

DURHAM AND DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1132827

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2009-11-20

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 7 Cragside
Witton Gilbert
Durham
DH7 6RZ

Phone 01913710366

Email susansmith0007@btinternet.com

Website www.durhamdeernessmethodist.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 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.

Activities: Religious Services, Bible Study and Prayer Groups, Children and Young People's Work, Lunch Clubs, Coffee Mornings

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Durham

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£315,113	£193,442	-	-
2024-08-31	£675,987	£203,263	£747,332	0
2023-08-31	£178,637	£173,352	-	-
2022-08-31	£184,455	£218,611	-	-
2021-08-31	£206,086	£183,328	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev John Archer Squares	Chair	2018-09-01
ALAN CROSS		
CAROLE ANN LOWRIE		2016-09-01
DEACON JANE SUSAN MIDDLETON		2012-10-01
DEACON RUTH MARION LACKENBY		2018-09-01
Dr FRANCIS EJIUGU NDAJI		2012-10-01
Dr Pauline Elizabeth Watson		2022-09-01
GWEN HENDERSON		
HELEN FORSTER		
Hilary Margaret Phillips		2022-09-01
JOAN SCOTT		
JOHN FAIRBAIRN		2012-10-01
JOHN SCOTT		2012-10-01
John Allen		2022-09-01
John Robert Fuller		2022-09-01
LINDA KIRBY		
LINDA SUSAN TEMPLER		
MABEL APPLEBY		
MALCOLM WADGE		
MARGARET ROSE LEWIS		
MARGARET WADGE		
MR W OFFLER		
Maureen Howatt		2023-12-05
PAUL HARRISON		2014-09-01
PETER ROBERT TEMPLER		
PETER WILLIAM HALL		
PROFESSOR MARK RICHARD WILSON		2013-09-24

Name	Role	Appointed
Paul Roberts		2022-09-01
Penny Bissell LLB Hons		
Peter McCutcheon		2022-09-01
REVEREND RAYMOND HAY		
Rev Brian John Gameson		2020-01-01
Rev Caroline Dick		
Rev Colin James Jackson		2016-09-01
Rev Fiona Weir		2022-09-01
Rev Graham John Peaden		2022-09-01
Rev Janet Patricia Jackson		2022-09-01
Rev Jean Hudson		2020-01-01
Rev Joanne Thorns		
Rev Paul Andrew Beetham		2019-09-01
Rev Susan Wigham		2023-09-01
STELLA POPE		2012-10-01
SUSAN HARRISON		2023-09-01
SUSAN SMITH		
Schalk Willem Wentzel Jacobus Van Der Sandt		2022-09-01
William McCutcheon Young		2022-09-01

Accounts

**DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST AUGUST 2025**

REGISTERED CHARITY

1132827

ROBSON LAIDLER ACCOUNTANTS LIMITED
Mains House
143 Front Street
Chester-le-Street
County Durham DH3 3AU

**DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

**INDEX TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2025**

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DURHAM & DEERNES VALLEY CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Status, Structure and Purpose

The Governing Instrument of the Circuit is contained in the Methodist Church Act 1976 (Schedule 2) and is detailed in volume 2 of the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church (Part 1 Deed of Union and Part 2 Model Trusts).

The Methodist Church is organised as a Connexion which is divided into Districts which, in turn, are sub-divided into Circuits. Each Circuit is made up of a group of Churches.

The Durham and Deerness Valley Methodist Circuit comprises 5 churches (with 9 buildings, two services in community owned buildings and about 440 members). It is responsible for payment of stipends and associated costs to ministers and lay workers and also provision of manse to accommodate 3.0 ministers. Two part time staff, one supernumerary and a PHD student. The Supernumerary minister is complimenting the Superintendent's role while he acts as District Chair this year. The PHD student is serving as a .49 worker in a section that can afford this percentage of a minister. The funding of the Circuit is provided by the churches. Indeed the first charge on the general fund of each church is the sum required to fund the Circuit. In a similar way the Circuit is levied for District and Methodist Church funds. The churches of a Circuit are charities in their own right.

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, deacons and probationers 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 and in ecumenical work in the area including, where appropriate, the support of ecumenical Housing Associations. Since every member in the Circuit is as such a member of the Methodist Missionary Society, the purposes of the Circuit include the promotion of understanding of the work of the Society to the end that every member may share in world mission.

The Circuit is a public benefit entity. The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Principal Address:

Circuit Office
Elvet Methodist Church
8 Old Elvet
Durham
DH1 3HL

Independent Examiner:

Robson Laidler Accountants Limited
Mains House
Chester-le-Street
County Durham DH3 3AU

Solicitors:

Swinburne Maddison
Venture House
Ayckley Heads Business Centre
Ayckley Heads
Durham
DH1 5TS

Clearing Bank:

Lloyds TSB Bank plc
6 Market Place
Durham DH1 3NB

DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

In accordance with Methodist Conference requirements the following Trustees were appointed for the period 1st September 2024 to 31st August 2025

Ex-officio	Stationed or Appointed to the Circuit by the Methodist Conference
	Rev John Squares MDiv, BA (Circuit Superintendent)
	Rev Colin Jackson MA, BSc, CTM
	Deacon Ruth Lackenby BSC, PGCE, DTM
	Rev Graham Peaden (WA)
	Rev. Susan Wigham

Anglican Ministers authorised to serve by the Methodist Church

Rev Joanne Thorns
Rev Canon Caroline Dick

Appointed by Circuit Meeting

Four Circuit Stewards:	Paul Harrison (treasurer)
	Penny Bissell (staffing)
	John Fairbairn (property)
	Sue Harrison (Eco Champion)
Circuit Meeting Secretary:	Susan Smith
Local Preachers' Meeting Secretary:	William Offler

Additional persons elected by the Circuit Meeting

Circuit Finance Officer:	Peter Templer
Connexional Funds Treasurer:	Malcolm Wadge
Methodist Homes:	vacant
Circuit Missions Officer	vacant
Network:	vacant
JMA Secretary:	vacant
Action for Children Secretary:	vacant
Missions Secretary:	vacant
Quinquennial Inspections Secretary:	John Fairbairn
Temporary Property Steward	Maureen Howatt
Youth Work:	
Local Preachers:	Francis Proud, Margaret Wadge and Mark Wilson

**DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

Appointed by each of the 5 Local Churches

ONE Church Treasurer and ONE Church Steward.

Durham City Methodists	H Philips
All Saints Newton Hall LLP	A Cross
Durham North Methodists	M Wadge, S Pope
Durham Valley Methodists	P Hall, G Henderson
Durham City East Methodists	P Roberts, C Lowrie.

Other Representatives

ONE for each 50 members of each church or part thereof

DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2025

Part 1 - Financial Matters

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

Under the Trust Deed and legislation relating to Charities in England, the Trustees are required to prepare accounts for each financial year which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Trust and of the surplus or deficit for that year and which have been properly prepared from and are in agreement with the accounting records of the Trust and comply with relevant disclosure regulations. For the purpose of this all ex-officio and appointed members of the Circuit Meeting are Trustees.

In preparing those accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- * select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- * make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- * follow applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts, and
- * prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Trust will continue its activities.

The Trustees are required to act in accordance with the Trust Deed of the charity, within the framework of the Trust Law. They are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and so enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Risk review

The major risks to which the charity is exposed arise from a reducing membership, increased running costs and heavier workloads falling on fewer and fewer shoulders. We are developing plans to reverse this trend and increase membership. District wide policy is that we work to ensure every church is growing in ten years' time. Our Circuit may have a different shape with a different number of churches in a decade, but we will be working to mitigate the expressed risk and fitting into the District vision. The District has recently adopted a Risk Register and the Circuit will endeavor to use this model to fashion a more detailed understanding of risk

Reserves policy

Reserves should not be allowed to fall below a fixed amount whose value would be reviewed annually. This year the minimum reserve was fixed at £125,000. If funds fall below this figure the shortfall shall be made good by the Churches of the Circuit.

Financial Review

The results for the year show an increase in Unrestricted Funds of £56,406 (2024 – increase £3,417), in unrestricted funds), but this included a transfer from Restricted Funds of £50,000.

The remaining churches to be sold Langley Park and Witton Gilbert; were sold in 2025 – net proceeds were £90,297.

The Circuit now has three (ex manse) properties which are being rented out. This year we have made a net profit on the 3 houses of £27.9k.

Unrestricted funds closed the year on £280,037 Restricted funds have increased to £588,032.

The Circuit has sufficient cash in its unrestricted fund (£280,037 together with the expected Church assessments of £177,368) to meet the next year's expenditure.

We intend to monitor the situation regularly asking churches working together in four separate groupings to develop business plans. In simplest form the groupings need to add up the assessments from each church in the group together and discuss how we might use our resources to achieve collecting that total requirement.

DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2025

Part 2 – Review of the year's work

Circuit Vision Statement

The Durham and Deerness Valley Circuit of the Methodist Church seeks to be a close union of its individual Churches. Everyone connected with an individual Church should expect to feel that they are an important part of the Circuit family, and can expect the support of this family. Through our common faith in Christ we seek, in prayerful action, to share and spread the love of Jesus throughout the local and wider community.

Significant Developments during the Year

Durham City Methodists, Durham North Methodists, Durham City East Methodists and the Deerness Valley Methodists have been working as four churches on nine sites for some time. We also have an active Local Ecumenical church in Newton Hall. The City Centre churches have conducted a thorough review of their two properties and are seeking ways forward that allows one of them to be chosen for church purposes and the other let under a management lease or sold. Our depleting resource is the capacity to do all of the jobs required to manage the two sites. Newton Hall is in the last year of having its Anglican leader and priest. Our District Chair became President of Conference this year so our Superintendent inherited half of his District role. We have compensated by bringing in a reliable and wise retired minister to serve our City Centre pastorally. There is reason to celebrate the changes the churches have made, an increase in the number of people worshipping at any given service, creative decision making that has enabled the new churches to govern in a more streamlined way and hope about planting future ministries in the communities we serve, there are still structural worries to our system that have existed since we last reported. We still face many tired leaders have seen consolidation as a chance to sit down from service and though it is quite fine, the changes have not made it much easier to recruit the volume of leaders needed to run a church. We are still in a period of building relationships and in confidence both in our approach and in the capacity of congregants to lead. It is very difficult to manage change in churches and we are asking for a significant change in the culture of how we approach both our internal needs and the outward work of service to our communities.

Achievements during the Year

Our work continues in positive ways. The City Centre Church is seeing an increase in visitors, especially students from Durham University. We believe it is because we have been open about our stance on inclusivity, the environment, the reported interest in faith from this generation and our striving for the best possible Sunday experience.

The LEP, All Saints, Newton Hall is still offering a wonderful community work to families and users, employing a families worker that has revolutionised how we track and maintain attendees and Safeguarding Standards online. Their approach to Safer Recruitment has helped the entire Circuit to rethink the way we work. There is now an online system that we have bought into, developed by the Anglican church that is helping greatly. We can boast that our relationship with the Chinese Church in the city Centre is moving from strength. They meet at our site at Elvet and have been growing significantly. Their growth outpaces the western church's loss of members marginally. The cultural bridge building that is happening is significant.

The City Centre Churches, Durham City Methodists at Elvet and at North Rd are working in an active partnership. There is an active Mission Plan. It was decided at a Church Council that we could only manage one of the sites and a huge amount of work has happened with our mission team to try and determine how to move forward and which building matches our missional purposes best. At the same time a Women's Charity has shown interest in one of the sites. We are exploring a management lease that would give the charity a secure northern base and our Circuit significant income.

Church Without Walls continues. Church Without Walls has formed on our deacon's driveway and this is extending into online services and prayer walks. This ministry is now happening through a Monday evening Online service, a Friday Walkout bible study and church walk and more things in the pipeline. People attend the online event from as far away as Lincoln.

**DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2025**

Part 2 – Review of the year's work (continued)

Other initiatives continue to produce fruit from the labour:

Open The Book' – the re-telling of Bible stories in schools – takes place in Bearpark and continues to be fantastic ecumenical outreach.

Christmas Journey is well underway in two of our church groupings.

Our Ecumenical Partnership in All Saints, Newton Hall, is working well with its leadership and connecting to its local community. They are facing the retirement of their key Anglican leader. Meetings are happening to clarify their church vision and we await what the Anglican church offers in interim leadership.

Several schools visit our churches for Harvest, Christmas and Easter services. Some for the formal "Journey" ministries. Other's for rites of passage from the schools themselves. We are grateful for this contact.

