

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
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT

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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

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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

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Other	Margaret Wearmouth	Methodist Women in Britain (to 25 July 2024 deceased)
(Continued):	Josanne Hall Brian Simpson	Methodist Homes for the Aged 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.

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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.

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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

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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

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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 Lewis, 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 Lewis.

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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”.

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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'.

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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:

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	General Fund (Unrest- ricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrest- ricted) £	Revaluation Reserve (Unrest- ricted) £	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
28	Total funds carried forward		963,448	788,029	2,014,103	1,916,352

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	General Fund (Unrest- ricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrest- ricted) £	Revaluation Reserve (Unrest- ricted) £	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
signed by:

and were

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 manse 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

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 (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	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	48,843	24,043
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Number of Trustees paid	4	9
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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
	<hr/> 218,066 <hr/>	<hr/> 218,066 <hr/>

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
	<hr/>
Total income	25,522
	<hr/>
Expenditure	£
Salaries	14,619
Property expenses	20,238
Cost of activities	7,513
Costs of admin	2,171
Depreciation	5,850
	<hr/>
Total expenditure	50,391
	<hr/>
Net expenditure	(24,869)
	<hr/>

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	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	23,314	16,899
from Circuit Model Trust Fund:		
The Pathway Methodist Church	-	10,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total grants and donations	23,314	26,899
	<hr/>	<hr/>

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT
Charitable Trust Registered No: 1132005

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
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total paid through Methodist Central Payroll	226,614	145,373
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	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
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	226,614	145,373
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	13,831	30,645
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	24,611	17,784
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	16,387	18,611
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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)

	Manse £	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 manse 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)	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	(206,991)	180,325
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Note BS2 - Investments

	2023-24	2022-23
	£	£
Cotherstone Old Chapel Project Ltd	5,000	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	220,297	450,991
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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: