

Charity registration number: 1133792

Circuit number: 29/24



Ripon & Lower Dales Methodist Circuit

With God in the city, towns, villages, and rural areas

Annual Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2022

Circuit Office

Allhallowgate Methodist Church

Victoria Grove, Ripon, HG4 1LG

Ripon and Lower Dales Methodist Circuit

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Ripon and Lower Dales Methodist Circuit
Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees

Rev Gareth Baron	Pamela Stansfield
Rev Ian Pruden	Julie Olive Smith
Deacon Nigel Perrott	Lynn Allen
Diane Ashby	Brian Fothergill
Diane Gaskill	Joan Fothergill
Phillipa Smith	Alan Davies
Catherine Clowes	Geoff Lobley
Maureen Scollay	Brian Davies
Amanda Jane Milner	Pauline Broadwith
Robin George Jennings	Hazel Jean Stelling
Stephen Wild	Phillipa Cowie
Karen Emms	Roger Taylor
Richard Emms	Mark Greensit
Andrea Scott	Robert Eric Greensit
John Ensoll	Helen Ruth Verity
Elisabeth Hogerzeil	Ruth Christine Thomas
Clare Dalton	Pauline Staton
Lister Baynes	Steve Morton
Sharon Fiona Holmes	Joyce Spensley
Kathleen Lowrie	Janet Margaret Watson
Timothy Abel	Joy Abel
Angela Archbold	John Wilkinson Duck
David Arundell	Simon Abel
Jan Goodall	Elizabeth Elvy

Secretary

Diane Gaskill

Finance Officer / Circuit Treasurer

Diane Ashby

Principal Office

Circuit Office, Allhallowgate Methodist Church, Victoria Grove, Ripon, HG4 1LG

Charity Registration Number

1133792

Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, ME19 4JQ

HSBC plc, 34 Westgate, Ripon, HG4 2BL

Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church, 9 Bonhill Street, London, EC2A 4PE

Investment Bankers

Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church

Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

Investment Managers and Custodian Trustees

Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, Central Buildings, Oldham Street, M1 1JQ

Independent Examiner

R Stride & Co LLP (Limited Liability Partnership) Accountants

Rear of Eastville Terrace, Ripon Road, Harrogate, HG1 3HJ

Trustees Report

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice

Ripon and Lower Dales Methodist Circuit is made up of 14 Churches (although we started the year with 15), split into 2 sections centred around Ripon and Boroughbridge and Masham and Bedale.

Full Name of Charity: Ripon and Lower Dales Methodist Circuit Registration

Charity Number: 1133792

Date of registration: 27 January 2010

Structure, Governance and Management

Nature of governing document

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.

Appointment and training of trustees

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.

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 Connexion through 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.

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.

Objectives and Activities

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.

Charity Objective

The 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.

Public Benefit

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

Achievements and Performance

Review of year

This year we have continued to engage creatively to fulfil the mission purposes of the circuit by creative means as we continue to journey out of the pandemic. These include the provision of a written and recorded worship at home service each week produce by our circuit ministers and local preachers. We have also continued to make use of online video conference calls for some meetings to help towards reducing the circuit's carbon footprint.

The circuit has seen the successful recruitment of the newly formed Circuit Finance Officer post. Alongside this development to help the circuit achieve its fullest potential, we have also travelled through two sabbatical periods. Further changes to the circuit ministerial staffing came with the Methodist Diaconal Order identifying the skills of Revd. Deacon Nigel Perrott matched a critical appointment which resulted in an earlier than anticipated move, leaving the Circuit one ordained staff member less. The lay employed office staffing has also been reviewed and renewed, resulting in a newly developed Circuit Admin Support Officer post. This was carried out in preparation for the replacement of two part-time office staff members who enter retirement in early 2023.

We have been encouraged by new community focused initiatives, for example a community larder run in partnership with two community groups. Also, we have seen the reawakening with fresh vigour of more established groups that ceased during the time of the pandemic, such as social care groups.