The local foodbank hosted at our DCM Elvet Site has been a lifeline to many still suffering the effects of the economic pressures of high inflation in most sectors. Poverty is a real problem all over England but is more acute in the North East than in most other regions. We have seen an increase in homeless drop ins to the City Centre churches and have tried to supply warm clothes and occasional hot meals. Work with the Council to provide a night shelter in the Winter months collapsed but the need seems to have increased. Thinking and prayer about this growing concern is happening.

Our churches serve their local communities through coffee mornings, craft groups, activities for older members of society and regular visits to neighbouring care homes. Work continues to grow amongst local Care and Nursing Homes with monthly midweek services held at Lindisfarne, Newton Hall, Melbury Court, Durham, Orchard House, Brandon and Springfield, West Rainton. These services are greatly appreciated by the residents.

We have established a Circuit policy to declare a Climate Emergency and churches are responding to change its practices to reduce our carbon footprint and to increase works like recycling drop off points for difficult to recycle items like pill blister packs. Our eco awareness is increasing and our commitment to make a difference is being supported by real action. The Circuit is the first in the area to achieve a Circuit Award for this initiative.

Many church buildings are used on a regular basis for community activities, by outside agencies e.g. probation services , support for refugees and self-help groups.

Ministerial and lay members of the Circuit have continued to under-go the revised Safeguarding training.

**DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2025**

Significant Changes

We are working as four churches on different sites and an additional LEP. This will help us to come in line with Connexional direction setting to trim the number of trustee bodies we offer. We are taking it slow in making final decisions about the best way to function to suit the needs in each particular context.

Events relating to these changes

Our Circuit Meeting appointed a Mission Team called the Open Doors Team commissioned to help each group to determine a Mission Plan. This work is supported by agreement by the District Mission Enabler. Once Mission Plans are formed, hopes and dreams recorded, Business Plans to make the mission a reality will shortly follow.

Likely developments in the coming year

Four of our church buildings are sold. Some money from these sales will be ring-fenced for mission opportunities in the areas where the buildings were sacrificed. Work between the churches and the Open Doors team to identify areas for missional investment continues.

Contributions of volunteers

All the work in the Circuit, apart from that of appointed ministers and lay workers, is on a voluntary basis, and includes that of Circuit and church officers, Commissioned Lay Persons, Local Preachers and Worship Leaders, members and secretaries of all the Circuit committees, and those assisting in the running of children's and young people's work.

Relationship with related parties and other charities

There are appointed Circuit secretaries and treasurers for Connexional funds, Methodist Homes and Action for Children. Ecumenical links in youth work are developing in some areas of the Circuit, and several churches ran holiday clubs. Authorised minister status has been granted by Conference to the three clergy of the Durham North Area Team of the Anglican Church. The Chinese Church based at Elvet church has become well established. Many churches are involved in Churches Together, Area Action Partnerships and organising events in the local communities.

Conclusion

The mission of the Circuit continues through the leadership of our dedicated ministers and lay appointees. The work of volunteers will continue to become increasingly important as we seek to enhance our varied outreach and service to the local communities of our Circuit.

P. Bissell

Trustee

M. E. Newa

Trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF
DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY
METHODIST CIRCUIT**

I report on the accounts of the Durham & Deerness Valley Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2025, which are set out on pages 10 to 14.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The Circuits Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

The Circuits Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the business and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

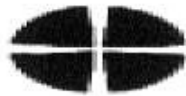
(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

J. Holbrook

John Holbrook FCCA
Robson Laidler Accountants Limited
Mains House
143 Front Street
Chester le Street
Co Durham
DH3 3AU

12/02/2026

Date



**CIRCUIT
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
ACCOUNTS**

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS**

Durham and Deerness Valley	Circuit
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2025

	Circuit no	13/11
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Registered Charity - Registration number

1132827

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 2655 of 2007)

Ministers:

The Revd John Squares (Superintendent Minister)
The Revd. Fiona Weir Deacon Ruth Lackenby

Circuit Stewards:

Penny Bissell
John Fairbairn
blank

Treasurer:

blank

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR upto 31st Aug. 2025

Durham and Deerness Valley

Circuit

SECTION A		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	TOTAL THIS YEAR	TOTAL LAST YEAR
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS					
a2	Assessment/Share	150,272			150,272	147,776
a3	Capital receipts	0	90,297		90,297	455,206
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment	8,121	24,968		33,089	24,435
a5	Lettings - buildings being rented	27,968			27,968	22,205
a6	Other receipts	13,487	0	0	13,487	26,365
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS	199,848	115,265	0	315,113 (a8)	675,987

SECTION B						
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and	161,048	0		161,048	150,993
b3	Manse Costs	13,400			13,400	11,873
b4	Administration etc	10,056			10,056	13,461
b5	District Assessment	0	0		0	1,489
b6	Grants & donations		0		0	
b7						
b8	Other payments and Manse being sold	8,938	0	0	8,938	25,447
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS	193,442	0	0	193,442 (b9)	203,263

SECTION C						
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR	(a7-b8)	6,406	115,265	0	121,671
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		223,631	522,767	934	747,332 (c6)
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	230,037	638,032	934	869,003
c4	Transfers and adjustments		50,000	(50,000)		(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	280,037	588,032	934	869,003 (c8)

SECTION D					
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS					
d	(these amounts should not be included in total receipts/payments above)				
d1	Balance brought forward from last year				
d2	Offerings/Gifts - rec'd for ext. organisations District Assessment			42,840	42,840
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to ext. organisations District Assessment				0
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)			42840	42,840

SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATION REPORTING TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING**SECTION E** Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete

Summary of the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Circuit 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 total income and expenditure of the Circuit. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts. Contact Resourcing Mission Office, Manchester tel: 0161 236 5194. Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the Circuit and its Internal Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS		Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1	Circuit Youth	0		0		291	291
e2				0			0
e3				0			0
e4				0			0
e5				0			0
e6				0			0
e7				0			0
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	0	0	0	0	291 (e11)	291 (e12)
e9	Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	315,113 (a8)	193,442 (b9)	121,671	0 (c7)	747,332 (c6)	869,003 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	315,113	193,442	121,671	0	747,623 (x)	869,294 (y)

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward

**TOTAL
RECEIPTS**

**TOTAL
PAYMENTS**

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2025**

f1	Cash in hand
f2	Bank Current Account
f3	Conventional Manses
f4	Central Finance Board
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
f6	Other funds (CAF & Chapel Aid)
f7	SUB TOTAL OF CASH FUNDS HELD BY
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT

OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
32,053	45,304
0	0
182,512	225,668
522,767	588,031
10,000	10,000
747,332 (e6)	869,003 (e8)
291 (e11)	291 (e12)
747,623 (x)	869,294 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

g1	Investments (include Endowments)
g2	Land and Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)
g3	Other Assets - loans by the Circuit
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end
g5	Other Liabilities

At 14 November 2024	At 14 November 2025
2,519,077	2,624,885
33,400	15,800

DECLARATIONS

Circuit Finance Officer

I confirm that I have prepared the accounts from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit Meeting

Signature of
Treasurer

Peter Templer

Date

02/02/26

Name

Peter Templer

Address

11 Leyland Close, Bowburn, Durham DH6 5DD

Presentation to the Circuit Meeting for approval.

I confirm that the Accounts have been presented to the Circuit Meeting on
and were approved

04/12/25

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

John Squares

Name of the Chair of the meeting

Rev. John Squares

Date

Feb 6th 2026

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Durham & Deerness Valley

Circuit

This Report is on the Church Accounts for the year ended 31st August

2025

carried out under Section 43 of the Charities Act 1993, or in Scotland Section 11 of the charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) or under Regulation 10 (1)(d) of The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (the 2006 Accounts Regulations) and that an independent examination is needed

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act and section 44(1) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission and is in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 41 of the 1993 Act and Section 44 (1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act and Section 44(1)(b) of the 2005 Act and Regulation (of the 2006 Regulations)

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name

JOHN HOLBROOK

Signature

J. Munn

Relevant Professional qualification or

FCCA

Address

MAINS HOUSE, 143 FRONT STREET, CHESTER-LE-STREET,
COUNTY DURHAM, DH3 3AN

Date

12/02/2026

Accounts

**DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST AUGUST 2024**

REGISTERED CHARITY

1132827

ROBSON LAIDLER ACCOUNTANTS LIMITED

**Accountants
Mains House
143 Front Street
Chester-le-Street
County Durham DH3 3AU**

**DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

**INDEX TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2024**

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Report of the Auditors	9
Standard Form of Accounts	10 -14

DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Status, Structure and Purpose

The Governing Instrument of the Circuit is contained in the Methodist Church Act 1976 (Schedule 2) and is detailed in volume 2 of the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church (Part 1 Deed of Union and Part 2 Model Trusts).

The Methodist Church is organized as a Connexion which is divided into Districts which, in turn, are sub-divided into Circuits. Each Circuit is made up of a group of Churches.

The Durham and Deerness Valley Methodist Circuit comprises 5 churches (with 14 buildings and about 550 members). It is responsible for payment of stipends and associated costs to ministers and lay workers and also provision of manse to accommodate 3.5 ministers. The funding of the Circuit is provided by the churches. Indeed the first charge on the general fund of each church is the sum required to fund the Circuit. In a similar way the Circuit is levied for District and Methodist Church funds. The churches of a Circuit are charities in their own right.

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, deacons and probationers 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 and in ecumenical work in the area including, where appropriate, the support of ecumenical Housing Associations. Since every member in the Circuit is as such a member of the Methodist Missionary Society, the purposes of the Circuit include the promotion of understanding of the work of the Society to the end that every member may share in world mission.

The Circuit is a public benefit entity. The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Principal Address:

Circuit Office
Elvet Methodist Church
8 Old Elvet
Durham
DH1 3HL

Auditor:

Robson Laidler Accountants Limited
Accountants
Mains House
Chester-le-Street
County Durham DH3 3AU

Solicitors:

Swinburne Maddison
Venture House
Ayckley Heads Business Centre
Ayckley Heads
Durham
DH1 5TS

Clearing Bank:

Lloyds TSB Bank plc
6 Market Place
Durham DH1 3NB

DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

In accordance with Methodist Conference requirements the following Trustees were appointed for the period 1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024

Ex-officio	Stationed or Appointed to the Circuit by the Methodist Conference
	Rev John Squares MDiv, BA (Circuit Superintendent)
	Rev Colin Jackson MA, BSc, CTM
	Deacon Ruth Lackenby BSC, PGCE, DTM
	Rev Graham Peaden (WA)
	Rev. Susan Wigham

Anglican Ministers authorised to serve by the Methodist Church

Rev Joanne Thorns
Rev Canon Caroline Dick

Appointed by Circuit Meeting

FOUR Circuit Stewards:	Paul Harrison (treasurer)
	Penny Bissell (staffing)
	John Fairbairn (property)
	Sue Harrison (Eco Champion)

Circuit Meeting Secretary:	Susan Smith
Local Preachers' Meeting Secretary:	William Offler

Additional persons elected by the Circuit Meeting

Circuit Finance Officer:	Peter Templer
Connexional Funds Treasurer:	Malcolm Wadge
Methodist Homes:	vacant
Circuit Missions Officer	vacant
Network:	vacant
JMA Secretary:	vacant
Action for Children Secretary:	vacant
Missions Secretary:	vacant
Quinquennial Inspections Secretary:	John Fairbairn
Temporary Property Steward	Maureen Howatt
Youth Work:	
Local Preachers:	Francis Proud, Margaret Wadge and Mark Wilson

**DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

Appointed by each of the 5 Local Churches

ONE Church Treasurer and ONE Church Steward.

Durham City Methodists H Philips

All Saints Newton Hall LLP A Cross

Durham North Methodists M Wadge, S Pope

Durham Valley Methodists P Hall, G Henderson

Durham City East Methodists P Roberts, C Lowrie.

Other Representatives

ONE for each 50 members of each church or part thereof

DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2024

Part 1 - Financial Matters

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

Under the Trust Deed and legislation relating to Charities in England, the Trustees are required to prepare accounts for each financial year which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Trust and of the surplus or deficit for that year and which have been properly prepared from and are in agreement with the accounting records of the Trust and comply with relevant disclosure regulations. For the purpose of this all ex-officio and appointed members of the Circuit Meeting are Trustees.

In preparing those accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- * select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- * make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- * follow applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts, and
- * prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Trust will continue its activities.

The Trustees are required to act in accordance with the Trust Deed of the charity, within the framework of the Trust Law. They are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and so enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Risk review

The major risks to which the charity is exposed arise from a reducing membership, increased running costs and heavier workloads falling on fewer and fewer shoulders. We are developing plans to reverse this trend and increase membership. District wide policy is that we work to ensure every church is growing in ten years' time. Our Circuit may have a different shape with a different number of churches in a decade, but we will be working to mitigate the expressed risk and fitting into the District vision.

