

DARLINGTON METHODIST DISTRICT

England & Wales · Charity number 1133814

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2010-01-27

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

Contact

Address 7 Cragside
Witton Gilbert
Durham
DH7 6RZ

Phone 01913860038

Email PENNY@WESTGRANGEFARM.CO.UK

Website www.darlingtonmethodistdistrict.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: Advancement of the Christian Faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Darlington
- Durham
- Hartlepool
- Middlesbrough
- North Yorkshire
- Redcar And Cleveland
- Stockton-on-tees

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£982,780	£999,373	£1,012,614	10
2024-08-31	£724,518	£739,296	£1,027,943	10
2023-08-31	£623,257	£552,175	£1,038,360	2
2022-08-31	£816,043	£492,084	£956,242	9
2021-08-31	£189,228	£186,455	-	-
2020-08-31	£334,292	£290,489	-	-

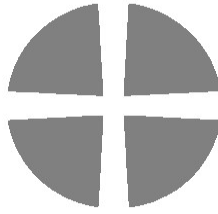
Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Richard Mark Andrew	Chair	2018-09-01
Alison Ogle		2023-09-01
Anthony Mawer		2023-09-01
Carol Bean		2025-09-01
Dawn Elizabeth Harris		2023-09-01
Gerald Ernest Bell		2023-09-01
Helle Sewell		2021-09-01
John Graham Monkhouse BSc FCA		2018-09-01
MARGARET WALTON		2020-09-01
MR W OFFLER		
Mark Bagnall		2016-09-01
Maurice John Aspey		2015-03-08
Penny Bissell LLB Hons		
RONALD DEREK KIRK		
Rev BEVERLY HOLLINGS		2012-08-15
Rev Bruce Jonathan Sawyer		2025-09-01
Rev Charity Kathleen McKenzie Hamilton		2020-09-01
Rev David Michael Payne		2020-09-01
Rev Dr David Hinchliffe		2025-09-01
Rev Joanne Marie Brown		2024-09-01
Rev John Archer Squares		2018-09-01
Rev Richard Victor Sharples		2023-09-01
Susan Elizabeth Chadwick		2023-09-01

DARLINGTON METHODIST DISTRICT

England & Wales - Charity number 1133814

Accounts



**THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS
ACCRUALS BASIS
for the year ended 31 August 2025**

Darlington	District	District no	13
Registered Charity - Registration number			1133814

District Chair

Rev Richard Andrew

Synod Secretary

Mrs P Bissell

Treasurer

Mr J G Monkhouse

Name of District: **Darlington** No 13

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-based accounts for the year to 31 August 2025 have been prepared from the records of the District and that they include all funds under the control of the District Policy Committee.

Signature of Treasurer *J G Monkhouse* Date 22/11/2025

Name and address of treasurer: John Graham Monkhouse
Post Code: TS20 1TQ

Presentation to the District Resourcing Mission Team.

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 will be presented to the District Resourcing Mission Team at its meeting on 18/02/2026

Signature of the Chair of the meeting *B Hollings*

Name of the Chair of the meeting: Rev Beverley Hollings Date 18/02/2026

Name of District: **Darlington** No 13

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the District, named above

I report to the district trustees on my examination of the accounts of the District for the year ended 31 August 2025 which are set out on this and the following pages.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the district'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 district'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.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the district's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those 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.

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.

Signed:

Graham Fitzgerald

Graham Fitzgerald BA FCA DChA

Azets Audit Services
Wynyard Park House
Wynyard Avenue
Wynyard
TS22 5TB

Date: 18/2/26

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 Objectives and Activities

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the District Synod (under the leadership of the District Trustees) meets twice in each year, has given careful consideration to the Charity Commissioners' general guidance on public benefit and, in particular, to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing our objectives and conforms to the Charities Act 2011.

Darlington District's vision is to support and encourage Christian communities to develop in ways that:

- attract people to Jesus Christ;
- reflect God's presence in the world;
- explore and demonstrate ways to follow Christ;
- and promote God's rule in contemporary society by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This means that the district will invest its energy in:

- directing churches and circuits in developing the appropriate way forward for each church and circuit in the context of 'Our Calling' and 'Priorities for the Methodist Church'
- developing structures and processes to enable this way forward.

We will underpin everything we do with God centred worship and prayer and seek to develop a high standard of excellence.

2 Achievements and performance

The principal purpose of the District is to act as a supporting body between Circuits and the Connexion. The District does not seek and, in large measure, does not attain direct contact with the public. The direct contact is by Churches and Circuits and it is these that the District supports in their desire to provide benefit to the public.

Under the heading Collaborative arrangements with connected charities (3.3 below) there is information on how we obtained our funds. In this paragraph we show how they were spent. The money collected, or available for dissipation, was used as grants to support Churches and Circuits throughout the District with their work in their local communities and to subsidise the administrative costs of the District. In 2024-25 the District paid grants and made commitments out of the General Fund and the DAF that totalled £624,00 which was more than the sum received from the levies on the Circuit Model Trust Funds within the District and the Connexional Property Fund Distribution. The shortfall was made up by drawing on District reserves.

The policy of the trustees on grant making is to ensure that all applications can demonstrate public benefit, pass a test of sustainability, show that there is commitment from the applicant organisation (e.g. the District grant is a minor part of the total funding) and show imagination and creativity as well as a perceived need for that for which the grant is being applied.

- Grants for the adaptation of buildings so that they could more easily meet the modern needs of Churches and help Churches provide services to the community e.g. lunch clubs for the elderly and house-bound, activities for the homeless and refugees
- Grants which supported part time or full time youth workers attached to Circuits or Local Churches
- Grants to support Mission and Ministry
- Grants to support Training and Development

Circuits and Churches that have received grants from the District will show in their own Trustees' Annual Reports (where these are required to be prepared) details of the outcome of the activities undertaken as a result of receiving the grant.

During the year, work has continued on developing links with the neighbouring Newcastle District.

Ministerial Development Reviews have been supported and the leadership and foundation module for creating safer space has been rolled out across the District.

The District also supports three Methodist Primary Schools.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

3 Financial review

3.1 Investment policy and performance

To comply with Methodist Standing Orders, monies for long term investment are lodged with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP). TMCP acts as custodian trustee for all real estate held by Districts and for all large (over £20k) bequests and for the proceeds of sale of any property formerly owned by the District. These sums are invested in unitised investments or held on deposit. The investment returns are close to tracking the movements in the FTSE100 index. The deposit income mirrors the deposit rates available elsewhere. The Darlington District Trustees' investment policy is aligned with that of the CFB and TMCP because these organisations take into consideration the social, environmental and ethical considerations, both negatively and positively, that make investments suitable for the Methodist Church.

Short term deposits are lodged directly with the Central Finance Board (CFB) and now attract good rates of interest.

There are no bench marks for the expected returns or appreciation on investments at TMCP and CFB. It is the District's policy to manage the cash and investment resources of the District so that a rate of return on investment – both by way of dividend and capital appreciation – is obtained at least as good as market rate considering the District's low appetite for risk. The total return achieved on the invested funds of the Darlington District was 4.48% for the year.

3.2 Reserves level and policy

Financial Review and Reserves Policy

The unrestricted reserves total £760k of which £275k is the value attributed to the District manse and £250k received in advance for funding the District Officers, NPNP & Ministeries contingencies (see note 19.1) and the balance of £245k represents the year-end level of uncommitted reserves.

The District has a reserves policy covering all its unrestricted funds which is reviewed annually. Although grants are made annually out of the District Advance Fund (DAF), it is recognised that some grants will be paid by annual instalments and that there will be applications repeated in future years. The trustees seek to ensure that there is sufficient in the DAF to meet these anticipated requests and the trustees now recognise future grants as liabilities on the Balance Sheet.

The minimum reserves policy level of the readily available part of the General Fund is such as to pay for six months' expenses, 20% of the Annual Connexional assessment + £15k. At 31 August 2025 this sum amounted to £248k against actual reserves of £245k as stated above. The reserves were thus in line with the policy at the year. It is becoming increasingly difficult at District, Circuit and Church to find volunteers to undertake compliance matters, namely financial, property, safeguarding and GDPR. The Trustees are of the opinion that these reserves are necessary to alleviate the problems.

The reserves at the end of August 2025 were £1,012k (24 - £1,028k). The reserves held at the end 31/08/2025 can be further split as follows: (also note 21)

<i>Unrestricted funds:</i>	
<i>Undesignated</i>	
- General, less property	£ 485k
- District Advance Fund	£ 36k
<i>Designated</i>	
- Manse Fund	£ 20k
<u>Total Unrestricted funds</u>	£ 541k
<i>Restricted funds:</i>	
- Training	£ 48k
- Benevolence	£ 1k
-NE Chinese Mission	£ 148,254
<u>Total Restricted funds</u>	£ 196,645

The Trustees have agreed that the undesignated funds which are readily available will be used to keep the Circuit assessment increases to 5% or below. The Trustees have also agreed that the Training Fund will continue to reduced over the next few years by strongly encouraging the provision and taking up of Learning & Development.

