

Ripon and Lower Dales Circuit

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Introduction This is the Annual Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 August 2020 for Ripon and Lower Dales Methodist Circuit which is a Circuit made up of 15 churches located in North Yorkshire and consisting of 2 sections centred around Ripon and Boroughbridge, Masham and Bedale.

Aims and organisation In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the Circuit Meeting, under the leadership of the Superintendent and the Circuit Leadership Team, meet regularly throughout the year and have endeavoured to ensure that in advancing our objectives they conform to the Charities Act 2011 and are in line with Charity Commissioners' general guidance. Our mission is to resource church and community, enabling them to carry out the vision to be an effective and visible Christian presence in our area. We aim to achieve this by encouraging, throughout the Circuit and its churches, the worship, social and outreach activities that currently exist and by seeking new ways to extend to others the fellowship of the Church family.

Review of the year

Along with the rest of the world, this year has been an extremely difficult one due to the global Covid-19 pandemic. It has thrown up enormous challenges with the closure of our premises and the cessation of in-person worship for a large part of the year. We have adapted to home working and remote worship both online and in paper format. Our Circuit staff have risen to the challenge by upskilling in the use of technology and in ensuring that our Christian outreach programmes have continued wherever possible. In particular the regular monthly recorded services distributed to all of the care homes within our circuit have been extremely well received and a very welcome continued Christian presence in care homes where the implications and ravages of Covid-19 have been so keenly felt. Prior to lockdown we had developed 2 new Messy Church projects run on a regular basis by our Circuit Enabler in conjunction with ecumenical local partners. During lockdown staff members have been involved in recording Open the Book presentations for local schools as well as recorded collective worship for local schools.

We have been in a fortunate financial position which has enabled us to support projects for refugees and asylum seekers both locally and wider across Yorkshire and Humberside.

The work of engaging with the communities served by all the local churches has been ongoing.

The accounts have been prepared under the accounts basis adopting standard accounting procedures using a tolerance of 0.75% of turnover for any accruals basis adjustments. In our case that is £1755 for any single item, i.e. telephone, council tax etc as none of our bills would amount to this figure, no accruals adjustments have been made. No end of year debtors and creditors exist.

During the year the Circuit received £577,917 including disposal of capital assets (18-19 £306,113) and dispersed £423,812 (18-19 £429,264). During the year we sold one of our unused manse at Bedale and a parcel of land previously owned by Leeming Church, following the church closure. The trustees of the Circuit have every reason to believe that the Circuit is a going concern, principally because Churches continue to meet their assessments and the Circuit has adequate reserves to cover any unexpected shortfall in income. There was one subsidiary undertaking. The provision of a thorough professional deep clean of all our premises and the provision of all necessary PPE equipment and sanitiser to enable our premises to reopen safely during the Covid-19 crisis. This was funded from the uplift in the final sale price of the parcel of land which far exceeded our initial expectations and valuation. Trustees do not foresee any facts that will significantly affect the financial performance or position in the next year or two other than financial assistance needed by our churches should the Covid-19 crisis and lockdown continue indefinitely. Spending against budget remains on or below target. In the coming year it is intended to sell the Masham Manse which is no longer required due to the reduction in our ministerial staffing. The 2 village chapels which closed last year will also be placed on to the market once planning permission has been given, to enable us to maximise their worth.

Income trends

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment paid by the circuit churches.

The rental income in the year relates to the rental of one manse which is currently not required for a Minister.

Expenditure trends

Stipend expenditure has increased each financial year in line with conference approved increases, as has lay worker salaries per agreement by Circuit Meeting.

20.8% of revenue expenditure is the Circuit contribution to the District and Connexion, of which a significant part is used to fund the work of the wider Methodist Church.

Fund balances

As at 31 August 2020 the net current assets of the Circuit were £2,008,403 including restricted and designated funds. Our reserve policy is to maintain at least 6 months of expected annual expenditure as reserve, the reason for the excess is explained in our reserve policy document.