Reserves policy

Reserves should not be allowed to fall below a fixed amount whose value would be reviewed annually. This year the minimum reserve was fixed at £125,000. If funds fall below this figure the shortfall shall be made good by the Churches of the Circuit.

Financial Review

The results for the year show an increase in Unrestricted Funds of £3,417 (2023 – increase £5,098), in unrestricted funds). Three of the five churches planned to be sold, have now been sold. Esh Winning, Bowburn and New Brancepeth – net proceeds were £455,206. We hope to sell the two remaining churches in 2025

. The Circuit now has three (ex manse) properties which are being rented out. This year we have made a net profit on the 3 houses of £22.2k

Unrestricted funds closed the year on £223,631 Restricted funds have increased to 522,767.

The Circuit has sufficient cash in its unrestricted fund (£223,631) together with the expected Church assessments of £200,106) to meet the next year's expenditure.

We intend to monitor the situation regularly asking churches working together in four separate groupings to develop business plans. In simplest form the groupings need to add up the assessments from each church in the group together and discuss how we might use our resources to achieve collecting that total requirement.

DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2024

Part 2 – Review of the year's work

Circuit Vision Statement

The Durham and Deerness Valley Circuit of the Methodist Church seeks to be a close union of its individual Churches. Everyone connected with an individual Church should expect to feel that they are an important part of the Circuit family, and can expect the support of this family. Through our common faith in Christ we seek, in prayerful action, to share and spread the love of Jesus throughout the local and wider community.

Significant Developments during the Year

The Circuit leadership team initiated a review of how we best manage our Circuit and align our ministers coming out of Covid 19 restrictions with the aim of improving the systemic difficulties of too many jobs falling on too few shoulders. Four churches now work together managing different sites: Durham City Methodists, Durham North Methodists, Durham City East Methodists and the Deerness Valley Methodists. We also have an active Local Ecumenical church in Newton Hall. There is reason to celebrate the changes the churches have made, an increase in the number of people worshipping at any given service, creative decision making that has enabled the new churches to govern in a more streamlined way and hope about planting future ministries in the communities we serve, there are still structural worries to our system that have existed since we last reported. We still face many tired leaders have seen consolidation as a chance to sit down from service and though it is quite fine, the changes have not made it much easier to recruit the volume of leaders needed to run a church. We are still in a period of building relationships and in confidence both in our approach and in the capacity of congregants to lead. It is very difficult to manage change in churches and we are asking for a significant change in the culture of how we approach both our internal needs and the outward work of service to our communities.

Achievements during the Year

Since becoming one church on different sites, a great deal of good can be recorded. So too can frustrations. Each group has taken its own path forward. As a Circuit we developed a group of mission minded leaders to help the churches develop a Mission Plan of its own design. This group is our Open Doors team and they have reported that each new church is in the stage it is currently at. Some are close to articulating a mission plan, others are still dreaming dreams.. Once these plans are produced, how we finance the Mission will be determined by solid business plans. In one of our churches a small group has been established to help construct the Mission Plan with the intention to carry on giving measurable steps to take to meet this plan.

We have sold: Witton Gilbert, Esh Winning, New Brancepeth and Bowburn's buildings. Except for New Brancepeth, an alternative form of presence is happening on behalf of the Methodist church in each of these areas in rented premises or in one case, a pub. We still seek to sell Langley Moor.

The churches working as one church on different sites are now called the Deerness Valley Methodists and Durham North Methodists that are working both together on Sundays and supporting initiatives mid week in some of the communities. Sunday Worship rotates to the retained buildings and newly rented premises. Both have concentrated on Messy Church as their mission opportunity while maintaining community offerings like Coffee mornings and renting their space to various groups.

The Durham City East Methodists were formerly Pitlington, Bowburn and Carville Methodist churches. As mentioned earlier, Bowburn is now out of its premises and the newly formed church supports a Thursday service in a village hall there. The people of Pitlington hold a service on a Tuesday. Carrville is the main Sunday Hub. We additionally boast an exciting partnership with a Dance School in a redundant Church Building where the contract with the school retains two hours of work for the church in Sherburn Hill. The East church has made wonderful progress sharing the Gospel in schools through the Open The Book programme. Just a few weeks ago a new school reached out to the church to see if we could come to them.

The City Centre Church has decided it can only manage one building going forward. It is seeking partnerships for managing the building that will become redundant after a decision is made. A feasibility study is well underway which will propose how the two sites might become more vibrant for church and community purposes going forward. Tough decisions are soon to be made.

The LEP, All Saints, Newton Hall is still offering a wonderful community work to families and users, employing a families worker that has revolutionised how we track and maintain attendees and Safeguarding Standards online. Their approach to Safer Recruitment is helping the entire Circuit to rethink the way we work.

**DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2024**

Part 2 – Review of the year's work (continued)

The City Centre Churches, Durham City Methodists at Elvet and at North Rd are working in an active partnership. They are holding meetings this weekend and in a month's time to attempt to put a Mission Plan to paper and a ton of good work has happened through the Circuit Open Doors team to make this viable.

Church Without Walls continues. Church Without Walls has formed on our deacon's driveway and this is extending into online services and prayer walks. This ministry is now happening through a Monday evening Online service, a Friday Walkout bible study and church walk and more things in the pipeline. People attend the online event from as far away as Lincoln.

Other initiatives continue to produce fruit from the labour:

Open The Book' – the re-telling of Bible stories in schools – takes place in Bearpark and continues to be fantastic eccumenical outreach.

Christmas Journey is well underway in two of our church groupings.

Our Ecumenical Partnership in All Saints, Newton Hall, is working well with its leadership and connecting to its local community. It was the chosen venue for the President's service during a January visit to our Circuit.

Several schools visit our churches for Harvest, Christmas and Easter services. It is hoped these links will be renewed this year.

The local foodbank hosted at our DCM Elvet Site has been a lifeline to many still suffering the effects of the economic pressures of high inflation in most sectors. Poverty is a real problem all over England but is more accute in the North East than in most other regions.

Our churches serve their local communities through coffee mornings, craft groups, activities for older members of society and regular visits to neighbouring care homes. Work continues to grow amongst local Care and Nursing Homes with monthly midweek services held at Lindisfarne, Newton Hall, Melbury Court, Durham, Orchard House, Brandon and Springfield, West Rainton. These services are greatly appreciated by the residents. Covid restrictions has limited what is possible here but visitation has resumed if not formal services..

We have established a Circuit policy to declare a Climate Emergency and churches are responding to change its practices to reduce our carbon footprint and to increase works like recycling droipoff points for difficult to recycle items like pill blister packs. Our eco awareness is increasing and our commitment to make a difference is being supported by real action. The Circuit is the first in the area to achive a Circuit Award for this initiative.

Many church buildings are used on a regular basis for community activities, by outside agencies e.g. probation services , support for refugees and self-help groups. Covid restrictions have eased but our ability to manage multiple bookings is not at previous levels..

Ministerial and lay members of the Circuit have continued to under-go the revised Safeguarding training.

**DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2024**

Significant Changes

We are working as four churches on different sites and an additional LEP. This will help us to come in line with Connexional direction setting to trim the number of trustee bodies we offer. We are taking it slow in making final decisions about the best way to function to suit the needs in each particular context.

Events relating to these changes

Our Circuit Meeting appointed a Mission Team called the Open Doors Team commissioned to help each group to determine a Mission Plan. This work is supported by agreement by the District Mission Enabler. Once Mission Plans are formed, hopes and dreams recorded, Business Plans to make the mission a reality will shortly follow.

Likely developments in the coming year

Three of our church buildings are sold. Some money from these sales will be ringfenced for mission opportunities in the areas where the buildings were sacrificed. We are looking to develop a Pioneering/Church Planting internship and a proof of concept is in the works supported by the District with a proposed project in Sherburn Hill.

Contributions of volunteers

All the work in the Circuit, apart from that of appointed ministers and lay workers, is on a voluntary basis, and includes that of Circuit and church officers, Commissioned Lay Persons, Local Preachers and Worship Leaders, members and secretaries of all the Circuit committees, and those assisting in the running of children's and young people's work.

Relationship with related parties and other charities

There are appointed Circuit secretaries and treasurers for Connexional funds, Methodist Homes and Action for Children. Ecumenical links in youth work are developing in some areas of the Circuit, and several churches ran holiday clubs. Authorised minister status has been granted by Conference to the three clergy of the Durham North Area Team of the Anglican Church. The Chinese Church based at Elvet church has become well established. Many churches are involved in Churches Together, Area Action Partnerships and organising events in the local communities.

Conclusion

The mission of the Circuit continues through the leadership of our dedicated ministers and lay appointees. The work of volunteers will continue to become increasingly important as we seek to enhance our varied outreach and service to the local communities of our Circuit.

 Revd Les Nevill

Trustee



Trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF
DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY
METHODIST CIRCUIT**

I report on the accounts of the Durham & Deerness Valley Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2024, which are set out on pages 10 to 14.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The Circuits Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

The Circuits Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the business and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


.....

John Holbrook FCCA
Accountant
Robson Laidler Accountants Limited
Mains House
143 Front Street
Chester le Street
Co Durham
DH3 3AU


.....
Date



**CIRCUIT
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
ACCOUNTS**

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Durham and Deerness Valley	Circuit
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 AUGUST 2024

	Circuit no	13/11
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Registered Charity - Registration number

1132827

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 2655 of 2007)

Ministers:

The Revd John Squares (Superintendent Minister)
The Revd Colin Jackson
The Revd. Fiona Weir
Deacon Ruth Lackenby

Circuit Stewards:

Penny Bissell
John Fairbairn
blank

Treasurer:

blank

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR upto 31 Aug 2024
Durham and Deerness Valley
Circuit

SECTION A		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	TOTAL THIS YEAR	TOTAL LAST YEAR
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS					
a2	Assessment/Share	147,776			147,776	152,735
a3	Capital receipts	0	455,206		455,206	0
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	8,845	15,590		24,435	7,653
a5	Lettings - manses being rented	22,205			22,205	1,582
a6	Other receipts	26,365	0	0	26,365	16,667
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS	205,191	470,796	0	675,987 (a8)	178,637

SECTION B		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	TOTAL THIS YEAR	TOTAL LAST YEAR
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs	150,993	0		150,993	126,588
b3	Manse Costs	11,873			11,873	10,816
b4	Administration etc	13,461			13,461	10,061
b5	District Assessment	0	1,489		1,489	1,331
b6	Grants & donations		0		0	
b7						
b8	Other payments and Manse being sold	25,447	0	0	25,447	24,556
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS	201,774	1,489	0	203,263 (b9)	173,352

SECTION C		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	TOTAL THIS YEAR	TOTAL LAST YEAR
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a7-b8) 3,417	469,307	0	472,724	5,285
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	220,214	53,460	934	274,608 (c6)	269,323
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2) 223,631	522,767	934	747,332	274,608
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4) 223,631	522,767	934	747,332 (c8)	274,608

SECTION D		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	TOTAL THIS YEAR	TOTAL LAST YEAR
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
d	FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS					
d	(these amounts should not be included in total receipts/payments above)					
d1	Balance brought forward from last year					
d2	Offerings/Gifts - rec'd for ext. organisations District Assessment				44,329	42,840
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to ext. organisations District Assessment					
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)				44,329	42,840

SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATION REPORTING TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING**SECTION E**Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete

Summary of the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2011 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Circuit 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 total income and expenditure of the Circuit. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts. Contact Resourcing Mission Office, Manchester tel: 0161 236 5194. Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the Circuit and its Internal Organisations.

	INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1	Circuit Youth	27		27		264	291
e2				0			0
e3				0			0
e4				0			0
e5				0			0
e6				0			0
e7				0			0
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	27	0	27	0	264 (e11)	291
e9	Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	675,987 (a8)	203,263 (b9)	472,724	0 (c7)	274,608 (c6)	747,332
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	676,014	203,263	472,751	0	274,872 (x)	747,623
		TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2024**

		OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1	Cash in hand		
f2	Bank Current Account	23,959	32,053
f3	Connexional Manses	0	0
f4	Central Finance Board	187,189	182,512
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	53,460	522,767
f6	Other funds (CAF & Chapel Aid)	10,000	10,000
f7	SUB TOTAL OF CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT- Circuit accounts	274,608 (c6)	747,332
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance totals above) (e12)	264 (e11)	291
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	274,872 (x)	747,623

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 November 2023	At 14 November 2024
g1	Investments (include Endowments)	
g2	Land and Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	1,968,067
g3	Other Assets - loans by the Circuit	
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end	40,000
g5	Other Liabilities	33,400

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

f5 Include only CFB Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

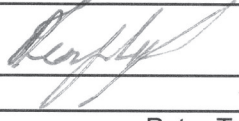
g1 Include any other investments

DECLARATIONS

Circuit Finance Officer

I confirm that I have prepared the accounts from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit Meeting

Signature of
Treasurer



Date

2/12/24

Name

Peter Templer

Address

11 Leyland Close, Bowburn, Durham DH6 5DD

Presentation to the Circuit Meeting for approval.