The above proposed actions are in line with our Mission objectives.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

3.3 Collaborative arrangements with connected charities

The District's main source of funding was the assessments obtained from each Circuit within the District based on the membership and staffing levels of the Circuit and this was used towards some of the cost of administering the District. This sum amounted to £4,980 (2024 £26,556). This is in line with 3.2 above.

The District also obtained from each Circuit with a reserve, known as a Circuit Model Trust Fund (CMTF), a levy based on the size of the Circuits' CMTFs at the start of the connexional year (01 September). In 2024-25 this sum was £177,104 and was credited to the District Advance Fund.

The District holds no funds as custodian trustee. It does, however, quarterly receive from Circuits within the District the Circuits' contributions to the Methodist Church Fund (MCF). These sums are collected as agent for the MCF and are passed to the MCF a few days later. Funds received by the District as agent are not recognised as an asset in the financial statements because the funds are not within its control. No fee is earned in respect of this agency arrangement and the District incurs no cost through this arrangement.

4 Trustees' responsibilities

For each financial year ending on 31 August the Trustees are required to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the District's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees must:

1. select suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently using the accruals method
2. make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
3. follow applicable accounting standards
4. prepare accounts to comply with the Charities SORP

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the District and enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the District and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the District's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In addition to the above, the Trustees are responsible for the Health & Safety of the District Administrator & P.A to the Chair, the District Mission Enabler and the for Childrens, Young People and Family Development Worker.

Training in the responsibilities of trustees is offered to all new trustees soon after their appointment.

4.1 Risk

The District is largely risk averse, and maintains a risk register which is reviewed annually and updated.

Risks are managed by being aware of them, quantifying their impact not only in cost terms but in possible reputational or structural damage, laying them off through an insurer and minimising them by either not taking them or by setting up control systems that report any significant change in the risk.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

5 Structure, governance and management

The District is an unincorporated association and is governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976, the Deed of Union and the Model Trust Deeds of the Methodist Church and was registered with the Charity Commissioners on 27 January 2010.

5.1 Structure

Circuits are the coordinating charities for local groups of Churches; Circuits pay the stipends of the ministers and employ lay staff to serve the Churches in the Circuit; most decisions are made at or ratified by the half yearly Circuit Meeting. A District is the coordinating charity for a group of contiguous Circuits and makes its decisions at the half yearly synods. The Methodist Conference meets once each year as the governing body for all Methodist Churches .

1. Overall regulatory authority rests with the Methodist Conference.
2. The Conference Office implements decisions made by Conference.
3. Conference decisions are passed to the Chair of the District and the appropriate officers of the District for implementation.
4. The District passes control to Circuit level for local implementation by the Superintendent Minister, ministerial staff and Circuit Stewards, and authority is delegated to the Circuit Meeting for certain matters.
5. The Circuit Meeting passes regulatory control to Church Councils for local implementation by the presbyter, the Church Stewards, and other officers, and this regulatory authority is then exercised by Church Councils as Managing Trustees of their charity.

5.2 Purpose of the District

The District is an expression, over a wider geographical area than any Circuit, of the Connexional character of the Church.

The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the date of the union the advancement of:

- a. the Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church, and
- b. any charitable purposes for the time being of any connexional, District, Circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church, and
- c. any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church, and
- d. any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary of the Methodist Church.

The primary purpose of this District is to advance the mission of the Church in Darlington District by

1. providing opportunities for Circuits to work together and support each other
2. offering to Circuits resources of finance, personnel and expertise.

The District serves the Local Churches and Circuits and the Conference in the support, deployment and oversight of the various ministries of the Church, and in programmes of training.

5.3 Governance

The District operates within a statutory framework of regulation and seeks to ensure that it follows Methodist Standing Orders. It relies on the Connexional Office at 25 Tavistock Place, London WC11 9SF to provide guidance on changes that could affect the District.

The members of the District Policy Committee (DPC) are annually appointed by a vote of the Synod for a continuous term not normally exceeding six years. When a position becomes vacant on the District Policy Committee, nominations are sought from the appropriate circuits within the District. Their names are taken to the District Synod for appointment. Members may be either ministers or lay people attending Churches in the area covered by the District.

The District Policy Committee normally meets three times per year and deals with routine and exceptional matters. It receives reports from the following teams, District Leadership, Resourcing Mission, Discipleship & Mission, Supporting Ministeries and the North East Chinese Mission Partnership.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

5.4 Responsibility of the District Policy Committee

- i to formulate and promote policies which will advance the mission of the Church in the Circuits and Local Churches and, in particular, to supervise the use of resources of personnel, property and finance and to assist Local Churches and Circuits having exceptional problems
- ii to encourage inter-Circuit and ecumenical co-operation
- iii to act in an executive capacity in matters remitted to the Committee by the Synod
- iv to keep within its purview all District concerns not dealt with elsewhere
- v to contribute and respond, as the case may be, to the development of Connexional policies as reflected in the work of the Conference and the Methodist Council, and to carry out its other responsibilities with any such development in mind
- vi to be aware that the stipend of the Chair of the District is set – currently by reference to the change over a year in the Consumer Price Index and to the annual change in the Average Weekly Earnings Index – using a formula that was agreed by the Methodist Conference for all ministers within the Connexion
- vii constantly to be aware of the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission

6 Reference and Administrative Details

6.1 Name of the charity

Darlington Methodist District

6.2 Charity registration number

1133814

6.3 Principal Office

2 Edinburgh Drive
Darlington
DL3 8AW

6.4 Chair of the District

Revd Richard Andrew

6.5 Secretary of the Synod

Mrs Penny Bissell

6.6 Secretary of the Synod (Presbyteral)

Revd Rachel Williams

6.7 District Treasurer

Mr John Monkhouse

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

6.8 Names of trustees

The following served as trustees throughout part or all of the year 2024-25 or were trustees at the time of this report being approved:

Mrs Helle Sewell - District Mission Enabler.
Mrs Stef Robinson-Hoyle - Childrens, Young People and Family Development Worker.
Rev Jo Brown - North Yorkshire Dales Circuit
Rev David Godfrey - Middlesbrough & Eston Circuit
Rev Charity Hamilton - Middlesbrough & Eston Circuit
Dawn Harris - Middlesbrough & Eston Circuit
Mr Gerald Bell - West Durham Circuit.
Rev Bruce Sawyer - West Durham Circuit.
Mrs Margaret Walton - Stockton Circuit.
Rev Vincent Jambawo - Stockton Circuit.
Rev David Hinchcliffe - Darlington & Teesdale Circuit
Mr Tony Mawer - Darlington & Teesdale Circuit.
Mrs Alison Ogle - Castle Eden Circuit
Rev Beverly Hollings (Deputy Chair of District), - Castle Eden Circuit
Rev Rob Weir - Stokesley Circuit
Mr Ron Kirk - Stokesley Circuit
Mrs Liz Chadwick - Cleveland & Danby Circuit.
Rev Richard Sharples - Cleveland & Danby Circuit.
Rev John Squares - (Deputy Chair of District), Durham & Deerness Circuit.
Mrs Carol Bean- Bishop Auckland and Shildon Circuit.
Rev David Payne - Bishop Auckland and Shildon Circuit
Mrs Penny Bissell - Synod Secretary
Mrs Sue Smith - Secretary DPC
Mr John Monkhouse - District Treasurer
Mr Bill Offler - District Ecumenical Officer, Stationing representative.
Mr Maurice Aspey - District Resourcing Mission Officer
Mr Mark Bagnall - Discipleship and Mission.
Mrs Carolyn Godfrey - Regional Safeguarding Officer.
Mr James Ballantyre - Learning Network

The Managing Trustees for the District are the members of the District Policy Committee.
No trustee claims exemption from disclosure of his or her name here.

6.9 District Administrator & P.A. to District Chair

Mrs Jenny Prior

6.10 Bankers

HSBC, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL10 4QQ.
Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
25 Tavistock Place, London WC11 9SF

6.11 Investment managers and custodian trustees

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

6.12 Independent Examiner

Azets Audit Services, Wynyard Park House, Wynyard Avenue, TS22 5TB

7 Future Plans

It is becoming increasingly difficult at District, Circuit and Church to find volunteers to undertake compliance roles and the District Policy Committee has commenced a strategic review as to how Circuits can collaborate to overcome these issues.



THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025



Mission Plan
2025 - 2030

This is... We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We plant seeds... the day will GROW. We lay foundations that will need future development. We produce yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities. This enables us to do something and do it very well. It may be incomplete but it is a beginning, a step along the way.

We cannot do everything and there is a liberation in realizing that.

an opportunity for the Lord's Grace to enter and do the rest.