Plans for 2020/21

This year the circuit will see changes in ministerial staff with a new Superintended Minister Revd. Gareth Baron and a new presbyter the Revd. Ian Pruden taking up appointments. Further changes include the evolving lay employee role of the community link enabler into a Local Pastor role. This evolution was identified with the lay employee during a circuit resourcing review carried out by the Circuit leadership team. The impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic has brought both new challenges and opportunities which have influenced plans for the year. The circuit is committed to providing accessible worship at home resources and providing good pastoral care for its membership and adherents. Also, the circuit will explore developing a new local pastor position to better meet present ministerial needs and further the potential growth in the ministry and witness of the circuit through the local church which is being identified. Such plans are all part of the Ministerial oversight to review policies, mainly the circuit mission policy to gain a clear vision ahead.

Trustee's Annual Report on Finance and Governance

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 2015.

Full Name of Charity: Ripon and Lower Dales Methodist Circuit

Registration Charity Number: 113379

Date of registration: 27 January 2010

Main communication address: Circuit Office, Allhallowgate Methodist Church

Victoria Grove, Ripon, HG4 1LG

The members of the Ripon and Lower Dales Methodist Circuit meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches.

Fully membership is shown as Appendix A to this report.

Circuit Ministers and officers

Active Circuit Ministers: Rev G Baron

Rev I Pruden

Deacon N Perrott

Circuit Lay Workers: Mrs P Smith

Miss D Gaskill

Mrs C Clowes

Circuit Stewards: Mrs K Emms

Mrs M Scollay

Miss M Smith

Mr R Jennings

Support Manager: Mrs P Smith

Administrative Manager: Miss D Gaskill

Diane Gaskill acted as the principal officer overseeing the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the circuit during the year.

Independent examiner:

R Stride & Co LLP (Limited Liability Partnership) Accountants,

Rear of Eastville Terrace

Ripon Road

Harrogate

North Yorkshire

HG1 3HJ

Investment Bankers: Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church

Trustees for Methodist Church purposes

Bankers:

CAF Bank Ltd	HSBC plc	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
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25 Kings Hill Avenue	34 Westgate	9 Bonhill Street
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Kings Hill	Ripon	London
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West Malling	HG4 2BL	EC2A 4PE
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ME19 4JQ

Investment Managers and Custodian Trustees:

Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

Central Buildings

Oldham Street

Manchester, M1 1JQ

Ripon and Lower Dale Circuit Aims and organisation

Charity's objective is to ensure Resources Provided within the agreed period Ripon and Lower Dales Methodist Circuit for the Methodist Church

Charity objective is to act as a Resource Provider within the area around Ripon and Lower Dales Methodist Circuit for the Methodist Church.

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 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.

The organisation and resourcing of regular public acts of worship open to members of the church and non-members alike.

The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.

The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.

Taking religious assemblies in local schools.

Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services.

Provision of chaplaincy services to the local community including National Trust and Police and other institutions. The Circuit has also been approached to increase our chaplaincy serviced to include Ripon Racecourse.

Public Benefit

We confirm the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document for the circuit is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976).

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD).

Day to day management of the circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership Team along with the Local Preachers meeting.

Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the circuit, specifically the leaflet 'The Role of a Trustee in The Methodist Church' is given to all new Circuit meeting members as induction to their role as trustees.

Related Parties

The Circuit is part of the Yorkshire North and East Methodist District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference of Great Britain.

The following Methodist Churches are linked to the circuit Allhallowgate, Bishop Monkton, Boroughbridge, Harrogate Road, Dallowgill, Ellington, Grewelthorpe, Kirkby Malzeard, Masham, Sawley, Snape, West Tanfield, Bedale, Carthorpe, and Finghall.

Any other specific organisations with specific linkage. None.

Ripon and Lower Dales Circuit

Risk Management

Any major risks have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Leadership Team with professional advice taken as required.

There is a regular annual review process undertaken.

