

**THE METHODIST CHURCH – WEST PENNINE MOORS CIRCUIT
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

The Trustees present their Annual Report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2024.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Charitable objectives

The circuit shares the same charitable objectives and the rest of the Methodist Church, which are set out as follows:

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 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.

Aims

The Circuit seeks to live out the calling of the Methodist Church, which is summarised thus:
The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the Gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission. Inspired by Our Calling, we aim:

- To increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love
- To help people to grow and learn as Christians through mutual support and care
- To be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice
- To make more follower of Jesus Christ

Action and Public Benefit

The circuit encourages and supports the Churches within it in the provision of regular public acts of worship open to members of the church and non-members alike; the provision of sacred space for prayer and contemplation; the teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups; pastoral work, including visiting the sick and bereaved; the promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services; groups for young people, senior citizens clubs, various groups for adults with a Christian ethos; promoting the whole mission of the church (and aiding social cohesion) through activities for older people, parents and toddlers and other specific needs groups; and supporting other charities in the UK and overseas, financially and with prayer.

Contribution of Volunteers

The Circuit is heavily dependent upon, and extremely grateful for, the contribution of volunteers as it seeks to carry out its objectives. With the exception of 3 stipendiary Ministers, 1 full time lay worker, and 2 part time lay workers, all members of the Circuit Leadership Team and all other Charity Trustees are unpaid volunteers.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

The Circuit Mission Statement is:

“The West Pennine Moors Circuit exists to enable, encourage and equip Methodist people to go in the power of the Holy Spirit to make whole-life disciples of Jesus, to transform lives and communities”.

The Circuit Leadership Team meets regularly to discuss the progress of the Circuit and to ensure that the decisions of the managing trustees are taken forward, and to make recommendations to the Circuit Meeting for future action.

To help the aim for cohesion across the Circuit, worship which gathers various churches together across the Circuit has been introduced and all churches are encouraged to join in any special activity a particular church is holding. The Circuit has committed financial resources towards supporting and providing a base for the Asylum Seeker and Refugee Community (ARC) Charity. ARC has its own Charity status.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Risk Management

The Circuit Meeting is continuing to develop procedures for identifying and addressing the risks facing the charity. It has clearly outlined financial procedures and, in common with all Churches, has developed robust procedures for safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Principal Funding Sources

Contributions from the Churches by way of Circuit Assessment continue to be the main source of funding.

Investment and Reserves Policies and Review

The Circuit Assessment is reviewed annually and covers the cost of ministerial oversight and pastoral care of the churches in the Circuit and the support of 3 Presbyteral ministers and 2 lay workers. A third lay worker, the Wesley Hall Centre Manager, is funded through the lettings at Wesley Hall, and managed by the Circuit Trustees. The Circuit Advance Fund derives from sales of chapels and manses and is restricted by the Methodist Church. The Reserves Policy is held in agreement with the Charity Commission and has been earmarked for future staffing, and a subsidy should a shortfall occur in the Assessment.

Current Needs and Future Plans

Within the context of the calling of the Methodist Church (as set out above), the Circuit plans to:

- continue to support and encourage each local congregation in mission and ministry.
- establish and develop a training culture within the Circuit, encouraging lay preachers in their development, supporting probationers and facilitating the development of probationers in training.
- continue to review and actively manage the Circuit's investments in its financial and property resources, seeking to selectively release resources for mission, ministry and outreach.
- work through the Methodist Church stationing procedures to secure the appointment of new ministerial staff as vacancies are identified.
- continue to work ecumenically, especially in supporting and developing Local Ecumenical Partnerships, focussing on the Anglican-Methodist Covenant.
- develop both at Circuit and local level medium term plans for strategic development.

Going Concern

The Trustees have reviewed the circumstances of the Circuit and consider that adequate resources continue to be available to fund its activities for the foreseeable future. The Trustees are therefore of the view that the charity is a going concern.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The West Pennine Moors Circuit is part of the Methodist Church of Great Britain. The managing trustees operate within the Methodist Church Connexion and as such, their governing document is the Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Methodist Church. The document is available for inspection by appointment at the Circuit Office, c/o Antley Methodist Church, Blackburn Road, Accrington, Lancashire BB5 0DE

The West Pennine Moors Circuit is registered as a separate charity, number 1132674.

Connected Charities

The churches forming the circuit are themselves charities and, as they are responsible for their own financial affairs. They are not reported in these statements.

Appointment of Trustees

All ministers, presbyteral and diaconal, stationed in the circuit by the conference or deemed to be resident in the circuit are members of the circuit meeting.

The following are ex officio members of the circuit meeting

Circuit Stewards	appointed by the circuit meeting
Circuit Meeting Secretary	appointed by the circuit meeting
Representatives to District Synod	appointed by the circuit meeting
Local Preachers' Secretary	appointed by the Local Preachers meeting

Each church is represented by a church steward, the church treasurer and representatives appointed by the Church Council in relation to the number of church members (one representative for every 60 members). The circuit meeting has the power to co-opt other members as necessary.

Trustee recruitment, induction, and training

As outlined above, the appointment of the majority of the members of the circuit meeting is outside the control of the meeting. In appointing the Circuit Leadership Team and other officers, the Meeting has regards to the balance of skills and gifts that are needed to further the work of the church. New members of the Leadership Team are inducted by the Leadership Team.

