

Charity registration number: 1133792

Circuit number:29/24



Annual Report

For the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024

Circuit Office

Allhallowgate Methodist Church

Victoria Grove, Ripon, HG4 1LG



Ripon and Lower Dales Methodist Circuit

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Ripon & Lower Dales Methodist Circuit  
WITH GOD WE CAN DO ALL THINGS  
VILLAGES AND RURAL AREAS

For the Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024

*[Handwritten signature]*

Circuit Office  
Allhallowsgate Methodist Church  
Victoria Grove, Ripon, HG4 1JG



## Ripon and Lower Dales Methodist Circuit

### Reference and Administrative Details

#### Trustees

Rev Gareth Baron

Miss Amanda Milner

Mrs. Andrea Scott

Mrs Catherine Clowes

Mrs. Pauline Broadwith

Mr David Arundell

Mr Richard Emms

Mr Brian Davies

Mrs. Elizabeth Elvy

Mrs. Phillippa Cowie

Mrs. Hazel Stelling

Mrs Clare Dalton

Mrs. Angela Archbold

Mrs. Pauline Staton

Mrs. Karen Emms

Mr Mark Greensit

Mr Timothy Abel

Mrs Joan Fothergill

Mr Brian Fothergill

Mrs Janet Goodall

Mrs Helen Ruth Verity

Mr Simon Abel

Mrs Pamela Stansfield

Mr Lister Baynes

Mrs Joyce Spensley

Mrs Joy Abel

Mr John Ensoll



Mr Alan David

Mrs Julie Olive Smith

Mr Robert Eric Greensit

Mr Roger Taylor

### **Secretary**

Sam Price

### **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

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**

S Cutting. Bridge Methodist Circuit.

28 The Green, Acomb, York, YO26 5LR



## **Trustees Report**

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice.

Ripon and Lower Dales Methodist Circuit are made up of 12, split into two sections centred around Ripon and Boroughbridge, 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 '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,

#### ***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 establish 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 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 or 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**

As a Circuit, we planned for 2023/2024 to continue our prayers and support for the work of Missional Ministries. We wished to continue educating ourselves about and discover how we can offer our support to the many charities and causes.

In terms of engagement in our local communities, we have seen an enthusiasm for how we as the local church find new ways to engage with those around us, which has included looking at ways to maintain and develop our buildings and facilities for further outreach.

West Tanfield has asked for permission to cease worship due to a decline in congregation and the growing costs of the building maintenance. As a circuit we are supporting the members during this difficult time and were pleased to see them finding new places to worship together.

The circuit hosted an away day with the aim for us to look at our future and what our mission is. There was opportunity for us to find out about the Bridge Circuit and start the process of consideration as to whether joining them would be something that Ripon and Lower Dales Circuit would consider. This would allow the governance to be dealt with by the Bridge circuit and for us to become a mission area.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024 Revd Sarah Caddell was ordained and many of the circuit attended the Wesley Centre in Harrogate to be part of the service.

Pippa Cowie was welcomed to the circuit steward team following a period of discernment, completed the training and all the safer recruitment requirements. She gave a brief speech which was well received and left the room to be voted in. The vote was unanimous with Gareth asking for prayer for her as she takes on the role.

### **Plans for 2025/26**

The Ripon and Lower Dales hope to further discern our vision for the future, considering whether to join the Bridge circuit and what we feel is God's calling for us as a circuit.

Local churches plan to secure grants to undertake renovations needed on some of the chapels as the footfall continues to grow. We plan to further find ways to reach those seeking a relationship with God, working ecumenically and as churches together.

We plan to use resources such as 'Holy Habits' during this time of discernment to allow us to spend time reflecting on what we as Christians are called to do, and how we can put these principles into practice as we look to the future.



## Financial Review

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

### Income Trends

We have seen an decrease in income this year due to two main factors:

- Refund of a donation given to the Pension fund.
- No sale of church within the year

### Expenditure Trends

We have seen an decrease in expenditure this year, which is due to no levy on the sale of a church, however operational deficit was £72K which was budgeted, we continue to support our local churches which work within the community.