Income and Expenditure is being monitored in total and is compared with the approved annual budget on a half yearly basis to detect trends as part of the risk management process to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults
- the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
- We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.
- We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice

The Ripon and Lower Dales Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.

The Ripon and Lower Dales Circuit commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy for the Circuit is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to 6 months' average expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on manses and/or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full Circuit Assessment from churches.

Ripon and Lower Dales Circuit

Appendix A

CIRCUIT MEETING MEMBERSHIP

MINISTERS

Rev Gareth Baron - Superintendent

Rev Ian Pruden

Deacon Nigel Perrott

MINISTERS IN OTHER APPOINTMENTS

SUPERNUMERARY MINISTERS

Rev David Emison

Rev Barry Lumley

Rev Keith Phipps

SECRETARY

Mrs E Teasdale

LAYWORKERS

Mrs P Smith

Miss D Gaskill

Mrs C Clowes

CIRCUIT STEWARDS

Mrs K Emms

Mrs M Scollay

Miss M Smith

Mr R Jennings

Circuit Local Preachers & Worship Leaders representatives

Mr L Baynes

Mrs E Hogerzeil

Mrs J Goodall

Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Mrs K Emms

CIRCUIT CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES

Churches:

Allhallowgate

Senior Steward Bryan George

Treasurer John Ensoll

Church Rep Robin Jennings

Named Substitute Elisabeth Hogerzeil

Bedale & DMC

Steward Clare Dalton

Treasurer Kathy Lowrie

Church reps Sharon Holmes

Bishop Monkton

Senior Steward Angela Archbold

Treasurer Tim Abel

Church rep David Arundell

Boroughbridge

Senior Steward Julie Smith

Treasurer Lyn Allen

Carthorpe

Senior Steward Joan Fothergill

Treasurer Brian Fothergill

Named Substitute Andrew Ashford

Dallowgill

Steward Geoff Lobley

Treasurer Brian Davies

Ellington

Steward Mark Greensit

Treasurer Robert Greensit

Finghall

Senior Steward Alan Davies

Treasurer Cynthia Davies

Grewelthorpe (LEP)

