

Cockerton Methodist Church, Darlington  
Registered No: 1132763

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNT  
Year Ended 31/08/2023

Address: Cockerton Green, Darlington, County Durham, DL3 9EG

Phone: Circuit Office: 01325 282491

Independent Examiner: Jan Sams

Public benefit:

Cockerton Methodist Church has a seven-day a week Christian ministry to the West and North West Darlington neighbourhoods. The premises are used intensively for a wide range of activities with all ages. All activities are open to the whole community.

Overview of the year:

Because of Covid 19 some of the church members have still not returned. The Pastoral and Leadership team kept in touch with members and friends and helped in many ways including shopping, getting medicines and offering listening and prayer support.

Structures:

Cockerton Methodist Church is part of Darlington and Teesdale Methodist Circuit, which includes Town and Rural churches in the Darlington and Teesdale area plus a house group. It is governed by a Church Council meeting three times per year, plus a General Church Meeting at which church members are eligible to vote and all others may attend. Representatives of our Church Council also attend the Circuit Meetings which convene three times per year.

Detailed work on property and finance is carried out by the relevant committees which report to the Church Council. The day-to-day running of the church is through the regular Stewards/Leadership Team meetings which reports to the Church Council.

This is the established pattern set out in the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church, approved by the annual Methodist Conference, under the Deed of Union, 1932.

Trustees of the registered charity from the date of registration to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 Trustees are appointed by the General Church Meeting and the Church Council. On induction, new trustees receive a copy of the booklet "The Essential Trustee – An Introduction" and the latest Church Council minutes, plus verbal instruction as necessary. They sign a declaration of eligibility.

Decisions are made by the Church Council as the managing trustees, on the basis of a majority vote and as defined in the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church.

#### Activities:

Our premises are a valued resource for the wider Methodist Circuit and District. Cockerton Methodist Church supports all ages with various groups for friendship, support, fellowship and instruction, meeting on a weekly or fortnightly basis including house-group fellowships catering for the needs of family and friends

Our work with pre-school children and parents/carers is carried out one day a week. This provides the children, parents/carers with social interaction. The premises are also used by the PCT (Primary Care Trust) for a Baby Clinic which dovetails into our work with pre-school children.

Girls Brigades groups 5+ meet one evening a week on the site. The Girls' Brigade is particularly numerous.

The church supports a Ladies Group and the Wesley Guild. The Ladies Group meets weekly and on alternate weeks becomes the Cockerton Ladies' Choir. The choir has a good reputation in the region and performs many times a year in various venues. The Wesley Guild is a long-standing group that invites speakers on a fortnightly basis.

On a monthly basis the church provides a lunch for elderly local residents. This is proving to be a time of great fellowship for those who come as well as those church volunteers who prepare, serve and wash up.

The church has a variety of worship services which cater for various preferences and age groups. Baptisms, weddings and funerals are part of the ministry of the church to the wider community. External groups that use our premises for their meetings include: Council Ward Surgeries, Pilates classes, and the PCT. The Cockerton Silver Band usually holds a concert annually in the church, raising funds for church-identified charities, the Band's own funds and for the church. These are highly popular, drawing people from the town and beyond.

Our pastoral system engages Pastoral Visitors and group leaders who are responsible for coming alongside the membership of the church, some of whom are infirm and in residential care homes.

#### Performance / achievements over the last year:

Cockerton Methodist Church continues its work alongside Presbyters, Circuit Staff and Community Development Worker to meet the needs of its members and wider community. Closer links to the rest of the Darlington and Teesdale Methodist Circuit continue to be fostered.

The Community Development Worker continues to work closely with our own pastoral team to ensure best practice and provide services to Care Homes and home communions. Cockerton continue to support Circuit and Darlington Area Churches' Youth Ministry.

Cockerton Methodist Church has continued to provide valuable outreach to the local community through weddings, funerals and baptisms.

The church family enjoyed sharing events such as harvest thanksgiving and our Anniversary. Christmas services were also enjoyed by the community as well as ecumenical Lent and Easter gatherings.

A team continues to supply catering for the funerals of church members and this is very much appreciated.

Church members continue to support special appeals both locally and abroad and members continue to supply food for the Food Bank operated from St Mary's Church hall as ecumenical outreach. They also help with the distributing the goods.

#### Aims and objectives for the coming year

To continue to offer support to our members and friends and to continue to evaluate what we are doing to meet the needs of our church and wider community.

To continue to support the Presbyters and the Community Development Worker.

To provide varied, relevant and inclusive worship.

To continue to develop our work with young people and their families.

To encourage deeper discipleship of the members of the church.

To continue active support of the wider Circuit and of voluntary and charitable work around the UK and beyond.

To nurture and encourage new Christians.

To ensure that our pastoral care is as effective as possible.

To support the Circuit Vision initiative and to welcome and support new clergy in our church community.

To seek appropriate ways to engage with our community.

To support the Leadership Team who are working to uphold the day-to-day running of the church.

#### Safeguarding Policy

The Safeguarding Policy is made known to all group leaders and helpers and user groups. It is displayed on the notice boards and kept up to date.

The list of DBS-checked helpers is kept constantly updated as are the safeguarding records.

#### GDPR

The GDPR policies that Cockerton Methodist Church adheres to are overseen by the Leadership Team and the Church Council and are made available for public viewing.

#### Health and Safety

The premises are regularly checked for Health and Safety purposes by our own Health and Safety Officer. Additionally they have been inspected by the Local Authority responsible officer and all recommendations have been acted upon.

#### Finance

The independently examined accounts are submitted with this Annual Report. As part of our comprehensive insurance policy, insurance is in place and is considered adequate to cover the range of known risks. In line with Charity Commission and Methodist Connexion guidelines we have a Reserve Policy and hold a Reserve Fund.

CHURCH  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS  
ACCOUNTS

THE METHODIST CHURCH  
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

COCKERTON METHODIST	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 August 2023

Circuit	Circuit no.	13/1
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1132763

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

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

Minister:

Rev C .Roberts

Church Stewards:

Miss A. Hunter

Mrs P.Skipsey
Mr B. Hilden
Mrs D. Pearson
Mrs G. Kane
Mrs S. Soulsby
Mrs P. Martin

Treasurer: Mr B. Cooper
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ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023			<div>COCKERTO N METHODIST Church</div>			
	SECTION A		Unre strict ed Fund s	Res trict ed Fund s	Tot als this yea r	Tot als last yea r
			£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	No te				
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		37,6 66		37, 666	48, 159
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		569	909	1,4 78	124
a4	Lettings		2,59 2		2,5 92	1,6 24

a5	Other receipts		21,2 59	36	21, 295		13, 922
a6	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>62,0 86</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>63, 031</b>	<b>( a 7 )</b>	<b>63, 829</b>

	<b>SECTION B</b>						
b1	<b>PAYMENTS</b>						
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		43,0 00		<b>43, 000</b>		43, 000
b3	Donations		1,40 0		<b>1,4 00</b>		1,5 00
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		5,91 4		<b>5,9 14</b>		2,6 78
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		5,99 2		<b>5,9 92</b>		5,5 03
b6							
b7	Other payments		8,00 1		<b>8,0 01</b>		6,6 65
b8	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b>64,3 07</b>		<b>64, 307</b>	<b>( b 9 )</b>	<b>59, 346</b>

	<b>SECTION C</b>						
c1	<b>NET RECEIPTS/P AYMENTS FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>(a 6- b8 )</b>	(2,22 1)	945	<b>(1,2 76)</b>		4,4 83
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		64,5 66	33, 669	<b>98, 235</b>	<b>( c 6 )</b>	93, 752
c3	<b>Sub total</b>	<b>(c 1+</b>	62,3 45	34, 614	<b>96, 959</b>		<b>98, 235</b>

		c2					
c4		Transfers and adjustments				( c 7 )	
c5		TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c 3+ c4 )	62,3 45	34, 614	96, 959	( c 8 )
						98, 235	( c 6 )

	SECTION D		
d	FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS  (these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)	£	£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year		
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations	3,7 04	2,2 74
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	3,7 04	2,2 74
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1+d2-d3)		





Summary of the Church accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Church Council/Church Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross income and expenditure totals of the Church. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the District and connected District Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Recei pts		Paym ents	Net Recei pts/ Paym ents	Adjust ments	Open ing balan ces	Closing balanc es
<b>Girls Brigade</b>	10,98 3		10,19 7	786		2,036	2,822
<b>Ladies Group</b>	859	#	1,120	(261)		1,071	810
<b>Ladies Group Choir</b>	40		171	(131)		199	68
<b>Lunch Club</b>	2,289		2,105	184		196	380
<b>Wesley Guild</b>	563		521	42		10	52
<b>Mothers &amp;Toddlers</b>	1,219		1,011	208		231	439
Sub total of Internal Organisation s funds	15,95 3		15,12 5	828		3,74 3	(e 1 1) 4,571
<b>Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)</b>	63,03 1	( a 7 )	64,30 7	( b 9 ) (1,276 )	(c 7)	98,2 35	(c 6) 96,95 9
<b>TOTAL CASH FUNDS</b>	78,98 4		79,43 2	(448)		101, 978	(x ) 101,5 30

<b>HELD BY CHURCH</b>							
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>					

**SECTION F**  
**STATEMENT OF**  
**ASSETS AND**  
**LIABILITIES**

CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2023	OPENING BALANCES		CLOSING BALANCES
Cash in hand			
Bank Current Account	53,426		44,471
Bank Deposit Account			
Central Finance Board	13,734		20,504
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	31,075		31,984
Other funds			
<b>SUB TOTAL - Church accounts</b>	<b>98,235</b>	(c 6)	<b>96,959</b>
Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	<b>3,743</b>	(e 1 1)	<b>4,571</b>
<b>TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH</b>	<b>101,978</b>	(x )	<b>101,530</b>

**SECTION G****OTHER ASSETS and  
LIABILITIES**

	At 1 Septe mber 2022	At 31 August 2023
Investments (include Endowments)		
Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	2,218, 962	2,443, 105
Other Assets		
Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance  
Board

f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist  
Church Purposes

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

Name of Church

.....  
..... No.....

**Cockerton  
Methodist Church**

## **Declarations and Scrutiny**

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August  
2023 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all  
funds under the control of the Church trustees.

Signature of treasurer

.....

... Date.....

B. Cooper

Name and address of treasurer

.....

.....

Brian  
Cooper

14 Pentland Grove Darlington DL3 8BA

### **Presentation to the Church trustees**

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023  
were presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

.....

.....

Rev Tim  
Boocock

Name of the Chair of the meeting

..... Date

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Rev Tim  
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Methodist  
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### **Independent Examiner's Statement**

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

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

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

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

Signature of independent examiner

.....  
..... J. Sams

Name of independent examiner

.....  
..... Janet Sams

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

.....

Name of firm (where appropriate)

..... N/  
..... A



CHURCH  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS  
ACCOUNTS

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COCKERTON  
METHODIST

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

SECTION E

Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

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Name and address of treasurer

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Signature of independent examiner

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J. Sams

Name of independent examiner

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Janet Sams

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

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Name of firm (where appropriate)

.....  
.....

N/  
A

