	LWLP Representative (to 29 September 2020)
	Liz McAllister	Circuit Complaints Officer
	Catherine Warden	Manse Steward & GDPR Officer

**denotes a member of the Circuit Meeting who is not a trustee*

There are no Trustees holding title to any of the Circuit's property.

DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Introduction

Welcome to the Trustees Annual Report of Darlington Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2020. Whilst primarily a financial report we hope to also provide insight into our aims and mission.

Public Benefit

The Darlington Methodist Circuit provides a seven-day week Christian ministry across Darlington and the surrounding area, through its network of staff, volunteers, members and premises. Its activities are open to the whole community. More details are provided under the paragraphs "Interconnexion for Mission, Mutual Encouragement and Help" and "Life of the Circuit".

The trustees have had due regard to the Charities Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Mission Statement

The Circuit Meeting's Statement of Purpose is: The Darlington Methodist Circuit exists to challenge and equip every Methodist community in the circuit to grow together in identity (who God calls us to be) and in mission (what God calls us to do). The Circuit's Mission is to be "Disciples Making Disciples" and has adopted a Mission Prayer summarising our aspirations:-

> Our Father, heaven and earth are in your hands.
> As we pray, may you embrace us,
> as we praise, may we embrace you,
> as we give, may you embrace our world,
> as we go, may our world embrace you.
> Because of Jesus, we are in your hands.
> Break through into our lives
> with the power of your Holy Spirit.
> Make us into disciples who make disciples,
> hungry for your kingdom to come here and now. Amen.

Aims

The purposes of the Methodist Church are 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;

Aims (Continued)

d. any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church.

The Darlington Methodist Circuit aims:

1. To provide varied, relevant and inclusive worship across the Circuit Churches.

2. To provide training to nurture faith in Christ, as well as to develop local preachers and leaders of worship, and to equip staff and volunteers with best practice, including pastoral care and safeguarding.

3. To increase awareness of and support voluntary charitable work in Darlington and around the UK and beyond.

4. To participate in ecumenical relationships, including Darlington Churches Together partnerships.

5. To continue to give active support to the wider Methodist District and Connexion.

6. To promote the exploration of sustainable futures for all the Churches in the Circuit

Organisation

The Darlington Methodist Circuit acts as an umbrella or resource body. The Circuit is the primary unit in which local churches express and experience their interconnexion in the Body of Christ, for purposes of mission, mutual encouragement and help.

It is in the Circuit that ministers are stationed and local preachers are trained and admitted and exercise their calling. The purposes of the Circuit include the effective deployment of the resources of ministry, which include people, property and finance, as they relate to the Methodist churches in the Circuit, to churches of other denominations and to participation in the life of the communities served by the Circuit, including local schools and colleges and in ecumenical work in the area.

In September 2017, the Superintendent had received a request from the Superintendent of the Barnard Castle and Teesdale Circuit about the possibility of opening a conversation about the two Circuits joining together. The Circuit agreed to discuss this possibility and a Joint Circuit Leadership Team was established. After much consideration in June 2019 both Circuits voted on the matter and the result was unanimous agreement to form a new Circuit by 2021. The Methodist Church's Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD) for the formal process for Circuit changes has been triggered.

DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Interconnexion for Mission, Mutual Encouragement and Help

In recent years, the Circuit has intentionally worked towards a stronger identity, encouraging church communities to be more circuit-minded, to support each other and to work better together.

Throughout the year the Circuit Pastoral Missioners have continued to work across the Circuit through visits to church members, training and support of pastoral visitors and by building on links with care and residential homes across the town. Relationships continue to blossom with the elderly person and their extended family and friends. All this is conducted whilst having consideration for the best safeguarding practice. The Methodist course "Creating Safer Space" has been offered a number of times during the year. They have also hosted activities at Christmas and Easter which have provided opportunities for those that live alone or in a residential setting to have fun and fellowship. The restrictions that Covid-19 brought have required the Pastoral Missioners to rethink their work. This has seen more telephone contact, the introduction of a weekly Zoom meeting and deliveries of fish and chips and afternoon tea and activities to replace the usual Holiday at Home.