### Fund Balances

#### Balances at 31/08/24

Current account £13,788

CFB account £62,725

Model Trust Fund £552,511

Endowments/ Restricted £39,962

Cash £59

Total Reserves at end of financial year £669,045

### 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 (31/08/24)**

Annual Expenditure £399,333

Forecast Expenditure for year ending 31/08/25 £278,215

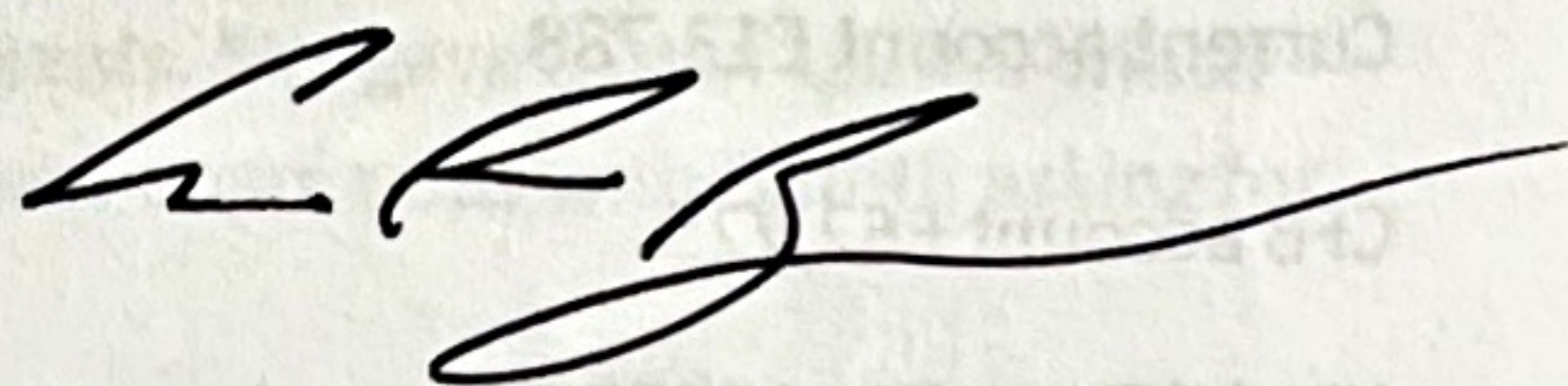
Six months of this rounded to nearest £5,000 is £139,000

The reserves are above our target at the moment. 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 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 out of the pandemic and enter into a spiralling cost of living crisis, in particular energy costs. We estimated between £50,000 and £100,000.

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

25.03.25

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. R. J.', written over a faint background of text.



THE METHODIST CHURCH  
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Ripon and Lower Dales	Circuit
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 August 2024

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

1133792
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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 2014 No.242 )

Ministers:

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

Circuit Stewards:

Amanda Milner
Richard Clark

Treasurer:

Circuit Stewards
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Totals last year

Totals this year

Restricted Funds

Circuit Model Trust Fund

Un - restricted Funds

SECTION A

	SECTION A	Note	£	£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS						
a2	Assessment/Share		200,085			200,085	193,964
a3	Capital receipts						353,883
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		2,941	28,863		31,804	22,540
a5	Grants						
a6	Other receipts		36,709	28,078		64,787	68,133
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS		239,735	56,941		296,676 (a8)	638,520

SECTION B

31	SECTION B						
b1	PAYMENTS						
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs		194,563			194,563	172,860
b3	Manse Costs		43,832			43,832	50,711
b4	Administration etc			37,594		37,594	5,047
b5	District Assessment		38,480			38,480	42,756
b6	Grants & donations		7,674			7,674	1,010
b7							
b8	Other payments		27,190	50,000		77,190	238,828
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS		311,739	87,594		399,333 (b9)	511,212

SECTION C

c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a7-b9)	(72,004)	(30,653)		(102,657)	127,308
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		(92,514)	771,833	54,171	733,490 (c6)	606,182
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	(164,518)	741,180	54,171	630,833	733,490
c4	Transfers and adjustments				38,213	38,213 (c7)	(1)
Rid	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	(164,518)	741,180	92,384	669,046 (c8)	733,489 (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						
Cir	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 2023 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)	296,676 (a8)	399,333 (b9)	(102,657)	38,213 (c7)	733,490 (c6)	669,046 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	296,676	399,333	(102,657)	38,213	733,490 (x)	669,046 (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 Cash in hand	59	59
f2 Bank Current Account	7,248	13,788
f3 Bank Deposit Account	29,450	
f4 Central Finance Board	61,821	62,725
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	580,740	552,511
f6 Other funds	54,171	39,962
f7 SUB TOTAL	733,489 (c6)	669,045 (c8)
Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance totals above) (e12)	(e11)	(e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	733,489 (x)	669,045 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2024	At 31 August 2023
g1 Investments (include Endowments)	54,170.97	54,170.97
Circuit 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)



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

## 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 - Circuit  
Trustees

17.02.2024

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

...Victoria Grove, Ripon..... Post Code...HG4 1LG.....

### Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were/will be\*  
presented to the Circuit meeting held on 25th March 2025

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Name of the Chair of the meeting

Rev Gareth Beron

Date 25.3.2025

## 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 2024 set out on pages 1... to ...3. 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