Organisation

The Circuit Meeting is convened three times a year, and more, if required, as has been the case this year. The circuit leadership team, appointed by the circuit meeting, is responsible for acting on behalf of the of the circuit meeting at other times. The leadership team meets at least six times a year. The circuit meeting retains responsibility for setting the mission priorities of the circuit, the overall strategy to deliver these priorities, the invitation of ministers, the oversight of local churches, the admission of people to the office of Local Preacher, and decisions on formal explorations of call to ministry and candidates to the ordained ministry.

The leadership team is assisted in the task of financial oversight by the Circuit Treasurer.

The Methodist church appoints a minister to be the Superintendent Minister of the circuit, whose duties are set out in Standing Orders of the Church.

Pay and remuneration

Stipends and allowances for presbyters and deacons (collectively ministers) are set annually by the Methodist Conference and the Circuit is responsible for meeting those costs for all ministers appointed by the Conference to the Circuit.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Circuit Meeting to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the Charity and of the surplus or deficit of the Charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Circuit Meeting has: - selected suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently - made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent - stated whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements - prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis The Circuit Meeting is responsible for keeping records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with applicable regulations. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS

The Circuit Accountants are PM&M Financial Planning, Greenbank Technology Park, New Century House, Blackburn BB1 5QB

ON BEHALF OF THE CIRCUIT MEETING



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Rev Phil Gough, Acting Superintendent Minister

28th June 2025

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Date

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2024

	Notes to the accounts	Santander + CFB General Fund (Unrestricted) £	TMCP 9034 & 21421 Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Arc Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023-24 £	Total 2022-23 £
Income								
1 Donations and legacies		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 Income from monetary investments		2,078	19,041	-	290	215	21,624	15,108
3 Income from investment properties		19,295	-	-	-	-	19,295	14,742
4 Assessments on Churches		194,758	-	-	-	-	194,758	198,002
5 Capital receipts		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6 Grants received		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7 Other charitable income		25,291	-	-	-	-	25,291	29,999
8 Total income		241,422	19,041	-	290	215	260,968	257,851
Expenditure								
9 Grants and donations		-	-	-	-	-	-	25,000
10 Salaries and associated costs		192,085	-	-	-	-	192,085	193,661
11 Property maintenance		13,730	-	-	-	-	13,730	22,548
12 Insurance, utilities etc		16,453	-	-	-	-	16,453	14,879
13 District Assessment and Levy		54,223	14,381	-	-	-	68,604	71,556
14 Depreciation		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 Office expenses		1,183	-	-	-	-	1,183	3,963
16 Other outgoings		52,845	1,132	-	15	15	54,007	12,908
17 Total charitable expenditure		330,519	15,513	-	15	15	346,062	344,515
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		-	6,699	-	-	3,392	10,091	6,447
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties		(6,000)	-	-	-	-	(6,000)	-
20 Net income/(expenditure)		(95,097)	10,227	-	275	3,592	(81,003)	(80,217)
21 Transfers between funds		62,515	(58,153)	-	(13)	(4,349)	-	-
22 Other gains/(losses)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
23 Net movement in funds		(32,582)	(47,926)	-	262	(757)	(81,003)	(80,217)
24 Total funds brought forward		2,379,301	390,927	-	5,365	2,558	2,778,151	2,858,368
25 Total funds carried forward		2,346,719	343,001	-	5,627	1,801	2,697,148	2,778,151

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024

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Notes to the
Accounts

General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2023/24	Totals 2022/23
£	£	£	£	£	£	£

Fixed Assets

Circuit Manses & Equipment		2,280,000				2,280,000	2,286,000	R
Investment properties		-			-	-	-	R
Investments		-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total fixed assets		2,280,000	-	-	-	2,280,000	2,286,000	

Current Assets

Debtors		-	-	-	-	-	38,894	S
Loans by the Circuit		-	-	-	-	-	-	
Investments with TMCP		-	343,001	-	5,627	1,801	402,221	T
Central Finance Board Deposits		54,124	-	-	-	54,124	25,409	
Cash at Bank and in hand		26,627	-	-	-	26,627	29,838	
Total current assets		80,751	343,001	-	5,627	1,801	496,362	

Current liabilities

Creditors (due in under 1 year)		14,032	-	-	-	-	4,211	U
Grants payable within 2024-25		-	-	-	-	-	-	V
Total current liabilities		14,032	-	-	-	-	4,211	
Net current assets/liabilities		66,719	343,001	-	5,627	1,801	492,151	

Total assets less current liabilities		2,346,719	343,001	-	5,627	1,801	2,697,148	2,778,151
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Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)								
Grants payable after 2024-25		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Loans to the Circuit		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net assets		2,346,719	343,001	-	5,627	1,801	2,697,148	2,778,151

Funds of the Circuit

General Fund (Unrestricted)		2,346,719				2,346,719	2,375,930	
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			343,001			343,001	390,927	W
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)				-		-	-	
Total Unrestricted Funds						2,689,720	2,766,857	
Restricted Funds					5,627	5,627	5,286	
Endowment Funds						1,801	6,008	
Total Funds		2,346,719	343,001	-	5,627	1,801	2,697,148	2,778,151

Kate Prescott

Signed

Katherine Prescott
Circuit Treasurer



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name
West Pennine Moors Methodist Circuit

On accounts for the year
ended

31 August 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1132674

Set out on pages

1-7

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/08/2024.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the 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

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- 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:

Date:

30/06/2025

Name:

Dean Rodgers

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

ICAEW

Address:

PM+M Solutions for Business LLP

New Century House, Greenbank Technology Park, Challenge Way

Blackburn, Lancashire BB1 5QB

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.