Unfortunately, 2021/22 also saw the closure of Finghall Church, however, they have successfully integrated themselves, and become a Class of, Bedale and District Church, giving them a fresh start and they are again flourishing.

Plans for 2022/23

We have been reflecting considerably upon the cost-of-living crisis which is being felt by everyone across all walks of life. One such consideration is how we might best support our local communities by using our buildings to provide safe and warm spaces. We are looking towards exploring this further as well as seeking to gain an informed understanding of what needs are arising out of the cost-of-living crisis. We are preparing for how we can work in partnerships with other local groups to meet the needs of those most impacted.

Further plans are for the recruitment of the newly formed Circuit Admin Support Officer post. We also plan to review the Local Pastor vacancy which we have not been successful in filling.

Unfortunately, we are preparing for the closure of Kirkby Malzeard Church, who have voted and are seeking permission to cease worship. Whilst this decision

made by the Kirkby Malzeard Church Council meetings trustees is marked with some sadness, the church members will be exploring how they can continue to be a Methodist Christian presence within the village.

Plans for next year also include the preparation for a review of the circuit's five-year budget forecast with particular focus upon how the circuit's resourcing review has contributed to fulfilling the circuits missional objectives.

Financial Review

All accounts are produced on an accruals basis, however no one outstanding transaction met the thresholds of the requirement for an accrual, therefore no accruals were raised.

Income Trends

We have seen a reduction in income this year due to two main factors:

- A payment holiday was given to the Churches in respect of their Assessment payment (the quarterly payment they make to the Circuit for the running costs) for the last quarter of the year in recognition of the ongoing recovery from the pandemic meaning their own income had not yet fully recovered from pre pandemic times;
- Additionally in 2020/21 an ex Ministerial property (Manse) was sold, which when assessing this years total income, the large decrease needs to be assessed in more detail, as this is due to the capital receipt for said property and not a true reflection of ongoing income.

Expenditure Trends

Expenditure has decreased overall by almost £200k, this is again mainly attributable to the sale of the Manse as above, as under Connexional Methodist code of practice, any sale of Property incurs a levy which is taken by Connexion via District to fund Missional work across the whole Methodist community. We also incur a levy on our end of year balance in trust (which is where our property sales income is credited) again to fund the overall Methodist missional funding.

Fund Balances

Balances at 31/08/22

Current account £24,214

CFB account £125,633

Model Trust Fund £402,105

Endowments/Restricted £54,171

Cash £59

TOTAL £606,182

Less Restricted/Designated £225,032

Total Reserves at end of financial year £381,150

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.

At the end of the last financial year (31/08/22)

Annual Expenditure **£316,821**

Forecast Expenditure for year ending 31/08/22 **£348,503**

Six months of this rounded to nearest £5,000 is **£170,000**

The reserves are above our target at the moment, being over by **£211,150**.

However, mission opportunities continue to move forward with plans to develop our Churches, including projects to develop our buildings to enhance our churches and provide scope for more mission work, including the development of Bishop Monkton and Boroughbridge Churches, and until all costs have been met, funds may be loaned by the Circuit in addition to a possible grants to be given by the Circuit.

We also have ongoing property issues where additional expenditure may be required for sale/anticipate making substantial financial assistance available to all of our churches as we emerge pandemic and enter into a spiralling cost of living crisis, in particular energy costs. We estimate between £50,000 and £100,000.

Based on the above the surplus funds held over the agreed reserve are not considered to be a tolerable level for the continued smooth running of the circuit.

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Ripon and Lower Dales	Circuit
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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2022**

Yorkshire N & E	District	Circuit no	29/24
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1133792

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

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

Ministers:

Reverend Gareth Baron (Superintendent Minister)
Reverend Ian Pruden (Minister)

Circuit Stewards:

Maureen Scollay
Amanda Milner
Steve Wild
Robin Jennings

Treasurer:

Diane Ashby

SECTION A		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS					
a2	Assessment/Share	157,345			157,345	205,035
a3	Capital receipts		73,596		73,596	551,550
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	1,583	1,195	5	2,784	2,085
a5	Grants					475
a6	Other receipts	18,625			18,625	33,322
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS	177,553	74,792	5	252,350 (a8)	792,467