I confirm that the Accounts have been presented to the Circuit Meeting on

3/12/24

and were approved

Signature of the Chair of the meeting



Name of the Chair of the meeting

P.P. Revd. John Squares.
Revd. Les. Newin.

Date

07/12/2024.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Durham & Deerness Valley

Circuit

This Report is on the Church Accounts for the year ended 31st August

2024

carried out under Section 43 of the Charities Act 1993, or in Scotland Section 11 of the charities

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) or under Regulation 10 (1)(d) of The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (the 2006 Accounts Regulations) and that an independent examination is needed

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act and section 44(1) of the
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission and is in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the
- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 41 of the 1993 Act and Section 44 (1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act and Section 44(1)9b) of the 2005 Act and Regulation (of the 2006 Regulations)

have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name

JOHN HOLBROOK

Signature

J. Holbrook

Relevant Professional qualification or body

FCCA

Address

MAINS HOUSE, 143 FRONT STREET,
CHESTER-LE-STREET, COUNTY DURHAM,
DH3 3AU

Date

11/12/2024

Accounts

**DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST AUGUST 2023**

REGISTERED CHARITY

1132827

ROBSON LAIDLER ACCOUNTANTS LIMITED

**Accountants
Mains House
143 Front Street
Chester-le-Street
County Durham DH3 3AU**

**DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

**INDEX TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2023**

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DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Status, Structure and Purpose

The Governing Instrument of the Circuit is contained in the Methodist Church Act 1976 (Schedule 2) and is detailed in volume 2 of the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church (Part 1 Deed of Union and Part 2 Model Trusts).

The Methodist Church is organized as a Connexion which is divided into Districts which, in turn, are sub-divided into Circuits. Each Circuit is made up of a group of Churches.

The Durham and Deerness Valley Methodist Circuit comprises 4 churches (with 14 buildings and about 550 members). It is responsible for payment of stipends and associated costs to ministers and lay workers and also provision of manse to accommodate 4 ministers. The funding of the Circuit is provided by the churches. Indeed the first charge on the general fund of each church is the sum required to fund the Circuit. In a similar way the Circuit is levied for District and Methodist Church funds. The churches of a Circuit are charities in their own right.

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, deacons and probationers 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 and in ecumenical work in the area including, where appropriate, the support of ecumenical Housing Associations. Since every member in the Circuit is as such a member of the Methodist Missionary Society, the purposes of the Circuit include the promotion of understanding of the work of the Society to the end that every member may share in world mission.

The Circuit is a public benefit entity. The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Principal Address:

Circuit Office
Elvet Methodist Church
8 Old Elvet
Durham
DH1 3HL

Auditor:

Robson Laidler Accountants Limited
Accountants
Mains House
Chester-le-Street
County Durham DH3 3AU

Solicitors:

Swinburne Maddison
Venture House
Aykley Heads Business Centre
Aykley Heads
Durham
DH1 5TS

Clearing Bank:

Lloyds TSB Bank plc
6 Market Place
Durham DH1 3NB

**DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

In accordance with Methodist Conference requirements the following Trustees were appointed for the period 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023

Ex-officio	Stationed or Appointed to the Circuit by the Methodist Conference
	Rev John Squares MDiv, BA (Circuit Superintendent)
	Rev Colin Jackson MA, BSc, CTM
	Deacon Ruth Lackenby BSC, PGCE, DTM
	Rev Peter M Phillips MA, PhD (CODEC)
	Rev Nigel Johnson, (Prison Chaplain)
	Rev Graham Peadar (WA)

Anglican Ministers authorised to serve by the Methodist Church

Rev Joanne Thorns
Rev Canon Caroline Dick

Appointed by Circuit Meeting

THREE Circuit Stewards:	Vacant (treasurer)
	Penny Bissell (staffing)
	John Fairbairn (property)
Circuit Meeting Secretary:	Susan Smith
Local Preachers' Meeting Secretary:	William Offler

Additional persons elected by the Circuit Meeting

Circuit Finance Officer:	Peter Templer
Connexional Funds Treasurer:	Malcolm Wadge
Methodist Homes:	vacant
Circuit Missions Officer	vacant
Network:	vacant
JMA Secretary:	vacant
Action for Children Secretary:	vacant
Missions Secretary:	Barbara Pearson
Quinquennial Inspections Secretary:	John Fairbairn
Youth Work:	
Local Preachers:	Francis Proud, Margaret Wadge and Mark Wilson

**DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

Appointed by each of the 5 Local Churches

ONE Church Treasurer and ONE Church Steward.

Durham City Methodists	H Philips, N Nevin
All Saints Newton Hall LLP	A Cross
Durham North Methodists	M Wadge, S Pope
Durham Valley Methodists	P Hall, G Henderson
Durham City East Methodists	P Roberts, C Lowrie.

Other Representatives

ONE for each 50 members of each church or part thereof

**DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2023**

Part 1 - Financial Matters

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

Under the Trust Deed and legislation relating to Charities in England, the Trustees are required to prepare accounts for each financial year which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Trust and of the surplus or deficit for that year and which have been properly prepared from and are in agreement with the accounting records of the Trust and comply with relevant disclosure regulations. For the purpose of this all ex-officio and appointed members of the Circuit Meeting are Trustees.

In preparing those accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- * select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- * make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- * follow applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts, and
- * prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Trust will continue its activities.

The Trustees are required to act in accordance with the Trust Deed of the charity, within the framework of the Trust Law. They are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and so enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Risk review

The major risks to which the charity is exposed arise from a reducing membership, increased running costs and heavier workloads falling on fewer and fewer shoulders. We are developing plans to reverse this trend and increase membership. District wide policy is that we work to ensure every church is growing in ten years' time. Our Circuit may have a different shape with a different number of churches in a decade, but we will be working to mitigate the expressed risk and fitting into the District vision.

Reserves policy

Reserves should not be allowed to fall below a fixed amount whose value would be reviewed annually. This year the minimum reserve was fixed at £125,000. If funds fall below this figure the shortfall shall be made good by the Churches of the Circuit.

Financial Review

The results for the year show an increase in Unrestricted Funds of £5,098 (2022 – £71,089), in unrestricted funds). Not all the churches managed to pay their assessments – total shortfall was £4,311. The Circuit now has three (ex manse) properties which are being rented out. This year we have made a net profit on the 3 houses of £1.5k, a new kitchen was required at 20 Broomhall Drive costing £13k. Unrestricted funds closed the year on £220,214.

Restricted funds increased to £54,394.

The Circuit has sufficient cash in its unrestricted fund (£220,214 together with the expected Church assessments of £196,529) to meet the next year's expenditure.

We intend to monitor the situation regularly asking churches working together in four separate groupings to develop business plans. In simplest form the groupings need to add up the assessments from each church in the group together and discuss how we might use our resources to achieve collecting that total requirement.

Five churches have amalgamated with other churches and their buildings, now redundant, have been put up for sale in the year. Three churches have been sold STC and proceeds on first church (Esh Winning) expected in October 2023.

DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2023

Part 2 – Review of the year's work

Circuit Vision Statement

The Durham and Deerness Valley Circuit of the Methodist Church seeks to be a close union of its individual Churches. Everyone connected with an individual Church should expect to feel that they are an important part of the Circuit family, and can expect the support of this family. Through our common faith in Christ we seek, in prayerful action, to share and spread the love of Jesus throughout the local and wider community.

Significant Developments during the Year

The Circuit leadership team initiated a review of how we best manage our Circuit and align our ministers coming out of Covid 19 restrictions with the aim of improving the systemic difficulties of too many jobs falling on too few shoulders. Four groups have been established: North, South, East and West. Each has now become one church on different sites managed by one church council. Though there is reason to celebrate the changes the churches have made, an increase in the number of people worshipping at any given service, creative decision making that has enabled the new churches to govern in a more streamlined way and hope about planting future ministries in the communities we serve, there are still structural worries to our system that have existed since we last reported. We still face many tired leaders have seen consoladation as a chance to sit down from service and though it is quite fine, the changes have not made it much easier to recuit the volume of leaders needed to run a church. We are still in a period of building relationships and in confidence both in our approach and in the capacity of congregants to lead. It is very difficult to manage change in churches and we are asking for a significant change in the culture of how we approach both our internal needs and the outward work of service to our communities.

Achievements during the Year

Since becoming one church on different sites, a great deal of good can be recorded. So too can frustrations. Each group has taken its own path forward. As a Circuit we developed a group of mission minded leaders to help the churches develop a Mission Plan of its own design. This group is our Open Doors team and they have reported that each new church is in the stage it is currently at. Some are close to articulating a mission plan, others are still dreaming dreams.. Once these plans are produced, how we finance the Mission will be detemined by solid business plans. In one of our churches a small group has been established to help construct the Mission Plan with the intention to carry on giving measuarable steps to take to meet this plan.

We are in the process of selling: Witton Gilbert, Esh Winning, New Brancepeth and Bowburn's buildings. Except for New Brancepeth, an alternative form of presence is happening on behalf of the Methodist church in each of these areas in rented premises or in one case, a pub.

The churches working as one church on different sites are now called the Deerness Vally Methodists and Durham North Methodists that are working both together on Sundays and supporting initiatives mid week in some of the communities. Sunday Worship rotates to the retained buildings and newly rented premises.

The Durham City East Methodists were formerly Pittington, Bowburn and Carville Methodist churches. As mentioned earlier, Bowburn is now out of its premises and the newly formed church supports a Thursday service in a village hall there. The people of Pittington hold a service on a Tuesday. Carrville is the main Sunday Hub. We additionally boast an exciting partnership with a Dance School in a redundant Church Building where the contract with the school retains two hours of work for the church in Sherburn Hill. We placed a Local Lay Pastor into that setting and he is working with the coimmunity to discern what might be needed with those two hours that would serve a wider group of people. A report is being drafted about the Pioneering Scheme with the Dance school and the Church is bouyed by the rent they provide.

**DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2023**

Part 2 – Review of the year's work (continued)

The City Centre Churches, Durham City Methodists at Elvet and at North Rd are working in an active partnership. They are holding meetings this weekend and in a month's time to attempt to put a Mission Plan to paper and a ton of good work has happened through the Circuit Open Doors team to make this viable.

Church Without Walls continues. Church Without Walls has formed on our deacon's driveway and this is extending into online services and prayer walks. This ministry is now happening through a Monday evening Online service, a Friday Walkout bible study and church walk and more things in the pipeline. People attend the online event from as far away as Lincoln.

Other initiatives continue to produce fruit from the labour:

'Open The Book' – the re-telling of Bible stories in schools – takes place in Bearpark and continues to be fantastic ecumenical outreach.

Christmas Journey is well underway in two of our church groupings.

Our Ecumenical Partnership in All Saints, Newton Hall, is working well with its leadership and connecting to its local community. It was the chosen venue for the President's service during a January visit to our Circuit.

Several schools visit our churches for Harvest, Christmas and Easter services. It is hoped these links will be renewed this year.

The local foodbank hosted at our DCM Elvet Site has been a lifeline to many still suffering the effects of the economic pressures of high inflation in most sectors. Poverty is a real problem all over England but is more acute in the North East than in most other regions.

Our churches serve their local communities through coffee mornings, craft groups, activities for older members of society and regular visits to neighbouring care homes. Work continues to grow amongst local Care and Nursing Homes with monthly midweek services held at Lindisfarne, Newton Hall, Melbury Court, Durham, Orchard House, Brandon and Springfield, West Rainton. These services are greatly appreciated by the residents. Covid restrictions has limited what is possible here but visitation has resumed if not formal services.

We have established a Circuit policy to declare a Climate Emergency and churches are responding to change its practices to reduce our carbon footprint and to increase works like recycling dropoff points for difficult to recycle items like pill blister packs. Our eco awareness is increasing and our commitment to make a difference is being supported by real action. The Circuit is the first in the area to achieve a Circuit Award for this initiative.

Many church buildings are used on a regular basis for community activities, by outside agencies e.g. probation services, support for refugees and self-help groups. Covid restrictions have eased but our ability to manage multiple bookings is not at previous levels.

Ministerial and lay members of the Circuit have continued to under-go the revised Safeguarding training.

**DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2023**

Significant Changes

We are working as four churches on different sites and an additional LEP. This will help us to come in line with Connexional direction setting to trim the number of trustee bodies we offer. We are taking it slow in making final decisions about the best way to function to suit the needs in each particular context.