Hospitality projects across the Circuit continue to make effective links with local communities. The Mustard Tree café at Hurworth Methodist Church continues to flourish, including working with vulnerable young adults, offering vocational opportunities and providing resources for mental wellbeing to the local community. The community café at Haughton (Coffee@Haughton), run by volunteers, continues to operate on two mornings mid-week providing a welcome space for social interaction and is regularly visited by a class of children who are pupils as the nearby special school. A Craft and Chat group has grown out of the cafe's customer base and meets at the chapel. Haughton also provides a soup lunch during the winter months. All the hospitality projects were affected by the Covid-19 restrictions and unfortunately were closed from the first lockdown.

Sadly Bondgate Church ceased to meet and the Coffee Station ceased to operate. The MAX group which had also met at Bondgate closed.

Pierremont Methodist Church closed on 30 September 2019 and the majority of members transferred to the former Northland Methodist Church premises to plant a new church society called The Well. The society at The Well has thrived and whilst the first lockdown meant that they have been unable to have their usual services they have had weekly prayer meetings and services that were on Facebook. A team of enthusiastic volunteers and the paid host ensured that the charity shop and the café continued to meet local need. Whilst the shop and café had to close during periods of lockdown, the baby bank has responded to requests from the community, statutory and voluntary services by operating a call and collect or deliver service.

The Children and Young People's Workers continued to work in both primary and secondary schools and run a Holiday Club and Make Lunch dinners from The Well until the first lockdown. Following the introduction of lockdown, the workers and volunteers put together materials that could be delivered to schools and individual homes. Older children and youths kept in touch on social media. As they were unable to host Make Lunch, the lay staff and volunteers delivered food parcels every week of the school holidays to families most in need.

DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Regular worship continues to be offered in Barton, Cockerton, Elm Ridge, Haughton, Harrowgate Hill, Hurworth and The Well. When it was not possible to meet for worship, weekly services were recorded and broadcast on You Tube. Printed services were distributed for those who do not have access to computers and the internet. Sunday worship is supplemented by various fellowship and study groups and a number of churches host uniformed organisations. Many of our organisations had to stop meeting and put together their own arrangements to ensure that they maintained contact with their members.

Partnering with a local ecumenical youth work charity, Darlington Area Churches' Youth Ministry, the Circuit continues to deliver the monthly Sunday evening café church for teenagers and young adults. This takes place at The Well, although the group has not met since February 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions. Two young people from ONE Opportunity North East have been tasked with providing technical support, one running social media and the other making podcasts and images for worship.

People

Revd Beverly Hollings, titular Superintendent with shared responsibility for the adjoining Barnard Castle and Teesdale Circuit left us in February and moved to another appointment. We are very grateful to the Revd John Howard who took over the responsibility until 31 August 2020, when a new Superintendent Revd Tim Boocock was appointed. Both the Revd Bill Mullally and Revd Solomon Joseph left the Circuit, Bill to take up an appointment in Cambridge and Solomon to return to India. Two new presbyters were appointed to take up their appointments from 1 September. Revd Graham Cutler from an appointment in Bolton to work in the Barnard Castle and Middleton and Teesdale Circuit and Revd Brian Hutton from South Africa to work in the Darlington Circuit. They are supported by a team of Circuit Stewards and Lay Staff consisting of a full-time and a part-time Children's and Youth Workers, two part-time Pastoral Missioners, a part-time Circuit Communications Officer and a part-time Finance and Property Officer.

Treasurer Responsibilities: These duties have been undertaken by the Circuit Treasurer, Simon Charters and the Circuit Finance and Property Officer.

Local Preachers: The Local Preachers have met regularly with the Local Preachers from Barnard Castle and Teesdale Circuit and shared an away day.

Safeguarding

A Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy is in place. Safeguarding training (in accordance with Methodist Connectional Policy) has been provided for those who had not completed the training or who were new to roles in the church. This continues to be an active area for work.

Property

Churches: There are seven active churches in the Darlington Circuit.

Property (Continued)

While the responsibility for the maintenance of the properties lies with the trustees of each church, the Circuit is responsible for arranging quinquennial inspections. Satisfactory independent inspections were undertaken where required during the year with individual reports presented to the Property Steward of each church.