OUR PURPOSE

Prayer and Worship
at the heart and beginning
of everything

Support
Circuits and Churches
in fulfilling our calling

Live out
our discipleship in
worship and mission

Grow
in wholeness and holiness

Collaboration
and
Connexion

Over the next 5 years ...

- Growth
- Evangelism
- Caring for God's Creation

EVERY

OUR CONTEXT



MANUFACTURING

AGRICULTURE

Tourism

Unemployment

REGENERATION

- Chapels
 - Prisons
 - Universities
 - Methodist Primary Schools
 - Wesley Study Centre
 - Chinese Congregations
 - MHA
 - Hospitals
- Methodist History*

CHURCH

OUR PRIORITIES (STRATEGIC)

- ▶ Growth in discipleship
- ▶ Growth through evangelism
- ▶ Commitment to Justice & inclusion
Climate change
Ecumenism
- ▶ Children, families, Young People & Young Adults
- ▶ Support participation in 3Gen
- ▶ Safe Culture
- ▶ Wellbeing in Ministry
- ▶ Seek balance for Volunteers

Every church/circuit supported to produce a simple, useful MISSION PLAN

GROWING

OUR RESOURCES

District Structures:

- ▶ Synod
- ▶ District Policy ctee
- ▶ Leadership Team

Teams:

- Discipleship & Mission
- Resourcing Mission
- Supporting Ministry

Working in partnership:



DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

- Administration
- Mission
- Children, families and Young People
- Lay Employment
- NPND
- Faith Rooted Communities

DISTRICT ADVANCE FUND

DISTRICT WEBSITE

THE ROMERO prayer

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2025

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund	District	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total
		(Unrestricted)	Advance Fund (Unrestricted)	Funds (unrestricted)	Funds	Funds	2024-25
		£	£	£	£		£
Income from							
1 Donations and legacies							0
2 Connexional Advance & Property Fund			333,005				333,005
3 Income from investments	15,16	24,679	17,800	654	5,581		48,714
Income from charitable activities							
4 Assessments on circuits	2	4,980					4,980
5 From Circuit Model Trust Funds			177,104				177,104
6 Contribution to the cost of the Chair	3	50,044					50,044
7 Other charitable activities							0
8 Income from other trading activities							0
9 Other income	4	275,933			93,000		368,933
Total income		355,636	527,909	654	98,581	0	982,780
Expenditure							
9 Grants and donations	5	112,000	512,000				624,000
10 Salaries and associated costs	6	161,323			125,243		286,566
11 Cost of the Chair	3	52,195					52,195
12 Property Maintenance	7	6,914					6,914
13 Office expenses	8	9,423	507				9,930
14 Synods, committees, Conference	9	6,599					6,599
15 Training	10	8,169			294		8,463
16 Professional fees	10	2,220					2,220
17 Other outgoings	10	1,131			1,355		2,486
Total expenditure		359,974	512,507	0	126,892	0	999,373
Net income/(expenditure) before gains and losses on investments							
		-4,338	15,402	654	-28,311	0	-16,593
18 Net gains/(losses) on investments	11				1,264		1,264
Net income/(expenditure)		-4,338	15,402	654	-27,047	0	-15,329
19 Transfers between funds		-5,000		10,000	-5,000		0
20 Other gains/(losses)							0
Net movement in funds		-9,338	15,402	10,654	-32,047	0	-15,329
Total funds brought forward		769,934	20,240	9,077	228,692	0	1,027,943
Total funds carried forward		760,596	35,642	19,731	196,645	0	1,012,614

Name of District	Darlington					District No	13
Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2024							
	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	District Advance Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023-24
		£	£	£	£		£
Income from							
1 Donations and legacies							0
2 Connexional Advance & Property Fund			136,746				136,746
3 Income from investments		28,365	11,516	530	3,196		43,607
Income from charitable activities							
4 Assessments on circuits		26,556					26,556
5 From Circuit Model Trust Funds			136,532				136,532
6 Contribution to the cost of the Chair		49,075					49,075
7 Other charitable activities							0
8 Income from other trading activities							0
9 Other income		194,863	7,539		129,600		332,002
Total income		298,859	292,333	530	132,796	0	724,518
Expenditure							
9 Grants and donations		98,470	296,660				395,130
10 Salaries and associated costs		131,901			123,020		254,921
11 Cost of the Chair		53,737					53,737
12 Property Maintenance		12,611		0			12,611
13 Office expenses		3,065	265		126		3,456
14 Synods, committees, Conference		2,062					2,062
15 Training		4,520					4,520
16 Professional fees		2,790					2,790
17 Other outgoings		7,345			2,724		10,069
Total expenditure		316,501	296,925	0	125,870	0	739,296
Net income/(expenditure) before gains and losses on investments							
		-17,642	-4,592	530	6,926	0	-14,778
18 Net gains/(losses) on investments					4,361		4,361
Net income/(expenditure)		-17,642	-4,592	530	11,287	0	-10,417
19 Transfers between funds		3,000		-3,000			0
20 Other gains/(losses)							0
Net movement in funds		-14,642	-4,592	-2,470	11,287	0	-10,417
Total funds brought forward		784,576	24,832	11,547	217,405	0	1,038,360
Total funds carried forward		769,934	20,240	9,077	228,692	0	1,027,943

Name of District	Darlington							District No
Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2025								
	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	District Advance Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024-25	Total 2023-24
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets								
Tangible fixed assets	13	275,000					275,000	275,000
Investment properties							0	0
Investments							0	0
Total fixed assets		275,000	0	0	0	0	275,000	275,000
Current Assets								
Debtors	14						0	0
Loans by the District							0	0
Investments with TMCP			399,642		47,712		447,354	206,456
Central Finance Board Deposits		489,174		19,731	84,445		593,350	604,363
Cash at Bank and in hand		3,622			64,488		68,110	84,824
Total current assets	22	492,796	399,642	19,731	196,645	0	1,108,814	895,643
Current liabilities								
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	17	7,200					7,200	7,200
Grants payable within 1 year	18		334,000				334,000	60,500
Total current liabilities	22	7,200	334,000	0	0	0	341,200	67,700
Net current assets/liabilities		485,596	65,642	19,731	196,645	0	767,614	827,943
Total assets less current liabilities		760,596	65,642	19,731	196,645	0	1,042,614	1,102,943
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)								
Grants payable after 1 year	18,22		30,000				30,000	75,000
Loans to the District							0	0
							0	0
Net assets		760,596	35,642	19,731	196,645	0	1,012,614	1,027,943
Funds of the District								
General Fund (Unrestricted)	19.1	760,596					760,596	769,934
District Advance Fund (Unrestricted)	18		35,642				35,642	20,240
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	19.2			19,731			19,731	9,077
Total Unrestricted Funds							815,969	799,251
Restricted Funds	20				196,645		196,645	228,692
Endowment Funds						0	0	0
Total Funds	21	760,596	35,642	19,731	196,645	0	1,012,614	1,027,943
					Signed			
					<i>JG Monkhouse 08/11/2025</i>			
					District Treasurer			

Cash Flow statement for the year ended 31 August 2025

	Note	£	2025 £	£	2024 £
Cash flows from					
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	28		164,457		17,051
			<u> </u>		<u> </u>
Net cash inflow from operating activities			164,457		17,051
Investing activities					
Interest received		48,714		43,607	
		<u> </u>		<u> </u>	
Net cash used in investing activities			48,714		43,607
			<u> </u>		<u> </u>
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents			213,171		60,658
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			895,643		834,985
			<u> </u>		<u> </u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			1,108,814		895,643
			<u> </u>		<u> </u>

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 Accounting framework and accounting policies

i Accounting framework

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with FRS102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Ireland" ("FRS102"), "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities applying FRS102 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice as it applies from 1st January 2019.

ii Public benefit entity

The Darlington District meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s) below.

iii Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that investments are shown at their market value at the end of the year, on the accruals basis to show a true and fair view of the District's financial position and activities.

iv Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £ Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

v Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2025, the trustees believe that the District is a going concern.

vi Consolidation

The District oversees the work of ministers and lay workers in Churches and Circuits within the District but does not have control over those Circuits or Churches, ministers or lay workers except in extreme circumstances, none of which were applicable. For this reason, the financial statements of the Churches and Circuits within the District are not consolidated into these financial statements.

vii Income recognition

Income is brought into account when it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will accrue to the Darlington District. No attempt is made to measure the value of services donated by volunteers. Details of how the contribution to the cost of the District Chair has been determined appears in Note 3. A similar figure appears in the Expenditure at Note 6.

Individual amounts categorised as *Other income* in the SOFA will be shown separately if they are considered material.