Events relating to these changes

Our Circuit Meeting appointed a Mission Team called the Open Doors Team commissioned to help each group to determine a Mission Plan. This work is supported by agreement by the District Mission Enabler. Once Mission Plans are formed, hopes and dreams recorded, Business Plans to make the mission a reality will shortly follow.

Likely developments in the coming year

Four of our church buildings are nearly sold. Some money from these sales will be ringfenced for mission opportunities in the areas where the buildings were sacrificed. We are looking to develop a Pioneering/Church Planting internship and a proof of concept is in the works supported by the District with a proposed project in Sherburn Hill.

Contributions of volunteers

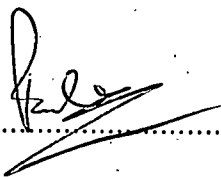
All the work in the Circuit, apart from that of appointed ministers and lay workers, is on a voluntary basis, and includes that of Circuit and church officers, Commissioned Lay Persons, Local Preachers and Worship Leaders, members and secretaries of all the Circuit committees, and those assisting in the running of children's and young people's work.

Relationship with related parties and other charities

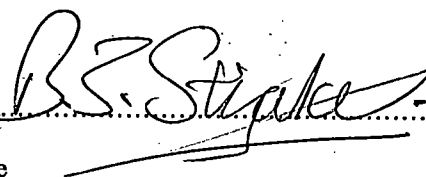
There are appointed Circuit secretaries and treasurers for Connexional funds, Methodist Homes and Action for Children. Ecumenical links in youth work are developing in some areas of the Circuit, and several churches ran holiday clubs. Authorised minister status has been granted by Conference to the three clergy of the Durham North Area Team of the Anglican Church. The Chinese Church based at Elvet church has become well established. Many churches are involved in Churches Together, Area Action Partnerships and organising events in the local communities.

Conclusion

The mission of the Circuit continues through the leadership of our dedicated ministers and lay appointees. The work of volunteers will continue to become increasingly important as we seek to enhance our varied outreach and service to the local communities of our Circuit.



Trustee



Trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF
DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY
METHODIST CIRCUIT**

I report on the accounts of the Durham & Deerness Valley Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2023, which are set out on pages 8 to 12.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The Circuits Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

The Circuits Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the business and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

J. Holbrook

.....
J Holbrook FCCA

Accountant

Robson Laidler Accountants Limited

Mains House

143 Front Street

Chester le Street

Co Durham

DH3 3AU

27/02/2024

.....
Date



**CIRCUIT
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
ACCOUNTS**

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS**

Durham and Deerness Valley	Circuit
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2023

	Circuit no.	13/11
--	-------------	-------

Registered Charity - Registration number

1132827

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

Ministers:

The Revd John Squares (Superintendent Minister)

The Revd Colln Jackson

The Revd. Fiona Weir

Deacon Ruth Lackenby

Circuit Stewards:

Penny Bissell

John Fairbairn

blank

Treasurer:

blank

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR upto 31 Aug 2023
Durham and Deerness Valley
Circuit

SECTION A		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	TOTAL THIS YEAR	TOTAL LAST YEAR
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS					
a2	Assessment/Share	152,735			152,735	164,401
a3	Capital receipts.	0			0	0
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	5,984	1,669		7,653	1,134
a5	Lettings - manse being rented	1,582			1,582	7,031
a6	Other receipts	16,667	0	0	16,667	11,889
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS	176,968	1,669	0	178,637 (a8)	184,455

SECTION B						
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs	126,588	0		126,588	135,128
b3	Manse Costs	10,816			10,816	16,962
b4	Administration etc	9,910	151		10,061	10,369
b5	District Assessment	0	1,331		1,331	5,425
b6	Grants & donations		0		0	
b7						
b8	Other payments and Manse being sold	24,556	0	0	24,556	50,727
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS	171,870	1,482	0	173,352 (b9)	218,611

SECTION C						
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a7-b8)	5,098	187	0	5,285
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		215,116	53,273	934	269,323 (c6)
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	220,214	53,460	934	274,608
c4	Transfers and adjustments					(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	220,214	53,460	934	274,608 (c8)

SECTION D						
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS						
d	(these amounts should not be included in total receipts/payments above)					
d1	Balance brought forward from last year					
d2	Offerings/Gifts - rec'd for ext. organisations District Assessment				42,840	45,096
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to ext. organisations District Assessment				0	0
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)				42840	45,096

SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATION REPORTING TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING**SECTION E** Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this

Summary of the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2011 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Circuit 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 total income and expenditure of the Circuit. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts. Contact Resourcing Mission Office, Manchester tel: 0161 236 5194. Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the Circuit and its Internal Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1 Circuit Youth			0		264	264
e2			0			0
e3			0			0
e4			0			0
e5			0			0
e6			0			0
e7			0			0
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	0	0	0	0	264 (e11)	264
e9 Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	178,637 (a8)	173,352 (b9)	5,285	0 (c7)	269,323 (c6)	274,608
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	178,637	173,352	5,285	0	269,587 (x)	274,872
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2023**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	35,782	23,959
f3 Connexional Manse		
f4 Central Finance Board	170,267	187,189
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		
f6 Other funds (CAF & Chapel Aid)	63,274	63,460
f7 SUB TOTAL OF CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT - Circuit accounts	269,323 (c6)	274,608
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance totals above) (e12)	264 (e11)	264
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	269,587 (x)	274,872

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 10 November 2021	At 2 November 2022
g1 Investments (include Endowments)		
g2 Land and Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	1,588,928	1,879,716
g3 Other Assets - loans by the Circuit		
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end	40,000	40,000
g5 Other Liabilities		

DECLARATIONS

I confirm that I have prepared the accounts from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit Meeting

Signature of
Treasurer

Peter Templer

Date

17/2/24

Name

Peter Templer

Address

11 Leyland Close, Bowburn, Durham DH6 5DD

Presentation to the Circuit Meeting for approval.

I confirm that the Accounts ^{will be} ~~have been~~ presented to the Circuit Meeting on

21/3/24

and were approved

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

John Squares

Name of the Chair of the meeting

Revd. John Squares

Date

18/2/24

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Durham & Deerness Valley

Circuit

This Report is on the Church Accounts for the year ended 31st August
carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

2023

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

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- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act.

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name

JOHN HOLBROOK

Signature

J. Holbrook

Relevant Professional qualification or

FCCA

Address

MAINS HOUSE, 143 FRONT STREET
CHESTER-LE-STREET, CO DURHAM. DH3 3AU

Date

27/02/2024

Accounts

**DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST AUGUST 2022**

REGISTERED CHARITY

1132827

**ROBSON LAIDLER ACCOUNTANTS LIMITED
Mains House
143 Front Street
Chester-le-Street
County Durham DH3 3AU**

**DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

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DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Status, Structure and Purpose

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The Methodist Church is organized as a Connexion which is divided into Districts which, in turn, are sub-divided into Circuits. Each Circuit is made up of a group of Churches.

The Durham and Deerness Valley Methodist Circuit comprises 4 churches (with 14 buildings and about 550 members). It is responsible for payment of stipends and associated costs to ministers and lay workers and also provision of manse to accommodate 4 ministers. The funding of the Circuit is provided by the churches. Indeed, the first charge on the general fund of each church is the sum required to fund the Circuit. In a similar way the Circuit is levied for District and Methodist Church funds. The churches of a Circuit are charities in their own right.

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, deacons and probationers 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 and in ecumenical work in the area including, where appropriate, the support of ecumenical Housing Associations. Since every member in the Circuit is as such a member of the Methodist Missionary Society, the purposes of the Circuit include the promotion of understanding of the work of the Society to the end that every member may share in world mission.

The Circuit is a public benefit entity. The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Principal Address:

Circuit Office
Elvet Methodist Church
8 Old Elvet
Durham
DH1 3HL

Independent Examiners:

Robson Laidler Accountants Limited
Mains House
Chester-le-Street
County Durham DH3 3AU

Solicitors:

Swinburne Maddison
Venture House
Aykley Heads Business Centre
Aykley Heads
Durham
DH1 5TS

Clearing Bank:

Lloyds TSB Bank plc
6 Market Place
Durham DH1 3NB

**DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

In accordance with Methodist Conference requirements the following Trustees were appointed for the period 1st September 2021 to 31st August 2022

Ex-officio	Stationed or Appointed to the Circuit by the Methodist Conference
	Rev John Squares MDiv, BA (Circuit Superintendent)
	Rev Colin Jackson MA, BSc, CTM
	Rev Andrew Longe BA, DipBi left Circuit Jan 2022
	Deacon Ruth Lackenby BSC, PGCE, DTM
	Rev Peter M Phillips MA, PhD (CODEC)
	Rev Nigel Johnson, (Prison Chaplain)
	Rev Graham Peadar (WA)

Anglican Ministers authorised to serve by the Methodist Church

Rev Joanne Thorns
Rev Canon Caroline Dick

Appointed by Circuit Meeting

THREE Circuit Stewards:	Vacant (treasurer)
	Penny Bissell (staffing)
	John Fairbairn (property)
Circuit Meeting Secretary:	Susan Smith
Local Preachers' Meeting Secretary:	William Offler

Additional persons elected by the Circuit Meeting

Circuit Finance Officer:	Peter Templer
Connexional Funds Treasurer:	Malcolm Wadge
Methodist Homes:	Andrew Sprigg
Circuit Missions Officer	vacant
Network:	vacant
JMA Secretary:	vacant
Action for Children Secretary:	vacant
Missions Secretary:	Barbara Pearson
Quinquennial Inspections Secretary:	John Fairbairn
Youth Work:	
Local Preachers:	Francis Proud, Margaret Wadge and Mark Wilson

**DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

Appointed by each of the 13 Local Churches
ONE Church Steward and ONE Church Treasurer.

Bearpark Church	V Ellis, Michele Thorns
Bowburn Church	E Atkinson, F Ndaji
Brandon Church	A Offler, P Hall
(with New Brancepeth)	D Bell
Carrville Church	C Lowrie, R Sibbald
Elvet Church	S Harrison, B Thompson
Esh Winning Church	R Ferguson, H Forster
Framwellgate Church	S Pope, D Blacklock
Langley Park	L Kirby
Newton Hall Church	A Sprigg, A Cross
North Road Church	S Lawson, M Hart
Pittington Church	W Young, M Wadge
Sacriston Church	S Smith, M Wadge
Witton Gilbert Church	B Fox, J Wrightson

Sherburn Hill Church now closed

Other Representatives

ONE for each 50 members of each church or part thereof

DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2022

Part 1 - Financial Matters

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

Under the Trust Deed and legislation relating to Charities in England, the Trustees are required to prepare accounts for each financial year which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Trust and of the surplus or deficit for that year and which have been properly prepared from and are in agreement with the accounting records of the Trust and comply with relevant disclosure regulations. For the purpose of this all ex-officio and appointed members of the Circuit Meeting are Trustees.

In preparing those accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- * select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- * make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- * follow applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts, and
- * prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Trust will continue its activities.

The Trustees are required to act in accordance with the Trust Deed of the charity, within the framework of the Trust Law. They are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and so enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Risk review

The major risks to which the charity is exposed arise from a reducing membership, increased running costs and heavier workloads falling on fewer and fewer shoulders. We are developing plans to reverse this trend and increase membership. District wide policy is that we work to ensure every church is growing in ten years' time. Our Circuit may have a different shape with a different number of churches in a decade, but we will be working to mitigate the expressed risk and fitting into the District vision.

Reserves policy

Reserves should not be allowed to fall below a fixed amount whose value would be reviewed annually. This year the minimum reserve was fixed at £125,000. If funds fall below this figure the shortfall shall be made good by the Churches of the Circuit.

Financial Review

The results for the year show an increase of £71,089 (2021 – increase of £22,758), in unrestricted funds, but this was because we transferred £100k from our TMCP restricted fund. Not all the churches managed to pay their full assessment but overall, there was an surplus over the budget of £6,111. £100,000 was transferred to general funds from our TMCP accounts; £60K to cover stipendiary costs in the Circuit, and £40k was a loan to Elvet church for the refurbishment of a house on the premises which will be rented out once the refurbishment is completed. The Circuit now has three (ex-manse) properties which are being rented out. This year we have made a net profit on the 3 houses of £7k. Considering the Covid 19 pandemic we consider our final result to be acceptable. Thus unrestricted funds closed the year on £215,116.

DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2022

Restricted funds decreased to £53,273 following the transfer of the £100k to Unrestricted Funds. The Circuit has sufficient cash in its unrestricted fund (£215,116 together with the expected Church assessments of £204,886) to meet the next year's expenditure. It is anticipated that some churches will struggle to produce the expected income. Some churches rely heavily on lettings that can not be gained due to Covid restrictions. We intend to monitor the situation regularly asking churches working together in four separate groupings to develop business plans. In simplest form the groupings need to add up the assessments from each church in the group together and discuss how we might use our resources to achieve collecting that total requirement.