Manses: The Circuit owns three manses. One was occupied by Revd Solomon Joseph, a second was occupied by the Revd Bill Mullally, a third is occupied by a private tenant. Ongoing repairs continue within the approved budget. Satisfactory independent inspections were undertaken where required. All manses are in good condition. Manses have all been inspected to ensure full accessibility. The Circuit is planning to undertake a review of manses as the newly appointed Superintendent Revd Tim Boocock does not require a manse and since Revd Solomon Joseph returned to India, the manse he occupied is no longer required.

The Circuit is liaising with the District and the Darlington Borough Council regarding the disposal of the Pierremont Church building and site. A review is also underway to look at the future of the Bondgate Church and its extensive premises.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The Circuit and churches actively work towards compliance with GDPR. During the course of the year, the Circuit held meetings with church representatives and appointed a lay GDPR lead.

Life of the Circuit

Circuit Vision: We continue to develop our understanding of the circumstances of our local churches, with a particular concern due to financial and numerical decline. The Circuit Leadership has endeavoured to encourage the Circuit to fresh thinking about reaching out beyond the walls of the church to the local community, with a focus on inclusion.

Youth Work: Messy Church continues to happen regularly in several churches, along with interdenominational work involving schools, uniformed and youth activities. The Circuit provides governors and chaplaincy for the Methodist Primary School at Melsonby. A summer holiday club has been supplemented by the Make Lunch project, which provides a hot meal for children and their families who might otherwise experience holiday hunger. Uniformed Organisations are an important part of the ministry at Cockerton, Elm Ridge, Harrowgate Hill and at Hurworth. The Circuit continues to support the work of Darlington Area Churches' Youth Ministry, including by a grant of £3,500. Covid-19 restrictions have impacted on all of the above and we are looking forward to a time when the work can resume. In the meantime Presbyters, lay staff and volunteers respond as best they can to needs as they arise.

DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Governance

The Circuit is primarily governed by the rules and guidance of The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church ("CPD") which is updated and approved annually by the Conference of the Methodist Church.

This document is available on the Methodist Church website: www.methodist.org.uk

New trustees are appointed primarily by the Circuit churches, in accordance with CPD. The number of trustees appointed by each church is commensurate with the size of the membership of the church. Guidance documents for new trustees are provided online at the Methodist Church website.

Appointments to lay posts within the Circuit are by proposal, seconder and vote within the Circuit Meeting, again in accordance with CPD.

Where a post is considered essential for the purpose of the Circuit, but no lay person is available, the Circuit has authority to employ a member of staff to carry out that post. The Circuit follows Methodist Church policy of providing at least the Living Wage. Actual salaries are determined in conjunction with the Methodist District, taking into account the tasks of the role.

All decisions of the Circuit, including employment of lay workers, are made at a Circuit Meeting, where all Trustees may vote. Circuit Meetings occur at least four times each year, more may be called if required. In the current connexional year, as a consequence of Covid-19, two meetings were held on a virtual basis, relying on email for all exchanges. All activities of the Circuit Meeting are also governed by CPD.

Financial Review

The annual accounts for the year 2019/20 are attached to this report.

At the close of the period, the Circuit held net current assets of £390,000 (2019: £405,000). All of these funds are unrestricted. However, of this amount, the figure of £121,000 is regarded as required to satisfy our Reserves Policy (see note below). Also a £30,000 commitment made in 2016/17 but as yet unspent to support of our churches (Pierremont) develop building infrastructure for their local vision has been transferred to support that vision, which is now being pursued through The Well Methodist Church. A further £30,000 is set aside to underwrite further development of The Well. This leaves a total of £209,000 for further use to support our purpose.

All of the funds held at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church ("CFB") are available for the purposes of the Circuit, however if any were to be requested for specific developments, for example, major property expenditure, these would be subject to a project review by the Methodist Church.

All of the Fixed Asset values are held in manses and may only be realised on sale.

The principal source of funds is through assessments levied on Circuit churches. This supports the costs of Presbyters and lay workers, who lead worship, provide pastoral and safeguarding services, and seek to extend God's Kingdom through mission. These funds also support an assessment paid to the Darlington Methodist District.

DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Financial Review (Continued)

The Circuit has run a deficit of Income less Expenditure during the year, with budget approved by the Trustees, to pursue the purposes of the Circuit. The Circuit believes that any surplus funds, subject to its Risk and Reserves Policies, should be put to good use.