The District acts as agent in four matters:

1. the collection of quarterly assessments from circuits which are paid to the Methodist Church Fund
2. the payment of expenses of delegates from the District to the Methodist Conference
3. the collection taken at the autumn and spring synod on behalf of the Methodist Ministers' Children's Relief Fund
4. the cost of ministerial health checks recovered from Circuits

In all these matters the transactions are not reflected in the SOFA because there is no obligation on the District to make up any shortfall in assessments from Circuits. Sums received as Circuit assessments cannot be recognised as income in the District as they are the income of the MCF.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRSSE), the time of volunteers is not recognised.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

viii Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the District to pay out resources.

ix Grants

Grants are recognised in full when the award is made once the District accepts that there is a legal or constructive obligation to make the payment and that such payment is probable.

x VAT

Since the District is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged with the expenses to which it refers.

xi Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000. The freehold property is shown in the accounts at 2015 deemed values, of which the land component is deemed to be £70,000. No depreciation is provided on the building because the trustees consider the current residual fair value of the manse buildings (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year-end) to be not less than its current value. Any depreciation would not be material. The property has been reviewed for impairment.

xii Investments

The investments of the Darlington District are held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees. The valuations, at market value, are those provided by TMCP. The unrealised gains arising on investments at the end of the year are shown in the SOFA and in Note 11 below.

xiii Debtors and creditors; bank and cash

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the District or prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any trade discounts, where normal credit terms apply, or amount advanced to the District. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds of bank balances and deposit account balances are shown at the realisable values.

xiv Loans

Where concessionary loans (*i.e.*, free of interest) are made to (or received by) the District to further its charitable purposes, and are repayable after more than one year, they are initially recognised at the amount paid [or received], with the carrying value adjusted in subsequent years to reflect repayments and any accrued interest, adjusted for any impairment, if necessary.

Where there is objective evidence of impairment, an immediate impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities. Subsequent reversals of an impairment loss that objectively relate to an event occurring after the impairment loss was recognised, are recognised immediately in the Statement of Financial Activities.

xv Methodist Church Fund

The District acts as agent for the Methodist Church Fund (MCF) by collecting its assessments on Circuits and does not, therefore, include the assessments in the SOFA. If a Circuit is late in paying its MCF assessment to the District but such sum is received before the quarterly transfer to the MCF, the amount paid late will be shown as a debtor in the District's accounts.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

xvi Ministers' manse costs

The District is required to provide accommodation for each Minister and his / her family. The District bears the cost of repairs, maintenance, building insurance, Council Tax and water charges. These costs are not shown separately as benefits-in-kind for Ministers as HMRC does not seek to tax these receipts in the hands of the Ministers.

2 Assessment on Circuits

All Circuits (see list given below in this note) paid their assessments to the District and to the MCF during the year or shortly after it's end. An assessment on Circuits is annually determined by Districts by reference to the number of staff in the Circuits and the number of Church members but may also take into account a Circuit's ability to pay.

The District is made up of the following Circuits:

Circuit No	Circuit Name
1	Darlington & Teesdale
2	Middlesbrough & Eston
3	Stockton
4	Castle Eden
5	Stokesley
7	Cleveland & Danby
10	Bishop Auckland & Shildon
11	Durham & Deerness Valley
12	West Durham
19	North Yorkshire Dales

Contribution to Methodist Church Fund (MCF)

In addition to the assessments on the Circuits £4,980 (2024-£26,556) to help defray the costs of running the District, the District acted as agent for the Methodist Church Fund which levied assessments on the Circuits in this District totalling £363,992 (2024-£342,416) all of which were collected by the end of the year and paid over to the MCF in the year. No balance was held at the end of the year; no fee is received for this service which is performed at nil cost to the District. These sums collected for and remitted to the MCF do not appear elsewhere in these financial statements.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

3 Cost of Chair and trustees

The Chair of District chairs meetings of the District Policy Committee (DPC). The members of the DPC are the trustees of the District. The stipend, employer's NIC and employer's pension contributions of the Chair of District are paid by the Methodist Connexion. The Chair's other costs are met mostly by the District.

	2024-25	2023-24
	£	£
Stipend to Chair	38,775	38,775
Employer's National Insurance Contribution	5,065	4,096
Employer's pension contribution to the defined benefit scheme	6,204	6,204
Cash cost paid by the Connexion (see, SOFA, item 6)	50,044	49,075
Chair's expenses	2,151	4,662
Total cost	52,195	53,737

Since the stipend-related costs above £50,044 (2024- £49,075) are borne by the Connexion, they appear both in the Income of the District and the Expenditure of the District (See Note 6). It should be noted that the chair is required to occupy the District manse. The manse is provided by the Darlington District and the District maintains the property. The Chair of District, the District Resourcing Mission Officer, the District Evangelism Enabler, the Childrens, Young People and Family Development worker are the key paid management people and are supported by members of the DPC.

No accrual is made for the Chair's entitlement to a sabbatical as his / her functions are undertaken by a Deputy Chairs at minimal extra cost to the District.

Payment to Trustees

It is District policy to offer to reimburse members of the District Policy Committee and others involved in the administration of District affairs for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties. The Chair of the District undertakes the primary executive role within the District. Apart from the Chair of District, the District Resourcing Mission Officer and the District Evangelism Enabler and the Childrens, Young People and Family Development worker, no member of the District Policy Committee was in receipt of any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the District, although certain travelling and administration costs were reimbursed whenever this was requested.

None of the trustees receives any remuneration in their role as Trustees.

4 Other income

	2024-25	2023-24
	£	£
Grant for provision of District Enabler	48,500	-
RSO, grant and contribution from Newcastle District	58,842	65,479
Resourcing Mission Officer	14,500	12,000
Ministries Contingency Fund	591	33,000
Grant for New Places, New People	88,000	60,000
NE Chinese Mission	93,000	129,600
Childrens, Young People and Family Development worker	35,500	
Sundries	30,000	31,923
Total	368,933	332,002

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

5 Grants, donations and related Support costs

	2024-25	2023-24
Unrestricted:	£	£
- From General Fund	112,000	98,470
- From DAF	512,000	296,660
Total	624,000	395,130

Expenditure on charitable activities through the District Advance Fund

This fund receives formulaically determined contributions from the Circuit Model Trust Funds held by Circuits within the District and the Connexional Methodist Church. It redistributes the monies to grantees in the District through relevant grants as assessed by the District Grants Committee. During the year the following grants commitments/paid were made:

Given to	Amount in £	Analysis of amounts given by type of work	Amount in £
Churches	47,000	Projects	18,000
Circuits	195,000	Ministry	265,000
Darlington District	270,000	Property	229,000
Total	512,000		512,000

The income of the fund during the year £527,909.

The Grants Committee is aware that grant applications must demonstrate public benefit.

The support costs for grant-funding to third parties are insignificant (principally because the secretary of the Grants Committee is a volunteer and undertakes the vast majority of this work) and are not separately disclosed.

6 Salaries and associated costs

Gross salaries paid to 8, (2024 6) employees were as follows:

	2024-25	2023-24
	£	£
Gross pay	221,836	202,252
Employer's National Insurance contribution	22,813	17,658
Employer's pension contribution to defined contribution scheme	12,545	9,919
Employees expenses	8,298	6,580
Total cost for 5 staff members	265,492	236,409
Paid to trustee in his role as District Resourcing Mission Officer £12,532 and Lay employment advisor £8,542	21,074	18,512
Total staff costs (notes 6)	286,566	254,921
Cost of Chair (see Note 3)	52,195	53,737
Average weekly contractual hours of 8 Staff members	248	236

No employees received employee benefits that totalled more than £60,000. There is no accrual for holiday pay as it is immaterial; the holiday year ends on 31 August. All staff are paid at or above the living wage.

Whilst the total salary and expenses cost paid by the District was £140,250, Newcastle District of The Methodist Church contributed 50% (£29,342) towards the cost of the employee engaged exclusively in safeguarding matters and a part time safeguarding administrator. The NE Chinese Mission employment costs were £124,053

In addition one of the trustees, Mr M Aspey, is paid a consultancy fee and expenses as above for his role as District Resourcing Mission Officer.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Pensions

Most ordained presbyters and deacons are members of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS). This is a defined benefit scheme. The Supreme Court held in 2014 that Methodist ministers (which term includes presbyters and deacons) are not employees of the Church. For simplicity, however, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions and pension contributions, the terms 'employer' and 'employee' are used as they would be in an employing body.

On the other hand lay employees are contractually employees and have the option of joining the Pension and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church (PASLEMC), The Pensions Trust or some other arrangement. PASLEMC is a defined benefit scheme and the employing Churches and Circuits contribute as employers to this scheme.

The Pensions Trust is a defined contribution scheme with employer's contributions being 6% of gross salary.

The Connexion accounts for both the MMPS and PASLEMC pension schemes and shows the figures in the annual Methodist Church in Great Britain accounts. The MMPS is in deficit but a plan for removal of the deficit has been proposed and is being implemented. Details of the deficits on these schemes can be found in the Annual Report and Accounts of The Methodist Church at www.methodist.org.uk.