Four churches have amalgamated with other churches and their buildings, now redundant, will be put up for sale in the coming year.

Part 2 – Review of the year's work

Circuit Vision Statement

The Durham and Deerness Valley Circuit of the Methodist Church seeks to be a close union of its individual Churches. Everyone connected with an individual Church should expect to feel that they are an important part of the Circuit family, and can expect the support of this family. Through our common faith in Christ we seek, in prayerful action, to share and spread the love of Jesus throughout the local and wider community.

Significant Developments during the Year

The Circuit leadership team initiated a review of how we best manage our Circuit and align our ministers coming out of Covid 19 restrictions with the aim of improving the systemic difficulties of too many jobs falling on too few shoulders. Four groups have been established: North, South, East and West. Each is now functioning as one church on different sites. There has been much to laud as churches feel the advantage of worshipping with increased numbers in each congregation. However, many tired leaders have seen this as a chance to sit down from service and though it is quite fine, the changes have not made it much easier to recruit the volume of leaders needed to run a church. We are in a period of building relationships and in confidence both in our approach and in the capacity of congregants to lead. It is very difficult to manage change in churches and we are asking for a significant change in the culture of how we approach both our internal needs and the outward work of service to our communities.

Achievements during the Year

Since becoming one church on different sites, a great deal of good can be recorded. So too can frustrations. Each group has taken its own path forward and we are presently challenging each to adopt a Mission Plan of its own making, supported by the Circuit and District. Once these plans are produced, how we finance the Mission will be determined by solid business plans.

Our West group comprising four churches has established a strong leadership team that articulates the needs in individual churches and works to supporting the initiatives as a whole well. Services are attended increasing the number of people at any individual service, but not all congregants are willing to travel when services are held by the group outside of ones local community. There is tension that people are being left behind because of the direction we are taking. That said, observations about the good that is enabled as resources are shared is encouraging. Each meeting we put together has more support than when the churches were working individually.

The North Group is struggling to overcome very real concerns about membership numbers and building costs. We are making progress on the sale of one building that is no longer fit for purpose. The other churches have made great strides to work well together. Two in particular have helped one another making sure tech equipment is similar so that whichever venue a service is held, the same opportunity for creativity in presentation is on offer. As events are building relationships between the congregations and strides are being made towards dropping the s in congregation(s).

The South Group has formally decided to become one church on two sites. The new Durham City Methodists is functioning well. We have recently discussed our core values for our work in the coming year. We are now formally part of the inclusive church network and want to build intentionally at championing all voices within our walls. We have made commitments to environmental causes and are making green changes wherever possible.

DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2022

Activities are picking up in the churches post lockdown and they have established services which reach out through digital means and an alternative service seeking to meet needs that are wider than the traditional church often reaches. It is still early days and growing pains are ahead, but so too is hopefulness and real reason for it.

The East Church is working well together with Carrville as the Sunday Hub and midweek services happening in the smaller churches. We are days from formalising an exciting partnership with a Dance School in a redundant Church Building where the contract with the school retains two hours of work for the church. We placed a Local Lay Pastor into that setting and he is working with the community to discern what might be needed with those two hours that would serve a wider group of people. A new Probationer has been placed in this church and is working well with the local communities. The Church at Bowburn made the brave decision to leave its premises in the upcoming new year. We are looking for ways to serve the community there from a local community centre and we intend to include the mums and tots that have been meeting in our hall for many years.

Work has gone into making sure services are accessible to everyone whether isolating or coming to public worship. Church Without Walls has formed on our deacon's driveway and this is extending into online services and prayer walks. This ministry is now happening with regular attenders often celebrating the benefits.

We are rethinking how assessments are best determined looking to create a direct correlation between the cost of staffing to each group and the amount assessed. As stated on page 4, we anticipate a lean year financially as we recover from the effects of lockdown and face uncertainty about the future. If churches are challenged to pay for the support they receive, we hope it will challenge members to give more generously and for leaders to work more creatively to make prudent financial decisions about the way buildings are used.

'Open The Book' – the re-telling of Bible stories in schools – takes place in Bearpark and continues to be fantastic ecumenical outreach.

Christmas Journey is well underway in two of our church groupings.

Our Ecumenical Partnership in All Saints, Newton Hall, is working well with its leadership and connecting to its local community. It is the chosen venue for the President's service during a January visit to our Circuit.

Several schools visit our churches for Harvest, Christmas and Easter services. It is hoped these links will be renewed this year.

The local foodbank hosted at our Elvet Site has been a lifeline to many through lockdown and still suffering the effects on certain employment sectors. Poverty is a real problem all over England but is more acute in the North East than in most other regions.

Our churches serve their local communities through coffee mornings, craft groups, activities for older members of society and regular visits to neighbouring care homes. Work continues to grow amongst local Care and Nursing Homes with monthly midweek services held at Lindisfarne, Newton Hall, Melbury Court, Durham, Orchard House, Brandon and Springfield, West Rainton. These services are greatly appreciated by the residents. Covid restrictions has limited what is possible here but as these ease, we are hopeful many can resume..

We have established a Circuit policy to declare a Climate Emergency and churches are responding to change its practices to reduce our carbon footprint and to increase works like recycling dropoff points for difficult to recycle items like pill blister packs. Our eco awareness is increasing and our commitment to make a difference is being supported by real action.

**DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

Many church buildings are used on a regular basis for community activities, by outside agencies e.g. probation services, support for refugees and self-help groups. Covid restrictions have eased but our ability to manage multiple bookings is not at previous levels..

Ministerial and lay members of the Circuit have continued to under-go the revised Safeguarding training.

Significant Changes

We are working as four churches on different sites. This will help us to come in line with Connexional direction setting to trim the number of trustee bodies we offer. We are taking it slow in making final decisions about the best way to function to suit the needs in each particular context.

Events relating to these changes

Our Circuit Meeting appointed a Mission Team called the Open Doors Team commissioned to help each group to determine a Mission Plan. This work is supported by agreement by the District Mission Enabler. Once Mission Plans are formed, hopes and dreams recorded, Business Plans to make the mission a reality will shortly follow.

Likely developments in the coming year

Four of our church buildings will likely be sold. Some money from these sales will be ringfenced for mission opportunities in the areas where the buildings were sacrificed. We are looking to develop a Pioneering/Church Planting internship and a proof of concept is in the works supported by the District with a proposed project in Sherburn Hill.

Contributions of volunteers

All the work in the Circuit, apart from that of appointed ministers and lay workers, is on a voluntary basis, and includes that of Circuit and church officers, Commissioned Lay Persons, Local Preachers and Worship Leaders, members and secretaries of all the Circuit committees, and those assisting in the running of children's and young people's work.

Relationship with related parties and other charities

There are appointed Circuit secretaries and treasurers for Connexional funds, Methodist Homes and Action for Children. Ecumenical links in youth work are developing in some areas of the Circuit, and several churches ran holiday clubs. Authorised minister status has been granted by Conference to the three clergy of the Durham North Area Team of the Anglican Church. The Chinese Church based at Elvet church has become well established. Many churches are involved in Churches Together, Area Action Partnerships and organising events in the local communities.

Conclusion

The mission of the Circuit continues through the leadership of our dedicated ministers and lay appointees. The work of volunteers will continue to become increasingly important as we seek to enhance our varied outreach and service to the local communities of our Circuit.

f.l. weir

Trustee

[Signature]

Trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF
DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY
METHODIST CIRCUIT**

I report on the accounts of the Durham & Deerness Valley Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2022, which are set out on pages 8 to 12.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The Circuits Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

The Circuits Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the business and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

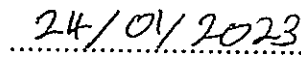
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



J Holbrook
Accountant
Robson Laidler Accountants Limited
Mains House
143 Front Street
Chester le Street
Co Durham
DH3 3AU


Date



CIRCUIT
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
ACCOUNTS

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Durham and Deerness Valley	Circuit
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 AUGUST 2022

	Circuit no	13/11
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Registered Charity - Registration number

1132827

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 exempted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2655 of 2007)

Ministers:

The Revd John Squares (Superintendent Minister)

The Revd Colin Jackson

Deacon Ruth Lackenby

Circuit Stewards:

Penny Bissell

John Fairbairn

blank

Treasurer:

blank

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR upto 31 Aug 2022
Durham and Deerness Valley
Circuit

SECTION A			Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	TOTAL THIS YEAR	TOTAL LAST YEAR
	RECEIPTS	Note	£	£	£	£	£
a1	Assessment/Share		164,401			164,401	145,000
a2	Capital receipts		0			0	0
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		502	632		1,134	855
a4	Lettings - manses being rented		7,031			7,031	0
a5	Other receipts		11,889	0	0	11,889	60,917
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		183,823	632	0	184,455 (a8)	206,772

SECTION B							
	PAYMENTS						
b1	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs		135,128	0		135,128	145,086
b2	Manse Costs		16,962			16,962	24,084
b3	Administration etc		9,917	452		10,369	9,208
b4	District Assessment		0	5,425		5,425	8,329
b5	Grants & donations			0		0	
b6	Loans to churches						
b7	Other payments and Manse Purchase		50,727	0	0	50,727	55,383
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		212,734	5,877	0	218,611 (b9)	242,090

SECTION C							
	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR						
c1		(a7-b8)	(28,911)	(5,245)	0	(34,156)	(35,318)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		144,027	158,518	934	303,479 (c6)	338,797
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	115,116	153,273	934	269,323	303,479
c4	Transfers and adjustments		100,000	(100,000)		(c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	215,116	53,273	934	269,323 (c8)	303,479

SECTION D						
	FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS					
d	(these amounts should not be included in total receipts/payments above)					
d1	Balance brought forward from last year					
d2	Offerings/Gifts - rec'd for ext. organisations District Assessment				45,096	50,528
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to ext. organisations District Assessment					
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)				45096	50,528

SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATION REPORTING TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING**SECTION E**

Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete

Summary of the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2011 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Circuit 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 total income and expenditure of the Circuit. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts. Contact Resourcing Mission Office, Manchester tel: 0161 236 5194. Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the Circuit and its Internal Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS		Receipts		Payments		Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances		Closing balances	
e1	Circuit Youth					0		264		264	
e2						0				0	
e3						0				0	
e4						0				0	
e5						0				0	
e6						0				0	
e7						0				0	
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	0		0		0	0	264	(e11)	264	
e9	Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	184,455	(a8)	218,611	(b9)	-34,156	0	303,479	(c6)	269,323	
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	184,455		218,611		-34,156	0	303,743	(x)	269,587	
		TOTAL RECEIPTS		TOTAL PAYMENTS							

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2022**

		OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1	Cash in hand		
f2	Bank Current Account	19,115	35,782
f3	Connexional Manse		
f4	Central Finance Board	115,845	170,267
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		
f6	Other funds (CAF & Chapel Aid)	168,519	63,274
f7	SUB TOTAL OF CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT- Circuit accounts	303,479	269,323
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance totals above) (e12)	264	264
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	303,743	269,587

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

		At 1 December 2020	At 10 November 2021
g1	Investments (include Endowments)		
g2	Land and Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	1,464,433	1,588,928
g3	Other Assets - loans by the Circuit		
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end	40,000	
g5	Other Liabilities		

f1 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

f5 Include only CFB Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

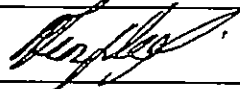
g1 Include any other investments

DECLARATIONS

Circuit Finance Officer

I confirm that I have prepared the accounts from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit Meeting

Signature of
Treasurer



Date

21/1/23

Name

Peter Templer

Address

11 Leyland Close, Bowburn, Durham DH6 5DD

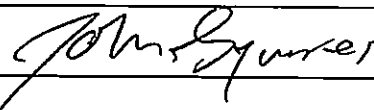
Presentation to the Circuit Meeting for approval.