SECTION B						
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs	184,545	8,500		193,045	151,677
b3	Manse Costs	12,571	5,000		17,571	25,934
b4	Administration etc	9,002			9,002	5,914
b5	District Assessment	47,280			47,280	18,612
b6	Grants & donations	893	4,500		5,393	6,824
b7						
b8	Other payments	43,859	671		44,530	298,095
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS	298,150	18,671		316,821 (b9)	507,056

SECTION C						
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a7-b9)	(120,597)	56,121	5	(64,471)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		155,882	460,604	54,166	670,653 (c6)
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	35,285	516,725	54,171	606,182
c4	Transfers and adjustments					(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	35,285	516,725	54,171	606,182 (c8)
						670,653 (c6)

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 - received for external organisations				
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations				
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)				

SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATION REPORTING TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING

SECTION E Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 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 gross receipts and payments totals of the Circuit. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold of £250,000, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the Circuit and connected Circuit Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1						
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds				(e11)	(e12)
e9	Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	252,350 (a8)	316,821 (b9)	(64,471)	670,653 (c6)	606,182 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	252,350	316,821	(64,471)	670,653 (x)	606,182 (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 2023

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1	59	59
f2	14,412	24,214
f3	33,646	17,417
f4	107,765	108,216
f5	460,604	402,105
f6	54,166	54,171
f7	670,653 (c6)	606,182 (c8)
f8	(e11)	(e12)
f9	670,653 (x)	606,182 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2022	At 31 August 2023
g1	54,165.72	54,170.97
g2	1,133,069	1,366,295
g3		
g4		
g5		

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 (not the cash element of TMCP trust accounts this is inserted in line f5)

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2022 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit meeting.

Signature of treasurer  Date 9/6/2023

Name and address of treasurer . Circuit Office, Allhallowgate Methodist Church

Victoria Grove, Ripon. HG4 1LG

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 were ~~will be~~* presented to the Circuit meeting held on 19/6/2023

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting CAROL BARN Date 19/6/23

Independent Examiner's Statement

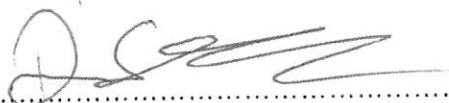
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

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

Signature of independent examiner



Name of independent examiner Robin Stride

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FMAAT

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

Address The Old Coach House, Rear of Eastville Terrace, Ripon Road, Harrogate, HG1 3HJ

Date 7th June 2023

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
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Robin Jennings

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SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATION REPORTING TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING

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INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1						
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds					(e11)	(e12)
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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 2023

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand	59	59
f2 Bank Current Account	14,412	24,214
f3 Bank Deposit Account	33,646	17,417
f4 Central Finance Board	107,765	108,216
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	460,604	402,105
f6 Other funds	54,166	54,171
f7 SUB TOTAL	670,653 (c6)	606,182 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance totals above) (e12)	(e11)	(e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	670,653 (x)	606,182 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2022	At 31 August 2023
g1 Investments (include Endowments)	54,165.72	54,170.97
g2 Land and Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	1,133,069	1,366,295
g3 Other Assets		
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 (not the cash element of TMCP trust accounts this is inserted in line f5)

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2022 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit meeting.

Signature of treasurer  Date 9/6/2023

Name and address of treasurer . Circuit Office, Allhallowgate Methodist Church

Victoria Grove, Ripon. HG4 1LG

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 were ~~will be~~*
presented to the Circuit meeting held on 19/6/2023

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting CAROL BARN Date 19/6/23

Independent Examiner's Statement

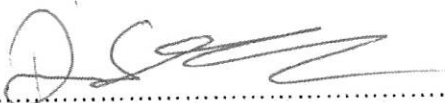
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Signature of independent examiner



Name of independent examiner Robin Stride

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FMAAT

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

Address The Old Coach House, Rear of Eastville Terrace, Ripon Road, Harrogate, HG1 3HJ

Date 7th June 2023