7 Property costs

	2024-25	2023-24
	£	£
Chair's manse which include some renovations costs	6,914	9,611
District office, rent and services		3,000
Total costs	6,914	12,611

8 Office expenses (General fund)

	2024-25	2023-24
	£	£
Printing, postage and stationery and travel	5,823	3,065
District office, rent and services	3,600	
Total charged to General Fund	9,423	3,065
TMCP charges	507	391
Total	9,930	3,456

None of the remaining individual amounts (aggregated as 'Other' above) is considered material and none is listed separately

9 Synods, Committees, Conference

	2024-25	2023-24
	£	£
Synods	4,953	2,062
Conference	802	-
Committees	-	-
President and Vice President accommodation costs	844	-
Total costs	6,599	2,062

None of the remaining individual amounts (aggregated as 'Other' above) is considered material and none is listed separately.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

10 Other outgoings

	2024-25	2023-24
	£	£
Professional fees	2,220	2,790
Training	8,463	4,520
Retreats and sundries	1,131	5,951
President and Vice President accommodation costs		1,394
NE Chinese Mission	1,355	2,724
Total other costs	13,169	17,379

None of the remaining individual amounts (aggregated as 'Sundry outgoings' above) is considered material and none is listed separately.

11 Investment management

During the year the District paid £671 to TMCP, the custodians of the District's investments (District Advance Fund and Darlington Training and Bursary Trust (2024-£391). The sum of £671 was levied at 0.2% on the value of the funds at the end of the year. See Note 8 above for TMCP charges.

The sum of £1,264 represents an unrealised gain (2024 gain £4,361) in the invested funds of the Training Fund. More information can be found in Note 20, Restricted Funds.

12 Transfer between funds

Transfers between funds are to reimburse funds for expenditure incurred and to transfer income received on behalf of other funds.

13 Manse and other property

The value of the District manse in Darlington is believed to be considerably greater than its historical cost in 2006 shown in the accounts. There is no depreciation on the manse as the impairment review at the end of the year confirmed that the current residual market value of the building was greater than the carrying value of that part of the asset's cost to date.

	Land	Buildings	Total
Cost or valuation			
Cost bf at 01/09/2024	70,000	205,000	275,000
Additions in the year	-	-	-
Revaluations in the year	-	-	-
Less: Disposals in the year	-	-	-
Transfers between categories	-	-	-
Cost cf at 31/08/2025	70,000	205,000	275,000

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

14 Debtors and prepayments

Debtors were made up as follows:

	31 08 2025	31 08 2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	-	-
Prepayments and accrued income	-	-
Other debtors	-	-
Total	-	-

15 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP)

The funds that support the District Advance Fund and the Manses Fund are held by TMCP in Trustees Interest Funds on which interest is credited to the accounts each month. These are regarded as medium and long term investments.

TMCP is the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds. Trust property is held for and on behalf of local Managing Trustees who are responsible for the day to day management of trust property. TMCP ensure that, through providing guidance and acting under their direction, the Managing Trustees comply with charity law and Methodist law and policy as determined by the Methodist Conference.

16 Central Finance Board (CFB) and cash at bank

The District has a current accounts at HSBC plc, an authorised institution. The sums held on those accounts are immediately available. In addition the District has 3 deposit accounts at CFB. Interest is earned on these accounts and credited monthly; the sums deposited can be withdrawn without notice and without loss of interest. These sums are viewed as being liquid.

17 Creditors and accrued expenses

	31 08 2025	31 08 2024
	£	£
Creditors:		
Independent examinations, including VAT	2,200	2,200
<i>Total creditors</i>	2,200	2,200
Accruals:		
Expenses	5,000	5,000
<i>Total accruals</i>	5,000	5,000
Total of creditors and accrued expenses	7,200	7,200

It is expected that all sums accrued at 31 Aug 2025 would be paid during the year to 31 Aug 2026.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

18 Grant commitments and the District Advance Fund

It is the District's policy to recognise committed grants immediately as expenditure out of this fund and thus accrue the unpaid amounts at the year-end as liabilities.

	2024-25
	£
End of year commitments to pay one-off grants or the first instalment in a future year	276,000
Anticipated second or subsequent instalments where the first instalment was paid in 2023-24 or earlier	88,000
Total anticipated commitment at 31 August 2025	364,000
Grants payable by future year as at 1 September 2024:	
2024-25 (current liability)	334,000
2025 - onwards (long term liability)	30,000
Total anticipated commitment at 31 August 2025	364,000

This total of anticipated grants of £364,000 was within the balance of £399,642 in the DAF as at 1 September 2025. In the following year and subsequent years, further sums were and are expected to be credited to the DAF from the CPF and CMTF levies of those years. This left £35,642 unallocated at 31st August 2025.

The award of a grant by the District does not create a contractual relationship but does create an operational liability if not made subject to performance conditions creating uncertainty as to the probability of future years' grant instalments being paid. It is now judged that such future instalments of grant will probably be paid and so the amounts due are no longer classified as Designated Reserves but instead are recognised as expenditure of the year when awarded.

No institution received grants of such materiality that they should be separately disclosed in these accounts.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

19 Unrestricted Funds

19.1 General Fund

Balance of at 31 Aug 2025 £760,596 (2024 -£769,934)

The purpose of the fund is for use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the District of which £133,500 for New Places New People, £32,200 for Ministries Contingency Fund, £49,100 for the District Mission Enabler, £12,100 for Regional Safeguarding and £22,600 for Childrens, Young People and Family Development Worker has been received in advance. About 36% of this fund is held as a freehold property, the District manse for the Chair of District. During the year £112,00 was paid out as grants and donations from the General Fund.

19.2 Other Designated Funds

Balance of £19,731 at 31 Aug 2025 (2024 -9,077)

This fund is for the District Manse but is not restricted by any document or deed. £10,000 was added to the fund during the year as.

20 Restricted Funds

Balance of £ 196,645 at 31 Aug 2025 (2024- £194,257)

The Training Fund – meet the training costs of Ministers and lay people in the district.
The Benevolence Fund - provides financial support to ministers and lay people in the District in need of support.
NE Chinese Mission - meets the costs of the three centres and Pastors in Middlesbrough, Newcastle and Durham.
The market valuations for the Training & Bursary Trust (known as the Training Fund) have been provided by TMCP. The funds of the Benevolence Fund are held on deposit at CFB.
The NE Chinese Mission funds are held in a separately run bank account to the District.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

21 Summary of movements on significant individual funds

	At 1st September 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains on inv assets	At 31st August 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds						
General fund	769,934	305,592	(309,930)	(5,000)		760,596
Designated funds						
District Advance Fund	20,240	527,909	(512,507)	-	-	35,642
Other designated funds						
Manse Maintenance	9,077	654		10,000	-	19,731
Total unrestricted funds	799,251	834,155	(822,437)	5,000	-	815,969
Restricted Funds						
Training	50,717	896	(164)	(5,000)	1,264	47,713
NE Chinese Mission	177,326	97,656	(126,728)			148,254
Benevolence Fund	649	29				678
Total restricted funds	228,692	98,581	(126,892)	(5,000)	1,264	196,645
Total Funds	1,027,943	932,736	(949,329)	-	1,264	1,012,614

	At 1st September 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains on inv assets	At 31st August 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds						
General fund	784,576	249,784	(267,426)	3,000		769,934
Designated funds						
District Advance Fund	24,832	292,333	(296,925)	-	-	20,240
Other designated funds						
Manse Maintenance	11,547	530		(3,000)	-	9,077
Total unrestricted funds	820,955	542,647	(564,351)	-	-	799,251
Restricted Funds						
Training	45,440	1,042	(126)	-	4,361	50,717
NE Chinese Mission	171,348	131,722	(125,744)			177,326
Benevolence Fund	617	32				649
Total restricted funds	217,405	132,796	(125,870)	-	4,361	228,692
Total Funds	1,038,360	675,443	(690,221)	-	4,361	1,027,943

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

22 Analysis of net assets amongst funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2025 are represented by:

	Unrestricted - general and designated funds	Restricted including Endowment funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	275,000	-	275,000
Current assets	912,169	196,645	1,108,814
Current liabilities	(341,200)	-	(341,200)
Payables due after one year	(30,000)	-	(30,000)
			-
Total	815,969	196,645	1,012,614

Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:

	Unrestricted - general	Restricted including	Total funds
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	275,000	-	275,000
Current assets	666,951	228,692	895,643
Current liabilities	(67,700)	-	(67,700)
Payables due after one year	(75,000)	-	(75,000)
			-
Total	799,251	228,692	1,027,943

23 Connected organisations and related parties

All of the District trustees are members of one or another Church / Circuit within the District and may be trustees in their Churches and/or Circuits.

Connected organisations include the Methodist Connexion, Circuits and Churches within the District, other Methodist Districts in Great Britain, the Methodist Ministers' Children's Relief Association, CFB and TMCP, except as reported in Note 3. All of these entities have their own trustees or directors and autonomous administration such that Darlington District has no significant influence over any of them, nor they over the Darlington District. They are, therefore, not considered related parties.