Whilst this cannot continue indefinitely, the Circuit continues to plan and budget its activities within the reasonable constraints of its balance sheet and Policies. This is reviewed annually as the budget is formed and agreed by the Trustees.

No professional advice was sought on any financial matters during the year.

Risk

The Circuit Meeting, acting as Trustees, have considered the key areas of risk to which the Circuit is subject and as part of our comprehensive insurance policy with Methodist Insurance, insurance is in place and is considered adequate to cover the range of known risks, including the manse portfolio, employers' liability, public liability and trustee indemnity.

Aside from the financial risks above, the key risk to the Circuit meeting its purpose lies in the provision of Presbyters and governance by the Methodist Church. Absence of such would severely hamper the work of the Circuit.

Reserves Policy

The Circuit Reserves Policy, agreed by the Trustees, seeks to ensure a minimum reserve equal to six months' operating costs. At August 2020 this is equivalent to £121,000.

The Circuit has adequate reserve funds to cover the planned deficit and this Reserves Policy has been approved by the trustees.

Investment Policy

The Circuit Investment Policy requires that funds held in excess of day-to-day needs are invested in the funds of the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church via the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

This requirement has been met throughout the year.

ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES

Rev Tim Boocock
Trustee

Date: 24.6.21

DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

		Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Revaluation Reserve (Unrestricted) £	Total 2019-20 £	Total 2018-19 £
Income							
1	Donations and legacies	S1	1,224	-	-	1,224	6,280
2	Income from monetary investments	S2	706	2,529	-	3,235	3,698
3	Income from properties	S3	10,285	-	-	10,285	9,580
4	Assessments on Churches	S4	187,005	-	-	187,005	189,569
5	Capital receipts	S5	-	36,286	-	36,286	-
6	Grants received	S6	-	-	-		5,000
7	Other charitable income	S7	166	-	-	166	96
8	**Total income**		**199,386**	**38,815**	**-**	**238,201**	**214,223**
Expenditure							
9	Grants and donations	S8	3,535	-	-	3,535	3,492
10	Salaries and associated costs	S9	136,490	-	-	136,490	183,624
11	Property expenses	S10	21,013	-	-	21,013	39,881
12	Connexional model trust levy	S11	-	11,887	-	11,887	19,861
13	District assessment and levy	S12	48,612	-	-	48,612	46,520
14	Costs of activities	S13	13,747	-	-	13,747	14,740
15	Costs of administration	S14	9,733	-	-	9,733	15,409
	Connexional Priority Levy - property sale	S5	-	7,257	-	7,257	-
16	Other outgoings		312	598	-	910	1,764
17	**Total charitable expenditure**		**233,442**	**19,742**	**-**	**253,184**	**325,291**
18	Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		-	-	-	-	-
19	Gains/(losses) on investment properties		-	-	-	-	-
20	**Net income/(expenditure)**		**(34,056)**	**19,073**	**-**	**(14,983)**	**(111,068)**
21	Transfers between funds		56,426	(56,426)	-	-	-
22	Other gains/(losses)		-	-	-	-	-
23	**Net movement in funds**		**22,370**	**(37,353)**	**-**	**(14,983)**	**(111,068)**
24	Total funds brought forward		503,772	298,920	417,063	1,219,755	1,330,823
25	**Total funds carried forward**		**526,142**	**261,567**	**417,063**	**1,204,772**	**1,219,755**

DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

		Notes	General Fund (Unrest-ricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrest-ricted) £	Revaluation Reserve (Unrest-ricted) £	Total 2018-19 £
Income						
1	Donations and legacies	S1	6,280	-	-	6,280
2	Income from monetary investments	S2	784	2,914	-	3,698
3	Income from properties	S3	9,580	-	-	9,580
4	Assessments on Churches	S4	189,569	-	-	189,569
5	Capital receipts		-	-	-	-
6	Grants received	S6	5,000	-	-	5,000
7	Other charitable income	S7	96	-	-	96
8	**Total income**		**211,309**	**2,914**	**-**	**214,223**
Expenditure						
9	Grants and donations	S8	3,492	-	-	3,492
10	Salaries and associated costs	S9	183,624	-	-	183,624
11	Property expenses	S10	39,881	-	-	39,881
12	Connexional model trust levy	S11	-	19,861	-	19,861
13	District assessment and levy	S12	46,520	-	-	46,520
14	Costs of activities	S13	14,740	-	-	14,740
15	Costs of administration	S14	15,409	-	-	15,409
16	Other outgoings		953	811	-	1,764
17	**Total charitable expenditure**		**304,619**	**20,672**	**-**	**325,291**
18	Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		-	-	-	-
19	Gains/(losses) on investment properties		-	-	-	-
20	**Net income/(expenditure)**		**(93,310)**	**(17,758)**	**-**	**(111,068)**
21	Transfers between funds		88,568	(88,568)	-	-
22	Other gains/(losses)		-	-	-	-
23	**Net movement in funds**		**(4,742)**	**(106,326)**	**-**	**(111,068)**
24	Total funds brought forward		508,514	405,246	417,063	1,330,823
25	**Total funds carried forward**		**503,772**	**298,920**	**417,063**	**1,219,755**

DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2020

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Total 2019-20 £	Total 2018-19 £
Fixed Assets					
Circuit manses and equipment	BS1/2	815,000	-	815,000	815,000
Investment properties		-	-	-	-
Investments		-	-	-	-
Total fixed assets		**815,000**	**-**	**815,000**	**815,000**
Current Assets					
Debtors	BS3	11,584	-	11,584	22,370
Loans by the Circuit	BS3	-	80,000	80,000	-
Investments with TMCP	BS4	-	181,567	181,567	298,920
Central Finance Board deposits	BS4	136,872	-	136,872	121,077
Cash at bank and in hand	BS4	33,127	-	33,127	14,871
Total current assets		**181,583**	**261,567**	**443,150**	**457,238**
Current liabilities					
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	BS5	53,380	-	53,380	52,483
Grants payable within 2020-21		-	-	-	-
Total current liabilities		**53,380**	**-**	**53,380**	**52,483**
Net current assets		**128,203**	**261,567**	**389,770**	**404,755**
Total assets less current liabilities		**943,203**	**261,567**	**1,204,770**	**1,219,755**
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)		-	-	-	-
Grants payable after 2020-21		-	-	-	-
Loans to the circuit		-	-	-	-
Net assets		**943,203**	**261,567**	**1,204,770**	**1,219,755**
Funds of the Circuit					
General Fund (Unrestricted)		526,140	-	526,140	503,772
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)		-	261,567	261,567	298,920
Revaluation Reserve		417,063	-	417,063	417,063
Total unrestricted funds		**943,203**	**261,567**	**1,204,770**	**1,219,755**
Restricted Funds		-	-	-	-
Endowment Funds		-	-	-	-
Total Funds		**920,835**	**298,920**		**1,219,755**

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on and were signed by:

Rev Tim Boocock
Trustee

DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2019

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Total 2018-19 £
Fixed Assets				
Circuit manses and equipment	BS1	815,000	-	815,000
Investment properties		-	-	-
Investments		-	-	-
Total fixed assets		**815,000**	**-**	**815,000**
Current Assets				
Debtors	BS3	22,370	-	22,370
Loans by the Circuit		-	-	-
Investments with TMCP	BS4	-	298,920	298,920
Central Finance Board deposits	BS4	121,077	-	121,077
Cash at bank and in hand	BS4	14,871	-	14,871
Total current assets		**158,318**	**298,920**	**457,238**
Current liabilities				
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	BS5	52,483	-	52,483
Grants payable within 2018-19		-	-	-
Total current liabilities		**52,483**	**-**	**52,483**
Net current assets		**105,835**	**298,920**	**404,755**
Total assets less current liabilities		**920,835**	**298,920**	**1,219,755**
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)		-	-	-
Grants payable after 2018-19		-	-	-
Loans to the circuit		-	-	-
Net assets		**920,835**	**298,920**	**1,219,755**
Funds of the Circuit				
General Fund (Unrestricted)		503,772	-	503,772
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)		-	298,920	298,920
Revaluation Reserve		417,063	-	417,063
Total unrestricted funds		**920,835**	**298,920**	**1,219,755**
Restricted Funds		-	-	-
Endowment Funds		-	-	-
Total Funds		**920,835**	**298,920**	**1,219,755**

DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Note A1 - Accounting Framework and accounting policies

i ***Accounting framework***

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (issued 16 July 2014) with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Charities Act 2011.

ii. ***Public benefit entity***

Darlington Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s) below.

iii ***Basis***

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost, except that freehold properties are shown at valuation, and on the accruals basis to show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

iv ***Content***

The accounts are expressed in £Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

v ***Going concern***

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2020, the Trustees believe that the Circuit is a going concern.

vi ***Consolidation***

The financial statements of the Churches within the Circuit are not consolidated in these financial statements.

vii ***Income recognition***

Income is brought into account when there is entitlement and the amount is reliably measurable once it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will accrue to the Circuit. No attempt is made to measure the value of services donated by volunteers.

viii ***Tangible fixed assets***

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and individually cost at least £1,000. The freehold property is shown in the accounts at valuation. No depreciation is provided on the buildings because the Trustees consider the current residual fair value of the Manse buildings (on the assumption that they had reached the end of their useful economic life by the year end) to be not less than the carrying value. The properties have been reviewed for impairment.

Note A1 - Accounting Framework and accounting policies (Continued)

ix *VAT*

As the Circuit is not VAT registered all input VAT is charged with the expenditure to which it relates.

Note A2 - Payments to Trustees

No payments are made to Trustees as remuneration for their work in that capacity.

The Presbyters of the Circuit undertake the primary executive roles within the Circuit.

Remuneration was also paid to non-Presbyteral Trustees as follows for employment other than their position as Trustee at the same time as being a Trustee:-

	2020	2019
	£	£
Mrs M Sanderson	25,388	24,648
Mrs L C Russell	7,522	8,106
Mrs L Cookson	16,828	5,646
D Fairer	4,030	-
Mrs S Case	605	-
	54,373	38,400

Trustees are however, reimbursed for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties. The total amounts and number of Trustees were:-

	2020	2019
	£	£
Total paid	6,239	2,223
Number of Trustees paid	10	7

During the year, collections were taken in respect of a leaving gift for the following Trustees:

	2020	2019
	£	£
Revd Solomon Joseph	573	-
Revd Bill Mullally	708	-
	1,081	-

There were no other related party transactions to disclose.

DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Note A3 - Independent examiner

An accrual had been made for the fee of the independent examiner of £2,328 including VAT. No additional charges were made for other services.

Note S1 - Donations and legacies

This comprises all free-will giving received by the Circuit as a contribution to its work.

Note S2 - Income from monetary investments

This is interest received on accounts held at the Methodist Central Finance Board ("CFB") and Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes ("TMCP").

Note S3 - Income from properties

This includes rentals received in respect of 26 Barnes Road, Darlington and room bookings at the Northlands site.

Note S4 - Assessments on churches

Assessments levied upon the Circuit churches. Details are as follows:-

Church:	2019-20 £	2018-19 £
Barton	6,360	5,156
Bondgate	15,309	18,468
Cockerton	46,588	46,920
Elm Ridge	59,848	62,157
Harrowgate Hill	19,040	21,584
Haughton	14,588	14,012
Hurworth	11,820	10,772
Pierremont	4,484	10,500
The Well	8,968	-
	187,005	189,569

Note S5 - Capital receipts

This includes the net sum received on sale of North Cowton Church after sales expenses and repayment of a returnable grant to TMCP of £36,286. The connexial priority levy of £7,257 is shown in expenditure.

DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Note S6 - Grants received

Two grants were received from Darlington District during the year:

- £500 received to support the Christmas event "Journey to Bethlehem". The costs of this were borne by Elm Ridge Methodist Church; the grant was forwarded to them.

- £1,500 received to support the roll out of the program "Holy Habits". Due to Covid-19 pandemic, this roll out was delayed until 2020-21; this amount is included in other creditors.

Note S7 - Other charitable income

This includes income received specifically as part of the activities of the Circuit and miscellaneous receipts.

Note S8 - Grants and donations

A donation of £3,480 was given to Darlington Area Churches Youth Ministry ("DACYM"), as approved by the Circuit Meeting (2018-19 £3,480).