I confirm that the Accounts ^{will be} ~~have been~~ presented to the Circuit Meeting on

09/03/23

and were approved

Signature of the Chair of the meeting



Name of the Chair of the meeting

Revd. John Squares

Date

21/1/23

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Durham & Deerness Valley Circuit

This Report is on the Church Accounts for the year ended 31st August

2022

carried out under Section 43 of the Charities Act 1993, or in Scotland Section 11 of the charities and

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) or under Regulation 10 (1)(d) of The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (the 2006 Accounts Regulations) and that an independent examination is needed

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act and section 44(1) of the Charities
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission and is in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the
- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 41 of the 1993 Act and Section 44 (1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act and Section 44(1)9b) of the 2005 Act and Regulation (of the 2006 Regulations)

have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name

JOHN HOLBROOK

Signature

J. M.

Relevant Professional qualification or body

FCCA

Address

MAINS HOUSE, 143 FRONT STREET, CHESTER LE STREET,
CO DURHAM, DH3 3AN

Date

24/01/2023



**CIRCUIT
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
ACCOUNTS**

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Durham and Deerness Valley	Circuit
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 AUGUST 2022

	Circuit no	13/11
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If not a registered charity Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs Gift Aid number

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The Revd Colin Jackson
Deacon Ruth Lackenby

Circuit Stewards:

Penny Bissell
John Fairbairn
blank

Treasurer:

blank

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR upto 31 Aug 2022
Durham and Deerness Valley
Circuit

SECTION A			Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	TOTAL THIS YEAR	TOTAL LAST YEAR
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	PAYMENTS						
b1	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs		135,128	0		135,128	145,086
b2	Manse Costs		16,962			16,962	24,084
b3	Administration etc		9,917	452		10,369	9,208
b4	District Assessment		0	5,425		5,425	8,329
b5	Grants & donations			0		0	
b6	Loans to churches						
b7	Other payments and Manse Purchase		50,727	0	0	50,727	55,383
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		212,734	5,877	0	218,611 (b9)	242,090

SECTION C							
	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR						
c1		(a7-b8)	(28,911)	(5,245)	0	(34,156)	(35,318)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		144,027	158,518	934	303,479 (c6)	338,797
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	115,116	153,273	934	269,323	303,479
c4	Transfers and adjustments		100,000	(100,000)		(c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	215,116	53,273	934	269,323 (c8)	303,479

SECTION D						
	FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS					
d	(these amounts should not be included in total receipts/payments above)					
d1	Balance brought forward from last year					
d2	Offerings/Gifts - rec'd for ext. organisations District Assessment				45,096	50,528
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to ext. organisations District Assessment					
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)				45096	50,528

SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATION REPORTING TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING**SECTION E**

Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete

Summary of the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2011 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Circuit 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 total income and expenditure of the Circuit. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts. Contact Resourcing Mission Office, Manchester tel: 0161 236 5194. Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the Circuit and its Internal Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1 Circuit Youth			0		264	264
e2			0			0
e3			0			0
e4			0			0
e5			0			0
e6			0			0
e7			0			0
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	0	0	0	0	264 (e11)	264
e9 Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	184,455 (a8)	218,611 (b9)	-34,156	0 (c7)	303,479 (c6)	269,323
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	184,455	218,611	-34,156	0	303,743 (x)	269,587
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2022**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	19,115	35,782
f3 Connexional Manse		
f4 Central Finance Board	115,845	170,267
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		
f6 Other funds (CAF & Chapel Aid)	168,519	63,274
f7 SUB TOTAL OF CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT- Circuit accounts	303,479 (c6)	269,323
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance totals above) (e12)	264 (e11)	264
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	303,743 (x)	269,587

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 December 2020	At 10 November 2021
g1 Investments (include Endowments)		
g2 Land and Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	1,464,433	1,588,928
g3 Other Assets - loans by the Circuit		
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end	40,000	
g5 Other Liabilities		

f1 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

f5 Include only CFB Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

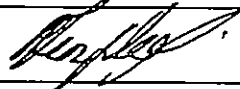
g1 Include any other investments

DECLARATIONS

Circuit Finance Officer

I confirm that I have prepared the accounts from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit Meeting

Signature of
Treasurer



Date

21/1/23

Name

Peter Templer

Address

11 Leyland Close, Bowburn, Durham DH6 5DD

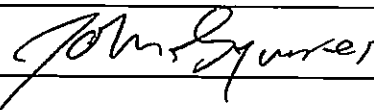
Presentation to the Circuit Meeting for approval.

I confirm that the Accounts ^{will be} ~~have been~~ presented to the Circuit Meeting on

09/03/23

and were approved

Signature of the Chair of the meeting



Name of the Chair of the meeting

Revd. John Squares

Date

21/1/23

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Durham & Deerness Valley Circuit

This Report is on the Church Accounts for the year ended 31st August

2022

carried out under Section 43 of the Charities Act 1993, or in Scotland Section 11 of the charities and

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) or under Regulation 10 (1)(d) of The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (the 2006 Accounts Regulations) and that an independent examination is needed

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act and section 44(1) of the Charities
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission and is in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the
- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 41 of the 1993 Act and Section 44 (1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act and Section 44(1)9b) of the 2005 Act and Regulation (of the 2006 Regulations)

have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name

JOHN HOLBROOK

Signature

J. M.

Relevant Professional qualification or body

FCCA

Address

MAINS HOUSE, 143 FRONT STREET, CHESTER LE STREET,
CO DURHAM, DH3 3AN

Date

24/01/2023

Accounts

**DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST AUGUST 2021**

REGISTERED CHARITY

1132827

**ROBSON LAIDLER (DURHAM) LIMITED
Accountants
Hadrian House
Front Street
Chester-le-Street
County Durham DH3 3DB**

**DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

**INDEX TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2021**

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Legal & Administrative Information	1 - 3
Report of the Trustees	4 – 6
Report of the Independent Examiner's	7
Standard Form of Accounts	8 -12

**DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Status, Structure and Purpose

The Governing Instrument of the Circuit is contained in the Methodist Church Act 1976 (Schedule 2) and is detailed in volume 2 of the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church (Part 1 Deed of Union and Part 2 Model Trusts).

The Methodist Church is organized as a Connexion which is divided into Districts which, in turn, are sub-divided into Circuits. Each Circuit is made up of a group of Churches.

The Durham and Deerness Valley Methodist Circuit comprises 13 churches (with 15 buildings and about 600 members). It is responsible for payment of stipends and associated costs to ministers and lay workers and also provision of manse to accommodate 4 ministers. The funding of the Circuit is provided by the churches. Indeed the first charge on the general fund of each church is the sum required to fund the Circuit. In a similar way the Circuit is levied for District and Methodist Church funds. The churches of a Circuit are charities in their own right.

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, deacons and probationers 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 and in ecumenical work in the area including, where appropriate, the support of ecumenical Housing Associations. Since every member in the Circuit is as such a member of the Methodist Missionary Society, the purposes of the Circuit include the promotion of understanding of the work of the Society to the end that every member may share in world mission.

The Circuit is a public benefit entity. The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Principal Address:

Circuit Office
Elvet Methodist Church
8 Old Elvet
Durham
DH1 3HL

Independent Examiner:

Robson Laidler (Durham) Limited
Accountants
Hadrian House
Chester-le-Street
County Durham DH3 3DB

Solicitors:

Swinburne Maddison
Venture House
Aykley Heads Business Centre
Aykley Heads
Durham
DH1 5TS

Clearing Bank:

Lloyds TSB Bank plc
6 Market Place
Durham DH1 3NB

DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

In accordance with Methodist Conference requirements the following Trustees were appointed for the period 1st September 2020 to 31st August 2021

Ex-officio	Stationed or Appointed to the Circuit by the Methodist Conference
	Rev John Squares MDiv, BA (Circuit Superintendent)
	Rev Colin Jackson MA, BSc, CTM
	Rev Andrew Longe BA, DipBi
	Deacon Ruth Lackenby BSC, PGCE, DTM
	Rev Peter M Phillips MA, PhD (CODEC)
	Rev Nigel Johnson, (Prison Chaplain)
	Rev Graham Peaden (WA)

Anglican Ministers authorised to serve by the Methodist Church

Rev Joanne Thorns
Rev Canon Caroline Dick

Appointed by Circuit Meeting

THREE Circuit Stewards:	Vacant (treasurer)
	Penny Bissell (staffing)
	John Fairbairn (property)
Circuit Meeting Secretary:	Susan Smith
Local Preachers' Meeting Secretary:	William Offler

Additional persons elected by the Circuit Meeting

Circuit Finance Officer:	Peter Templer
Connexional Funds Treasurer:	Malcolm Wadge
Methodist Homes:	Andrew Sprigg
Circuit Missions Officer	vacant
Network:	vacant
JMA Secretary:	vacant
Action for Children Secretary:	vacant
Missions Secretary:	Barbara Pearson
Quinquennial Inspections Secretary:	John Fairbairn
Youth Work:	
Local Preachers:	Francis Proud, Margaret Wadge and Mark Wilson

**DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

Appointed by each of the 13 Local Churches

ONE Church Steward and ONE Church Treasurer.

Bearpark Church	V Ellis, Michele Thorns
Bowburn Church	E Atkinson, F Ndaji
Brandon Church	A Offler, P Hall
(with New Brancepeth)	D Bell
Carrville Church	C Lowrie, R Sibbald
Elvet Church	S Harrison, B Thompson
Esh Winning Church	R Ferguson, H Forster
Framwellgate Church	S Pope, D Blacklock
Langley Park	L Kirby
Newton Hall Church	A Sprigg, A Cross
North Road Church	S Lawson, M Hart
Pittington Church	W Young, M Wadge
Sacriston Church	S Smith, M Wadge
Witton Gilbert Church	B Fox, J Wrightson

Sherburn Hill Church now closed

Other Representatives

ONE for each 50 members of each church or part thereof

**DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2021**

Part 1 - Financial Matters

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

Under the Trust Deed and legislation relating to Charities in England, the Trustees are required to prepare accounts for each financial year which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Trust and of the surplus or deficit for that year and which have been properly prepared from and are in agreement with the accounting records of the Trust and comply with relevant disclosure regulations. For the purpose of this all ex-officio and appointed members of the Circuit Meeting are Trustees.

In preparing those accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- * select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- * make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- * follow applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts, and
- * prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Trust will continue its activities.

The Trustees are required to act in accordance with the Trust Deed of the charity, within the framework of the Trust Law. They are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and so enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Risk review

The major risks to which the charity is exposed arise from a reducing membership, increased running costs and heavier workloads falling on fewer and fewer shoulders. We are developing plans to reverse this trend and increase membership. District wide policy is that we work to ensure every church is growing in ten years' time. Our Circuit may have a different shape with a different number of churches in a decade, but we will be working to mitigate the expressed risk and fitting into the District vision.

Reserves policy

Reserves should not be allowed to fall below a fixed amount whose value would be reviewed annually. This year the minimum reserve was fixed at £125,000. If funds fall below this figure the shortfall shall be made good by the Churches of the Circuit.

Financial Review

The results for the year show an increase of £22,758 (2020 – decrease of £3,607), in unrestricted funds, but this was because we transferred £50k from our TMCP restricted fund. Not all churches managed to pay their full assessment and there was a shortfall of £26,480; which necessitated the transfer of £50k. Considering the Covid 19 pandemic we consider our final result to be acceptable. Thus unrestricted funds closed the year on £144,027.

Restricted funds decreased to £158,518 following the transfer of the £50k to Unrestricted Funds. The Circuit has sufficient cash in its unrestricted fund (£144,027 together with the expected Church assessments of £222,000) to meet the next year's expenditure. It is anticipated that some churches will struggle to produce the expected income. Some churches rely heavily on lettings that can not be gained due to Covid restrictions. We intend to monitor the situation regularly asking churches working together in four separate groupings to develop business plans. In simplest form the groupings need to add up the assessments from each church in the group together and discuss how we might use our resources to achieve collecting that total requirement.

DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2021

Part 2 – Review of the year's work

Circuit Vision Statement

The Durham and Deerness Valley Circuit of the Methodist Church seeks to be a close union of its individual Churches. Everyone connected with an individual Church should expect to feel that they are an important part of the Circuit family, and can expect the support of this family. Through our common faith in Christ we seek, in prayerful action, to share and spread the love of Jesus throughout the local and wider community.

Significant Developments during the Year

The Circuit leadership team initiated a review of how we best manage our Circuit and align our ministers coming out of Covid 19 restrictions with the aim of improving the systemic difficulties of too many jobs falling on too few shoulders. Four groups have been established: North, South, East and West. Each is responsible for working together to meet our mission objectives and in doing so we hope the group approaches adopting an organic union of the churches working together as one church on different sites. Working this way over the past year has brought both frustrations and success to those in leadership. It is very difficult to manage change in churches and we are asking for a significant change in the culture of how we approach both our internal needs and the outward work of service to our communities.

Achievements during the Year

Since adopting a Circuit Police to work together as groups of churches aiming to be one church on different sites, a great deal of good can be recorded. So too can frustrations. Each group has taken its own path forward and we are presently challenging each to adopt a Mission Plan of its own making, supported by the Circuit and District. Once these plans are produced, how we finance the Mission will be determined by solid business plans.