Name of Connected Organisations	Receipts	Payments	Adjustments
	£	£	£
Donee: Methodist Church Fund	333,004	363,972	-
Donor: Circuits within the Darlington District (assessments on Circuits)	177,104		
Donor / Donee: Circuits within the Darlington District (levies / grants)	368,972	40,500	-
Donor / Donee: Churches within the Darlington District (grants)	-	67,000	-

There were no related party transactions other than those already disclosed under notes 3 and 6.

24 Volunteer contributions

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit, Church) within the Methodist Church in GB is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. Principally this contribution is by serving on committees of the District that deal with mission, manses, finance, policy, grants, training, development. We are grateful to all of them for their help and commitment.

25 Capital commitments and contingent liabilities

There were no capital commitments or contingent liabilities at the year end (2024 - nil).

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

26 Lease commitments

Not Applicable

27 Auditor / Independent examiner

An accrual has been made for the fee of the independent examiner in the sum of £2,200 for the year (2024 £2,200). The independent examiner provided no additional services during the year.

28 Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations

	2025	2024
	£	£
Profit/(loss) for the year after tax	(15,329)	(10,417)
Adjustments for:		
Investment income	(48,714)	(43,607)
Movements in working capital:		
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	228,500	71,075
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	164,457	17,051
	=====	=====

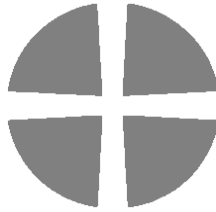
29 Analysis of changes in net funds

	31/08/2024	Cash flows	31/08/2025
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	895,643	242,243	1,137,886
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	895,643	242,243	1,137,886
	=====	=====	=====

DARLINGTON METHODIST DISTRICT

England & Wales - Charity number 1133814

Accounts



THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS
ACCRUALS BASIS
for the year ended 31 August 2021

Darlington	District	District no	13
-------------------	-----------------	-------------	-----------

Registered Charity - Registration number	1133814
--	---------

District Chairs

Rev Richard Andrew

Synod Secretary

Mrs P Bissell

Treasurer

Mr J G Monkhouse

Name of District: **Darlington** No **13**

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-based accounts for the year to 31 August 2021 have been prepared from the records of the District and that they include all funds under the control of the District Policy Committee.

Signature of Treasurer *J G Monkhouse* Date 22/10/2021

Name and address of treasurer: John Graham Monkhouse
Post Code: TS20 1TQ

Presentation to the District Policy Committee

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 will be presented to the District Policy Committee at its meeting on 23.02.2022

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Name of the Chair of the meeting: Rev Richard Andrew Date

Name of District: **Darlington** No **13**

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the District, named above

The District's trustees are responsible for ensuring that the annual report and accounts for the year to 31 August 2021 present a true and fair view of the District's income and expenditure for the year and of its assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date.

The trustees consider that an audit is not necessary for this year under section 144 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 Charities Act 2011
- follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011
- 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 with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items, in nature or scale, or disclosures in the accounts, seeking explanations from the trustees concerning 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. My 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 (other than as disclosed below*)

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirement
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and conform with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 2011have 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.
- (3) I 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 MR J GRESHAM

Relevant professional qualification of Independent Examiner F.C.C.A.

Name of firm (where appropriate) AZETS

Address New Garth House, Upper Garth Gardens, Guisborough
Post Code TS14 6HA

Date

Name of District: Darlington No 13

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-based accounts for the year to 31 August 2021 have been prepared from the records of the District and that they include all funds under the control of the District Policy Committee.

Signature of Treasurer *J G Monkhouse* Date 22/10/2021

Name and address of treasurer: John Graham Monkhouse
Post Code: TS20 1TQ

Presentation to the District Policy Committee

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 will be presented to the District Policy Committee at its meeting on 23.02.2022

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting: Rev Richard Andrew Date

Name of District: Darlington No 13

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the District, named above

The District's trustees are responsible for ensuring that the annual report and accounts for the year to 31 August 2021 present a true and fair view of the District's income and expenditure for the year and of its assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date.

The trustees consider that an audit is not necessary for this year under section 144 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 Charities Act 2011
- follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011
- 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 with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items, in nature or scale, or disclosures in the accounts, seeking explanations from the trustees concerning 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. My 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 (other than as disclosed below*)

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirement
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Char
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and cor the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 2011

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.
- (3) I 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 MR J GRESHAM

Relevant professional qualification of Independent Examiner F.C.C.A.

Name of firm (where appropriate) AZETS

Address New Garth House, Upper Garth Gardens, Guisborough
Post Code TS14 6HA

Date

Name of District: **Darlington** No **13**

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-based accounts for the year to 31 August 2021 have been prepared from the records of the District and that they include all funds under the control of the District Policy Committee.

Signature of Treasurer *J G Monkhouse* Date 22/10/2021

Name and address of treasurer: John Graham Monkhouse
Post Code: TS20 1TQ

Presentation to the District Policy Committee

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 will be presented to the District Policy Committee at its meeting on 23.02.2022

Signature of the Chair of the meeting *Richard Andrew*

Name of the Chair of the meeting: Rev Richard Andrew Date **23 February 2022**

Name of District: **Darlington** No **13**

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the District, named above

The District's trustees are responsible for ensuring that the annual report and accounts for the year to 31 August 2021 present a true and fair view of the District's income and expenditure for the year and of its assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date.

The trustees consider that an audit is not necessary for this year under section 144 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 Charities Act 2011
- follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011
- 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 with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items, in nature or scale, or disclosures in the accounts, seeking explanations from the trustees concerning 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. My 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 (other than as disclosed below*)

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirement
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and conform with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 2011have 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.
- (3) I 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 *MR J GRESHAM*

Name of Independent Examiner **MR J GRESHAM**

Relevant professional qualification of Independent Examiner **F.C.C.A.**

Name of firm (where appropriate) **AZETS**

Address **New Garth House, Upper Garth Gardens, Gulsborough**
Post Code **TS14 6HA**

Date

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1 Objectives and Activities

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the District Synod (under the leadership of the District Trustees) meets twice in each year, has given careful consideration to the Charity Commissioners' general guidance on public benefit and, in particular, to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing our objectives and conforms to the Charities Act 2011.

Darlington District's vision is to support and encourage Christian communities to develop in ways that:

- attract people to Jesus Christ;
- reflect God's presence in the world;
- explore and demonstrate ways to follow Christ;
- and promote God's rule in contemporary society by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This means that the district will invest its energy in:

- directing churches and circuits in developing the appropriate way forward for each church and circuit in the context of 'Our Calling' and 'Priorities for the Methodist Church'
- developing structures and processes to enable this way forward.

We will underpin everything we do with God centred worship and prayer and seek to develop a high standard of excellence.

2 Achievements and performance

The principal purpose of the District is to act as a supporting body between Circuits and the Connexion. The District does not seek and, in large measure, does not attain direct contact with the public. The direct contact is by Churches and Circuits and it is these that the District supports in their desire to provide benefit to the public.

Under the heading Collaborative arrangements with connected charities (3.3 below) there is information on how we obtained our funds. In this paragraph we show how they were spent. The money collected, or available for dissipation, was used as grants to support Churches and Circuits throughout the District with their work in their local communities and to subsidise the administrative costs of the District. In 2020-21 the District paid grants and made commitments out of the General Fund and the DAF that totalled £190,100 which was more than the sum received from the levies on some of the funds held by Circuits within the District. The shortfall was made up by drawing on District reserves.

The policy of the trustees on grant making is to ensure that all applications can demonstrate public benefit, pass a test of sustainability, show that there is commitment from the applicant organisation (e.g. the District grant is a minor part of the total funding) and show imagination and creativity as well as a perceived need for that for which the grant is being applied.

- Grants for the adaptation of buildings so that they could more easily meet the modern needs of Churches and help Churches provide services to the community e.g. lunch clubs for the elderly and house-bound, activities for the homeless and refugees
- Grants which supported part time or full time youth workers attached to Circuits or Local Churches
- Grants to support Mission and Ministry
- Grants to support Training and Development

Circuits and Churches that have received grants from the District will show in their own Trustees' Annual Reports (where these are required to be prepared) details of the outcome of the activities undertaken as a result of receiving the grant.

During the year, work has continued on developing links with the neighbouring Newcastle District. We have been pleased to support two candidates for ministry and one probationer presbyter who serves in the District.

Ministerial Development Reviews have been supported and the leadership and foundation module for creating safer space has been rolled out across the District.