Note S9 - Salaries and associated costs

Payroll is administered on the Circuit's behalf by a central Methodist department.

During the year, the Circuit was served by two full-time presbyters. The Circuit is also served by a number of Lay Workers covering Pastoral and Youth Missionary work, plus administrative support. The total costs consists of the following stated net of recoveries under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme:-

	2019-20 £	2018-19 £
Presbyters and presbyteral support	68,325	67,056
Lay Workers	67,433	115,707
Apprenticeship levy	732	861
Total paid through Methodist Central Payroll	136,490	183,624
Payroll costs are made up of:		
Stipends and salaries	111,398	155,243
Employers National Insurance Contributions	8,016	10,221
Employers pension contributions	16,344	16,952
Apprenticeship levy	732	861
Recharge from Barnard Castle and Teesdale Methodist Circuit	-	347
	136,490	186,475

Note S10 - Property expenses

Throughout the year the Circuit owned three properties, of which one 26 Barnes Road, was let on a short-term basis. During the year this let was extended, although this manse is now for sale. The other two properties were used as manses for the presbyters.

During the year, the Circuit passed responsibility for the North Road ("Northland") site to the society formerly situated in the Pierremont Church. Consequently the Circuit took responsibility for the Pierremont site. The Circuit continued to meet the costs of the redundant North Cowton Chapel up until its sale in February 2020.

Details of the costs are given below:-

	2019-20	2018-19
	£	£
Council Tax - manses	4,168	4,010
Water Rates - manses	1,235	1,335
Insurance - manses	1,452	1,597
Utilities - empty manses	46	-
Manse maintenance and repairs	7,505	14,561
All costs - Northland	4,162	14,059
All costs - North Cowton	(1,058)	3,419
Bondgate Property Review	-	900
All costs - Pierremont	3,503	-
	21,013	39,881

Note S11 - Connexional Model Trust Levy

This is applied annually to balances held in TMCP funds.

Note S12 - District Assessment Levy

This is paid annually to support the work of the Darlington Methodist District.

DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Note S13 - Costs of activities

This represents the costs of the primary purpose of the Circuit, excluding stipend and salary costs.

	2019-20	2018-19
	£	£
Presbyters	5,304	6,124
Pioneer Missioner	33	943
Pastoral Missioners	1,428	2,041
Youth Work	5,064	3,774
Preaching and worship	1,918	1,858
	13,747	14,740

Note S14 - Costs of administration

This represents the costs of administering the circuit, excluding salary costs:-

	2019-20	2018-19
	£	£
Telephone and internet	575	523
Travel	33	69
Postage and stationery	1,188	1,302
Circuit communications, website and email administration	904	10,510
Independent examiner's fee	2,328	2,280
Other costs	636	725
Property and finance administration	4,069	-
	9,733	15,409

During 2018/19 the circuit took the decision to write off the remaining value of the Church Desk IT system purchased in 2017/18 due to the lack of use. The figure of £10,510 above includes £9,606 being the charge for that year and impairment of the remaining value of the system.

Note BS1 - Fixed Assets

The Circuit managed three manses throughout the year: 26 Barnes Road, 20 Peterhouse Close, in Darlington and 9 Mowbray Drive, Hurworth. 26 Barnes Road was let during the year, but is not considered an investment property as the letting is considered temporary. This manse is now on the market for sale.

DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Note BS1 - Fixed Assets (Continued)

A full revaluation of the properties was conducted in 2016-17 enabling the individual values of the manses to be accounted for separately. The Trustees did not consider it necessary to conduct a revaluation in 2019-20, the figures being reflected in the revaluation figures below:-

Valuation -Manses	**2019-20**
	£
Balance brought forward	815,000
Additions	-
Revaluations (+/-)	-
Disposals (-)	
Transfers* (+/-)	-
Balance carried forward	815,000
Accumulated depreciation	
Balance brought forward	-
Additions	-
Revaluations (+/-)	-
Disposals (-)	-
Transfers* (+/-)	-
Balance carried forward	-
Net book value	
Carried forward	815,000
Brought forward	815,000

The value of manses carried forward is made up of:-

	£
26 Barnes Road	245,000
20 Peterhouse Close	275,000
9 Mowbray Drive	295,000
	815,000

Note BS1 - Fixed Assets (Continued)

As a post balance sheet event, 26 Barnes Road and 9 Mowbray Drive were placed for sale, the Circuit seeking to replace both with a manse meeting the standards of the Methodist Church. 26 Barnes Road was sold for £255,000 (gross before costs). 9 Mowbray Drive is on the market for £305,000. Consequently, the trustees have not revalued any property in the year.