Our West group comprising four churches has established a strong leadership team that articulates the needs in individual churches and works to supporting the initiatives as a whole well. Services are attended increasing the number of people at any individual service, but not all congregants are willing to travel when services are held by the group outside of ones local community. There is tension that people are being left behind because of the direction we are taking. That said, observations about the good that is enabled as resources are shared is encouraging. Each meeting we put together has more support than when the churches were working individually.

The North Group is struggling to overcome very realistic concerns about membership numbers and building costs. A difficult quinquennial report has prompted one Church Council to vote to Cease to Meet. Two other churches have fallen below the threshold of 12 members from Standing Order 605A. Though they are meeting on a Sunday together with good numbers and representation most weeks from all churches, they have yet to develop a leadership team that considers the needs of the whole. A great deal of love, care and prayer is needed as this group seeks its next steps.

The South Group has formally decided to become one church on two sites. The new Durham City Methodists is working out the details of all this means to its governance having recently formed one Church Council and its first meeting due in a few days time. Activities are picking up in the churches post lockdown and they have established services which reach out through digital means and an alternative service seeking to meet needs that are wider than the traditional church often reaches. It is still early days and growing pains are ahead, but so too is hopefulness and real reason for it.

The East Group is working well together with Carrville as the Sunday Hub and midweek services happening in the smaller churches. We are still waiting to break ground on an exciting partnership with a Dance School in a redundant Church Building where the contract with the school retains two hours of work for the church. We intend to plant a new ministry in the two hours we retain. A PHD student is being supported by the district to consider the best form for a church plant or pioneering ministry in this space.

Work has gone into making sure services are accessible to everyone whether isolating or coming to public worship. Church Without Walls has formed on our deacon's driveway and this is extending into online services and prayer walks. This ministry is now happening with regular attenders often celebrating the benefits.

We are rethinking how assessments are best determined looking to create a direct correlation between the cost of staffing to each group and the amount assessed. As stated on page 4, we anticipate a lean year financially as we recover from the effects of lockdown and face uncertainty about the future. If churches are challenged to pay for the support they receive, we hope it will challenge members to give more generously and for leaders to work more creatively to make prudent financial decisions about the way buildings are used.

'Open The Book' – the re-telling of Bible stories in schools – takes place in Bearpark and continues to be fantastic ecumenical outreach.

Our Ecumenical Partnership in All Saints, Newton Hall, is working well with its leadership and connecting to its local community. It is the chosen venue for the next time the Circuit is asked to host a physical synod.

Several schools visit our churches for Harvest, Christmas and Easter services. It is hoped these links will be renewed this year.

The local foodbank hosted at our Elvet Site has been a lifeline to many through lockdown and still suffering the effects on certain employment sectors. Poverty is a real problem all over England but is more acute in the North East than in most other regions.

Our churches serve their local communities through coffee mornings, craft groups, activities for older members of society and regular visits to neighbouring care homes. Work continues to grow amongst local Care and Nursing Homes with monthly midweek services held at Lindisfarne, Newton Hall, Melbury Court, Durham, Orchard House, Brandon and Springfield, West Rainton. These services are greatly appreciated by the residents. Covid restrictions have limited what is possible here but as these ease, we are hopeful many can resume.

We have established a Circuit policy to declare a Climate Emergency and churches are responding to change its practices to reduce our carbon footprint and to increase works like recycling drop-off points for difficult to recycle items like pill blister packs. Our eco awareness is increasing and our commitment to make a difference is being supported by real action.

Many church buildings are used on a regular basis for community activities, by outside agencies e.g. probation services, support for refugees and self-help groups. Covid restrictions have eased but our ability to manage multiple bookings is not at previous levels.

Ministerial and lay members of the Circuit have continued to undergo the revised Safeguarding training.

Significant Changes

We are working as four groups of churches intending to consider becoming four churches working on different sites. This will help us to come in line with Connexional direction setting to trim the number of trustee bodies we offer. One of these groups has made the formal decision to unite as one church on two sites.

Events relating to these changes

Our Circuit Meeting will appoint a Mission Team commissioned to help each group to determine a Mission Plan. This work is supported by agreement by the District Mission Enabler. Once Mission Plans are formed, hopes and dreams recorded, Business Plans to make the mission a reality will shortly follow.

Likely developments in the coming year

Two of our churches, if we fail to find viable partnerships, are likely to close and be sold. They come from the same group. The impact on whether the group can maintain its staffing costs is yet to be determined. We are looking to develop a Pioneering/Church Planting internship and a proof of concept is in the works supported by the District with a proposed project in Sherburn Hill. The minister of the East Group is stepping down. We intend to seek Connexional approval to host a Probationer minister in this vacancy.

Contributions of volunteers

All the work in the Circuit, apart from that of appointed ministers and lay workers, is on a voluntary basis, and includes that of Circuit and church officers, Commissioned Lay Persons, Local Preachers and Worship Leaders, members and secretaries of all the Circuit committees, and those assisting in the running of children's and young people's work.

**DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

Relationship with related parties and other charities

There are appointed Circuit secretaries and treasurers for Connexional funds, Methodist Homes and Action for Children. Ecumenical links in youth work are developing in some areas of the Circuit, and several churches ran holiday clubs. Authorised minister status has been granted by Conference to the three clergy of the Durham North Area Team of the Anglican Church. The Chinese Church based at Elvet church has become well established. Many churches are involved in Churches Together, Area Action Partnerships and organising events in the local communities.

Conclusion

The mission of the Circuit continues through the leadership of our dedicated ministers and lay appointees. The work of volunteers will continue to become increasingly important as we seek to enhance our varied outreach and service to the local communities of our Circuit.

Rt Bissell

Trustee



Trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF
DURHAM & DEERNES VALLEY
METHODIST CIRCUIT**

I report on the accounts of the Durham & Deerness Valley Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2021, which are set out on pages 8 to 12.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The Circuits Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

The Circuits Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the business and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

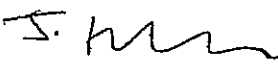
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



J Holbrook
Accountant
Robson Laidler (Durham) Limited
Hadrian House
Front Street
Chester le Street
Co Durham
DH3 3DB

15/03/2022
Date



CIRCUIT
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
ACCOUNTS

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Durham and Deerness Valley	Circuit
----------------------------	---------

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 AUGUST 2021

	Circuit no	13/11
--	------------	-------

Registered Charity - Registration number

1132827

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 2655 of 2007)

Ministers:

The Revd John Squares (Superintendent Minister)
The Revd Colin Jackson
The Revd. Andy Long
Deacon Ruth Lackenby

Circuit Stewards:

Penny Bissell
John Fairbairn
blank

Treasurer:

blank

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR upto 31 Aug 2021

Durham and Deerness Valley

Circuit

SECTION A			Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	TOTAL THIS YEAR	TOTAL LAST YEAR
	RECEIPTS	Note	£	£	£	£	£
a1	Assessment/Share		145,000			145,000	163,539
a2	Capital receipts		0			0	0
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		169	686		855	2,398
a4	Contrib. to Stipends		0			0	0
a5	Other receipts + Lettings		60,917		0	60,917	8,402
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		206,086	686	0	206,772 (a8)	174,339

SECTION B							
	PAYMENTS						
b1	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs		145,086	0		145,086	143,678
b2	Manse Costs		24,084			24,084	18,935
b3	Administration etc		8,775	433		9,208	7,872
b4	District Assessment		0	8,329		8,329	8,725
b5	Grants & donations			0		0	
b6							
b7	Other payments and Manse Purchase		5,383	50,000	0	55,383	202,163
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		183,328	58,762	0	242,090 (b9)	381,373

SECTION C							
	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR						
c1		(a7-b8)	22,758	-58,076	0	-35,318	-207,034
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		121,269	216,594	934	338,797 (c6)	545,831
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	144,027	158,518	934	303,479	338,797
c4	Transfers and adjustments					(c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	144,027	158,518	934	303,479 (c8)	338,797

SECTION D							
	FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (these amounts should not be included in total receipts/payments above)						
d1	Balance brought forward from last year						
d2	Offerings/Gifts - rec'd for ext. organisations District Assessment				50,528		54,029
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to ext. organisations District Assessment						54,029
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)				50,528		0

SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATION REPORTING TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING**SECTION E** Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete

Summary of the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2011 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Circuit 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 total income and expenditure of the Circuit. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts. Contact Resourcing Mission Office, Manchester tel 0161 236 5194. Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the Circuit and its Internal Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1 Circuit Youth	0		0		264	264
e2			0			0
e3			0			0
e4			0			0
e5			0			0
e6			0			0
e7			0			0
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	0	0	0	0	264 (e11)	264 (e12)
e9 Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	206,772 (a8)	242,090 (b9)	(35,318)	0 (c7)	338,797 (c6)	303,479 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	206,772	242,090	(35,318)	0	339,061 (x)	303,743 (y)
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2020

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	4,987	19,115
f3 Connexional Manses		
f4 Central Finance Board	107,215	115,846
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		
f6 Other funds (CAF & Chapel Aid)	226,595	168,519
f7 SUB TOTAL OF CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT - Circuit accounts	338,797 (c6)	303,479 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance totals above) (e12)	264 (e11)	264 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	339,061 (x)	303,743 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 11 November 2019	At 01 December 2020
g1 Investments (include Endowments)		
g2 Land and Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	1,394,712	1,464,433
g3 Other Assets - loans by the Circuit		
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5 Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

f5 Include only CFB Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

g1 Include any other investments

DECLARATIONS

Circuit Finance Officer

I confirm that I have prepared the accounts from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit Meeting

Signature of
Treasurer

Peter Templer

Date

10/3/22

Name

Peter Templer

Address

11 Leyland Close, Bowburn, Durham DH6 5DD

Presentation to the Circuit Meeting for approval.

I confirm that the Accounts have been presented to the Circuit Meeting on

10/3/22

and were approved

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

John Squares

Name of the Chair of the meeting

Revd. John Squares

Date

10/3/22

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Durham & Deerness Valley

Circuit

This Report is on the Church Accounts for the year ended 31st August

2021

carried out under Section 43 of the Charities Act 1993, or in Scotland Section 11 of the charities and

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) or under Regulation 10 (1)(d) of The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (the 2006 Accounts Regulations) and that an independent examination is needed

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act and section 44(1) of the Charities and
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission and is in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 41 of the 1993 Act and Section 44 (1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act and Section 44(1)(b) of the 2005 Act and Regulation (of the 2006 Regulations)

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name

JOHN HOLBROOK

Signature

S. M. A.

Relevant Professional qualification or ^v body

FCCA

Address

HADRIAN HOUSE, FRONT STREET, CHESTER LE STREET
CO. DURHAM, DH3 3DB

Date

15.03.2022



CIRCUIT
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
ACCOUNTS

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Durham and Deerness Valley	Circuit
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 AUGUST 2021

	Circuit no	13/11
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Registered Charity - Registration number

1132827

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

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(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2655 of 2007)

Ministers:

The Revd John Squares (Superintendent Minister)
The Revd Colin Jackson
The Revd. Andy Long
Deacon Ruth Lackenby

Circuit Stewards:

Penny Bissell
John Fairbairn
blank

Treasurer:

blank

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR upto 31 Aug 2021
Durham and Deerness Valley
Circuit

SECTION A		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	TOTAL THIS YEAR	TOTAL LAST YEAR
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS					
a2	Assessment/Share	145,000			145,000	163,539
a3	Capital receipts	0			0	0
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	169	686		855	2,398
a5	Contrib. to Stipends	0			0	0
a6	Other receipts + Lettings	60,917		0	60,917	8,402
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS	206,086	686	0	206,772 (a8)	174,339

SECTION B						
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs	145,086	0		145,086	143,678
b3	Manse Costs	24,084			24,084	18,935
b4	Administration etc	8,775	433		9,208	7,872
b5	District Assessment	0	8,329		8,329	8,725
b6	Grants & donations		0		0	
b7						
b8	Other payments and Manse Purchase	5,383	50,000	0	55,383	202,163
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS	183,328	58,762	0	242,090 (b9)	381,373

SECTION C						
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a7-b8)	22,758	-58,076	0	-35,318
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		121,269	216,594	934	338,797 (c6)
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	144,027	158,518	934	338,797
c4	Transfers and adjustments					(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	144,027	158,518	934	338,797 (c8)

SECTION D						
d	FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS					
	(these amounts should not be included in total receipts/payments above)					
d1	Balance brought forward from last year					
d2	Offerings/Gifts - rec'd for ext. organisations District Assessment				50,528	54,029
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to ext. organisations District Assessment					54,029
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)				50,528	0

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Date

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John Squares

Name of the Chair of the meeting

Revd. John Squares

Date

10/3/22

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Relevant Professional qualification or ^v body

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Date

15.03.2022