The District also supports three Methodist Primary Schools

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

3 Financial review

3.1 Investment policy and performance

To comply with Methodist Standing Orders, monies for long term investment are lodged with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP). TMCP acts as custodian trustee for all real estate held by Districts and for all large (over £20k) bequests and for the proceeds of sale of any property formerly owned by the District. These sums are invested in unitised investments or held on deposit. The investment returns are close to tracking the movements in the FTSE100 index. The deposit income mirrors the deposit rates available elsewhere. The Darlington District Trustees' investment policy is aligned with that of the CFB and TMCP because these organisations take into consideration the social, environmental and ethical considerations, both negatively and positively, that make investments suitable for the Methodist Church.

Short term deposits are lodged directly with the Central Finance Board (CFB) and attract good rates of interest.

There are no bench marks for the expected returns or appreciation on investments at TMCP and CFB. It is the District's policy to manage the cash and investment resources of the District so that a rate of return on investment – both by way of dividend and capital appreciation – is obtained at least as good as market rate considering the District's low appetite for risk. The total return achieved on the

3.2 Reserves level and policy

Financial Review and Reserves Policy

The unrestricted reserves total £566k of which £275k is the value attributed to the District manse and £93k received in advance for funding the District Officers and the balance of £198k represents the year-end level of uncommitted reserves.

The District has a reserves policy covering all its unrestricted funds which is reviewed annually. Although grants are made annually out of the District Advance Fund (DAF), it is recognised that some grants will be paid by annual instalments and that there will be applications repeated in future years. The trustees seek to ensure that there is sufficient in the DAF to meet these anticipated requests and the trustees now recognise future grants as liabilities on the Balance Sheet.

The minimum policy level of the readily available part of the General Fund is such as to pay for six months' expenses, 10% of the Annual Connexional assessment + £20k. At 31 August 2021 this sum amounted to £120k against actual reserves of £198k as stated above. Actual readily available reserves were thus in excess of policy at the year end by £78k. The trustees are, however, mindful that future income from the Circuit Model Trust Funds (CMTFs) is not secure and it is judged prudent to retain a buffer against this funding volatility besides the quantified need of £120k. Furthermore, some Circuits may find it difficult to meet their future assessments due to the impact of Covid 19. Trustees have taken into account this substantial buffer when setting the District's budget for 2022-23. It is expected that the DAF will decrease, year on year, in the foreseeable future.

The reserves at the end of Aug21 were £565k [Aug20= £4517k]. The reserves held at the end of Aug 21 can be further split as follows:

Unrestricted funds:

Undesignated

- General, less property	£ 290,846
- District Advance Fund	£ 7,352

Designated

- Manse Fund	£ 8,795
--------------	---------

Total Unrestricted funds

£ 306,910

Restricted funds:

- Training	£ 54,795
- Benevolence	£ 594

Total Restricted funds

£ 55,389

Unrestricted and undesignated funds £ 178k

The Trustees have agreed that the uncommitted and readily available reserves may be reduced by £40k over the next 2 years and to do this by reducing the circuits assessments. The Trustees have also agreed that the Training Fund will continue to be reduced over the next 5 years by strongly encouraging the provision and taking up of Learning & Development.

The above proposed actions are in line with our Mission objectives.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

3.3 Collaborative arrangements with connected charities

The District's main source of funding was the assessments obtained from each Circuit within the District based on the membership and staffing levels of the Circuit and this was used to defray most of the cost of administering the District. This sum amounted to £74,856 (2020: £75,959).

The District also obtained from each Circuit with a reserve, known as a Circuit Model Trust Fund (CMTF), a levy based on the size of the Circuits' CMTFs at the start of the connexional year (01 September). In 2020-21 this sum was £77,161 and was credited to the District Advance Fund.

The District holds no funds as custodian trustee. It does, however, quarterly receive from Circuits within the District the Circuits' contributions to the Methodist Church Fund (MCF). These sums are collected as agent for the MCF and are passed to the MCF later in the same quarter. Funds received by the District as agent are not recognised as an asset in the financial statements because the funds are not within its control. No fee is earned in respect of this agency arrangement and the District incurs no cost through this arrangement.

4 Trustees' responsibilities

For each financial year ending on 31 August the Trustees are required to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the District's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees must:

1. select suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently using the accruals method
2. make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
3. follow applicable accounting standards
4. prepare accounts to comply with the Charities SORP

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the District and enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the District and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the District's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In addition to the above, the Trustees are responsible for the Health & Safety of the Regional Safeguarding Officer, the District Administrator & P.A to the Chair, the Administrator, the Co-ordinator and the young people employed by the District under the One Opportunity North East Scheme.

4.1 Risk

The District is largely risk averse, however in making grants to entities embarking on new and imaginative initiatives, the District is prepared to underwrite considered risks.

Risks are managed by being aware of them, quantifying their impact not only in cost terms but in possible reputational or structural damage, laying them off through an insurer and minimising them by either not taking them or by setting up control systems that report

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

5 Structure, governance and management

The District is an unincorporated association and is governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976, the Deed of Union and the Model Trust Deeds of the Methodist Church and was registered with the Charity Commissioners on 27 January 2010.

5.1 Structure

Circuits are the coordinating charities for local groups of Churches; Circuits pay the stipends of the ministers and employ lay staff to serve the Churches in the Circuit; most decisions are made at or ratified by the half yearly Circuit Meeting. A District is the coordinating charity for a group of contiguous Circuits and makes its decisions at the half yearly synods. The Methodist Conference meets once each year as the governing body for all Methodist Churches .

1. Overall regulatory authority rests with the Methodist Conference.
2. The Conference Office implements decisions made by Conference.
3. Conference decisions are passed to the Chair of the District and the appropriate officers of the District for implementation.
4. The District passes control to Circuit level for local implementation by the Superintendent Minister, ministerial staff and Circuit Stewards, and authority is delegated to the Circuit Meeting for certain matters.
5. The Circuit Meeting passes regulatory control to Church Councils for local implementation by the presbyter, the Church Stewards, and other officers, and this regulatory authority is then exercised by Church Councils as Managing Trustees of their charity.

5.2 Purpose of the District

The District is an expression, over a wider geographical area than any Circuit, of the Connexional character of the Church.

The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the date of the union the advancement of:

- a. the Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church, and
- b. any charitable purposes for the time being of any connexional, District, Circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church, and
- c. any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church, and
- d. any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary of the Methodist Church.

The primary purpose of this District is to advance the mission of the Church in Darlington District by

1. providing opportunities for Circuits to work together and support each other
2. offering to Circuits resources of finance, personnel and expertise.

The District serves the Local Churches and Circuits and the Conference in the support, deployment and oversight of the various ministries

5.3 Governance

The District operates within a statutory framework of regulation and seeks to ensure that it follows Methodist Standing Orders. It relies on the Connexional Office at 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR to provide guidance on changes that could affect the District.

The members of the District Policy Committee (DPC) are annually appointed by a vote of the Synod for a continuous term not normally exceeding six years. The Chair of District, The Synod Secretary, and members of the Darlington Vision and Strategy team (DVST) are *ex officio* members of the DPC. When a position becomes vacant on the District Policy Committee, nominations are sought from the appropriate circuits within the District. Their names are taken to the District Synod for appointment. Members may be either ministers or lay people attending Churches in the area covered by the District.

The District Policy Committee normally meets three times per year and deals with routine and exceptional matters. It oversees the work of the Synod Co-ordinating Group for Chinese Mission, Grants Committee, Manses Committee, Methodist Women in Britain (Darlington), Local Preachers Committee, District Vision and Strategy Team, Children & Young Persons Group.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

5.4 Responsibility of the District Policy Committee

- i to formulate and promote policies which will advance the mission of the Church in the Circuits and Local Churches and, in particular, to supervise the use of resources of personnel, property and finance and to assist Local Churches and Circuits having exceptional problems
- ii to encourage inter-Circuit and ecumenical co-operation
- iii to act in an executive capacity in matters remitted to the Committee by the Synod
- iv to keep within its purview all District concerns not dealt with elsewhere
- v to contribute and respond, as the case may be, to the development of Connexional policies as reflected in the work of the Conference and the Methodist Council, and to carry out its other responsibilities with any such development in mind
- vi to be aware that the stipend of the Chair of the District is set – currently by reference to the change over a year in the Consumer Price Index and to the annual change in the Average Weekly Earnings Index – using a formula that was agreed by the Methodist Conference for all ministers within the Connexion
- vii constantly to be aware of the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission

6 Reference and Administrative Details

6.1 Name of the charity

Darlington Methodist District

6.2 Charity registration number

1133814

6.3 Principal Office

2 Edinburgh Drive
Darlington
DL3 8AW

6.4 Chair of the District

Revd Richard Andrew

6.5 Secretary of the Synod

Mrs Penny Bissell

6.6 Secretary of the Synod (Presbyteral)

Revd Susan Richardson

6.7 District Treasurer

Mr John Monkhouse

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

6.8 Names of trustees

The following served as trustees throughout part or all of the year 2019-20 or were trustees at the time of this report being approved:

Rev Richard Andrew- Chair of District
Rev Tim Boocock - Darlington and Barnard Castle and Teesdale Circuit.
Mrs Hazel Neasham - Darlington and Barnard Castle and Teesdale Circuit.
Rev Charity Hamilton- Middlesbrough & Eston Circuit
Mrs Margaret Walton - Stockton Circuit
Rev Beverly Hollings (Deputy Chair of District), - Castle Eden Circuit
Mr John Kidd - Castle Eden Circuit
Rev Andrew Robinson - Stokesley Circuit
Rev John Henry - Cleveland & Danby Circuit
Mr Colin Crossman- Cleveland and Danby Circuit
Mr Mark Braithwaite (Methodist Council Rep)
Rev John Squares - (Deputy Chair of District), Durham & Deerness Circuit
Rev David Payne - Bishop Auckland and Shildon Circuit
Rev Melanie Reed - North Yorkshire Dales Circuit
Mrs Penny Bissell - Synod Secretary, (appointed 01.09.19)
Mrs Sue Smith - Secretary DPC
Mr Ron Kirk - Finance Team
Mr John Monkhouse- District Treasurer
Mr Bill Offler - District Ecumenical Officer
Mr Maurice Aspey - District Resourcing Mission Officer
Mr Mark Bagnall - Co-ordinator of Ministries and Mission.