Note BS2 - Contingent Liability

Although the full financial effect of revaluation is included in these financial statements, a proportion of any receipt on sale would be expected to become payable to the Methodist Church by way of levy.

The Methodist Connexional Priority Fund levy is currently charged at 20% of the first £100,000 and 40% of any excess over £100,000.

In 2019/2020 there was no charge. This liability applies to all of the manse properties.

Note BS3 - Debtors and prepayments

	2020 £	2019 £
Pre-paid stipends for current year	3,134	5,664
Pre-paid apprenticeships levy	-	41
Insurance - Manses 2019/20	-	1,452
Elm Ridge Q3 assessment	-	15,213
Payroll control	8,275	-
Admin fee charges to churches	165	-
Other	10	-
Loan to Barnard Castle and Teesdale Trust	80,000	-
	91,584	22,370

During the year, the accounting company providing payroll services to the Circuit churches informed those churches that they would no longer provide that service beyond March 2020. It was therefore decided to bring all staff onto the Circuit payroll and that the costs of church staff will be recharged to those churches along with an administration fee. The payroll control value above represents the value of charges made to churches and August furlough claim from HMRC that was outstanding at the year end.

Also during the year, the Circuit agreed to advance £80,000 to Barnard Castle and Teesdale Circuit to support their purchase of a new manse before the sale of their existing manse, this sum was repaid in November 2020.

DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Note BS4 - Details of cash funds

The CAF General Account is used for day to day expenses. The CFB accounts are the main current accounts held at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and the TMCP accounts hold interest bearing deposit values.

During the year, the CFB Manse Account was closed in order to reduce administration and account charges, the balance being transferred to the CFB General Account. Also during the year, the three NatWest accounts were closed and their balances transferred to the CAF General Account,, for the same reason.

Values held in each account are shown below:-

Unrestricted Fund Name	Opening Balance £	Income £	Expend-iture £	Transfers £	Balance £
CAF General Account	7,821	51,266	47,064	21,104	33,127
CFB General Account	55,871	186,531	213,508	107,978	136,872
CFB Manse Account	65,206	410	-	(65,616)	-
TMCP Model Trust Fund	275,157	39,144	100,227	(56,270)	157,804
TMCP Various Bequests	23,763	204	48	(156)	23,763
Northland (NatWest) General	3,871	-	5	(3,866)	-
Northland (NatWest) Shop	3,177	-	5	(3,172)	-
Northland (NatWest) Sundry	2	-	-	(2)	-
Total Cash Funds of the Circuit	**434,868**	**277,555**	**360,857**	**-**	**351,566**

Note BS5 - Liabilities under 1 year

Represents church assessments for 2019-20 received in the period, plus work done and staff expenses relating to the current year but unpaid at 31 August 2020:-

	2020 £	2019 £
Church assessments	42,663	48,027
Accrued expenditure	10,717	4,456
	53,380	52,483

DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

DECLARATIONS

Treasurer

I confirm that these accrual based accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit Meeting.

Signature of Treasurer	SCharters	Date	24/05/2021
Name of Treasurer	Simon Charters		
Address	Meirion House, Tanygrisiau, Blaenau Ffestiniog LL41 3SU		

Presentation to the Circuit Meeting for approval

I confirm that the annual reports and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 were, or will be* presented to the Circuit Meeting at its meeting on and were approved	
Signature of the Chair of the meeting	Timothy Bocock
Name of the Chair of the meeting	TIMOTHY BOCOCK.
Date:	24.6.21

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Darlington Circuit

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Darlington Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2020, which are set out on pages 10 to 22.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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

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 accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or

(2) the accounts did not accord with those records; or

(3) the accounts did 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.

Signed:

Name: Stephen Watson Gardner

Relevant professional qualification or Member of professional body: Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Address: King Hope
31 Victoria Road
Darlington
DL1 5SB

Date: 24 June 2021