Jean Stelling

Pauline Broadwith

Harrogate Road

Senior Steward

Treasurer Roger Taylor

Church Reps Pippa Cowie

Kirkby Malzeard

Steward Ruth Thomas

Steward Ruth Thomas

Treasurer Ruth Verity

Masham

Treasurer Steve Laughher

Church Rep Pauline Staton

Sawley

Steward Joyce Spensley

Treasure Janet Watson

Snape

Leadership Team John Duck

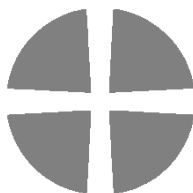
Treasurer Janet Pentelow

Church Rep Joy Abel

West Tanfield

Steward Simon Abel

Treasurer Elizabeth Elvie



**Circuit
Accruals Accounts
2019-20**

29/24

THE METHODIST CHURCH

**TEMPLATE REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
(ACCRUALS BASIS)
for the year ended 31 August 2020**

Ripon and Lower Dales **Circuit**

Registered Charity - Registration number

1133792

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Ministers

Rev Dr P A Malham

Rev G Baron

Rev H Bell

Deacon N Perrott

Circuit Stewards

Karen Emms

Margaret Smith

Maureen Scollay

Robin Jennings

Circuit Treasurer

Diane Gaskill

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2020

	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restrict ed Funds	Endowm ent Funds	Total 2019-20
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income						
1 Donations and legacies						
2 Income from monetary investments	898	801		2	837	2,538
3 Income from investment properties	12,125					12,125
4 Assessments on Churches	206,560					206,560
5 Capital Receipts		343,050				343,050
6 Grants received						
7 Other charitable income	13,644					13,644
8 Total income	233,227	343,851	-	2	837	577,917
Expenditure						
9 Grants and donations	10,064					10,064
10 Salaries and associated costs	174,647					174,647
11 Property maintenance	18,231					18,231
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy	39,855					39,855
13 District Assessment & Levy	8,749	304				9,053
14 Depreciation						0
15 Office expenses	5,843	24				5,867
16 Other outgoings	47,266	118,829				166,095
17 Total charitable expenditure	304,655	119,157	0	0	0	423,812
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments						0
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties		71,924				71,924
20 Net income/(expenditure)	-71,428	296,618	0	2	837	226,029
21 Transfers between funds	- 2,994	- 343,050		-	850	-346,894
22 Other gains/(losses)		5,033		- 2	- 10,543	-5,512
23 Net movement in funds	-74,422	-41,399	0	0	-10,556	-126,377
24 Total funds brought forward	171,195	576		15,197	46,693	233,661
25 Total funds carried forward	96,773	230,508	-	14,980	36,149	378,410

Name of Circuit
Ripon and Lower Dales

Circuit No
29/24

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2020

General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted)	Designat ed Funds (Unrestricted)	Restrict ed Funds	Endowm ent Funds	Totals 2019/20	Totals 2018/19
£	£	£	£	£	£	£

Fixed Assets

Circuit Manses & Equipment					1,300,746	1,536,872
Investment properties					329,247	364,247
Investments					0	
Total fixed assets	0	0	0	0	1,629,993	1,901,119

Current Assets

Debtors					0	
Loans by the Circuit					0	
Investments with TMCP		241,926		386	39,325	62,466
Central Finance Board Deposits						
	76,218				76,218	147,804
Cash at Bank and in hand	20,555				20,555	23,391
Total current assets	96,773	241,926	0	386	39,325	378,410

Current liabilities

Creditors (due in under 1 year)						0
Grants payable within 2018-19						0
Total current liabilities	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net current assets/liabilities	96,773	241,926	0	386	39,325	378,410

Total assets less current liabilities						
	96,773	241,926	0	386	39,325	2,008,403
						2,134,780

Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)						
Grants payable after 2018-19						0
Loans to the Circuit						0
						0
Net assets	96,773	241,926	0	386	39,325	2,008,403
						2,134,780

Funds of the Circuit

General Fund (Unrestricted)	96,773				96,773	171,195
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)						
		241,926			241,926	12,199
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)			0		0	0
Total Unrestricted Funds					338,699	183,394
Restricted Funds				386	386	386
Endowment Funds				39,325	39,325	49,881
Total Funds	96,773	241,926	0	386	0	378,410
						233,661

Signed *D R Gaskill*

Diane Gaskill
Circuit Treasurer

Name of Circuit ...Ripon and Lower Dales..... No...29/24.....

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-based accounts for the year to 31 August 2020 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit meeting.

Signature of treasurer D. Gaskill Date 29/3/2021

Name and address of treasurer ...Diane Gaskill, Circuit Office, Allhallowgate Methodist Church, Victoria Avenue, Ripon.....
Post Code...HG4 1LG.....

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 ~~were~~ will be* presented to the Circuit meeting held on 3 March 2021... (Delayed due to Covid-19 lockdown)

Signature of the Chair of the meeting G. Baron
Name of the Chair of the meeting: Rev Gareth Baron..... Date 29/3/2021

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Ripon and Lower Dales Circuit

Charity Number 1133792.

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Ripon and Lower Dales..... Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2020 set out on pages 1 to 5 As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Circuit's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

* delete or circle as appropriate

delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Circuit ...Ripon and Lower Dales..... No 29/24.....

Independent Examiner's Statement

The Circuit's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of

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

1. the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination
4. the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts

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

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

Signature of independent examiner 

Name of independent examiner Robin Stride.....

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FMAAT.....

Name of firm (where appropriate) ...R Stride & Co.....

Address The Old Coach House, Rear of Eastville Terrace, Ripon Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire Post Code ...HG1 3HJ.....

Date 22/3/21.....

* delete or circle as appropriate