6.9 District Administrator & P.A. to District Chair

Miss Keira Prior

6.10 Bankers

HSBC, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL10 4QQ.
Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
9 Bonhill Street, London, EC2A 4PE

6.11 Investment managers and custodian trustees

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

6.12 Independent Examiner

Mr J Gresham of AZETS

New Garth House, Upper Garth Gardens, Guisborough. TS14 6HA

Approvals:

District Chair Date **23/02/2022** District Treasurer Date **23/02/2022**

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

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	District Advance Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds	Total	2019-20 £
Income from								
1 Donations and legacies		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 Connexional Advance & Property Fund		-	62,454	-	-	-	-	62,454
3 Income from investments		1,454	3,310	21	1,487	-	-	6,272
Income from charitable activities								
4 Assessments on circuits	2	75,959	-	-	-	-	-	75,959
5 From Circuit Model Trust Funds		-	77,792	-	-	-	-	77,792
6 Contribution to the cost of the Chair	3	40,825	-	-	-	-	-	40,825
7 Other charitable activities		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8 Income from other trading activities		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9 Other income	4	70,990	-	-	-	-	-	70,990
Total income		189,228	143,556	21	1,487	-	-	334,292
Expenditure								
9 Grants, commitments and donations	5	7,660	92,650	-	-	-	-	100,310
10 Salaries and associated costs	6	110,817	-	-	-	-	-	110,817
11 Cost of the Chair	3	45,103	-	-	-	-	-	45,103
12 Property Maintenance	7	9,064	-	-	-	-	-	9,064
13 Office expenses	8	4,410	687	-	104	-	-	5,201
14 Synods, committees, Conference	9	1,701	-	-	-	-	-	1,701
15 Training		4,155	-	-	-	-	-	4,155
16 Professional fees	10	1,440	-	-	-	-	-	1,440
17 Other outgoings	10	2,105	-	-	10,593	-	-	12,698
Total expenditure		186,455	93,337	-	10,697	-	-	290,489
Net income/(expenditure) before gains and losses on investments								
		2,773	50,219	21	(9,210)	-	-	43,803
18 Net gains/(losses) on investments	11	-	-	-	(3,949)	-	-	(3,949)
Net income/(expenditure)		2,773	50,219	21	(13,159)	-	-	39,854
19 Transfers between funds	12	40,002	-	6,000	(46,002)	-	-	-
20 Other gains/(losses)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		42,775	50,219	6,021	(59,161)	-	-	39,854
Total funds brought forward	19,20	474,196	4,334	2,762	103,671	-	-	584,963
Total funds carried forward	19,20	516,971	54,553	8,783	44,510	-	-	624,817

Darlington District						District No	13	
Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2021								
	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	District Advance Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2020-21	Total 2019-20
		£	£	£	£		£	£
Income from								
1 Donations and legacies		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 Connexional Advance & Property Fund		-	59,572	-	-	-	59,572	62,454
3 Income from investments		341	1,269	12	1,013	-	2,635	6,272
Income from charitable activities								
4 Assessments on circuits	2	74,856	-	-	-	-	74,856	75,959
5 From Circuit Model Trust Funds		-	77,161	-	-	-	77,161	77,792
6 Contribution to the cost of the Chair	3	42,151	-	-	-	-	42,151	40,825
7 Other charitable activities		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8 Income from other trading activities		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9 Other income	4	95,248	-	-	-	-	95,248	70,990
Total income		212,596	138,002	12	1,013	-	351,623	334,292
Expenditure								
9 Grants, commitments and donations	5	5,600	184,500	-	-	-	190,100	100,310
10 Salaries and associated costs	6	97,539	-	-	-	-	97,539	110,817
11 Cost of the Chair	3	43,790	-	-	-	-	43,790	45,103
12 Property Maintenance	7	9,860	-	-	-	-	9,860	9,064
13 Office expenses	8	3,751	703	-	88	-	4,542	5,201
14 Synods, committees, Conference	9	661	-	-	-	-	661	1,701
15 Training		890	-	-	-	-	890	4,155
16 Professional fees	10	1,500	-	-	-	-	1,500	1,440
17 Other outgoings	10	213	-	-	-	-	213	12,698
Total expenditure		163,804	185,203	-	88	-	349,095	290,489
Net income/(expenditure) before gains and losses on investments								
		48,792	(47,201)	12	925	-	2,528	43,803
18 Net gains/(losses) on investments	11	-	-	-	9,954	-	9,954	(3,949)
Net income/(expenditure)		48,792	(47,201)	12	10,879	-	12,482	39,854
19 Transfers between funds	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 Other gains/(losses)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		48,792	(47,201)	12	10,879	-	12,482	39,854
Total funds brought forward	19,20	516,971	54,553	8,783	44,510	-	624,817	584,963
Total funds carried forward	19,20	565,763	7,352	8,795	55,389	-	637,299	624,817

Name of District	Darlington						District No	13	
Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2021									
	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	District Advance Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2020/21	Totals 2019/20	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Fixed Assets									
Tangible fixed assets	13	275,000	-	-	-	-	275,000	275,000	
Investment properties		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Investments		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total fixed assets		275,000	-	-	-	-	275,000	275,000	
Current Assets									
Debtors	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,000	
Loans by the District		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Investments with TMCP		-	314,079	-	54,795	-	368,874	395,652	
Central Finance Board Deposits		285,161	-	8,795	594	-	294,550	251,215	
Cash at Bank and in hand		7,185	-	-	-	-	7,185	4,597	
Total current assets		292,346	314,079	8,795	55,389	-	670,609	654,464	
Current liabilities									
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	17	1,500	-	-	-	-	1,500	5,000	
Grants payable in 2021-22	18	-	191,977	-	-	-	191,977	147,500	
Total current liabilities		1,500	191,977	-	-	-	193,477	152,500	
Net current assets/liabilities		290,846	122,102	8,795	55,389	-	477,132	501,964	
Total assets less current liabilities		565,846	122,102	8,795	55,389	-	752,132	776,964	
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)									
Grants payable after 2020-21	18	-	114,750	-	-	-	114,750	192,001	
Loans to the District		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Net assets		565,846	7,352	8,795	55,389	-	637,382	584,963	
Funds of the District									
General Fund (Unrestricted)	19	565,846	-	-	-	-	565,846	474,196	
District Advance Fund (Unrestricted)		-	7,352	-	-	-	7,352	4,334	
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	19	-	-	8,795	-	-	8,795	2,762	
Total Unrestricted Funds		565,846	7,352	8,795	-	-	581,993	481,292	
Restricted Funds	20	-	-	-	55,389	-	55,389	103,671	
Endowment Funds		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Funds		565,846	7,352	8,795	55,389	-	637,382	584,963	
					Signed				
					<i>J G Monkhouse</i>				
					21/10/2021				
					District Treasurer				

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1 Accounting framework and accounting policies

i Accounting framework

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with FRS102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Ireland" ("FRS102"), "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities applying FRS102 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice as it applies from 1st January 2015.

ii Public benefit entity

The Darlington District meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s) below.

iii Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that investments are shown at their market value at the end of the year, on the accruals basis to show a true and fair view of the District's financial position and activities.

iv Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £ Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

v Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2020, the trustees believe that the District is a going concern.

vi Consolidation

The District oversees the work of ministers and lay workers in Churches and Circuits within the District but does not have control over those Circuits or Churches, ministers or lay workers except in extreme circumstances, none of which were applicable. For this reason, the financial statements of the Churches and Circuits within the District are not consolidated into these financial statements.

vii Income recognition

Income is brought into account when it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will accrue to the Darlington District. No attempt is made to measure the value of services donated by volunteers. Details of how the contribution to the cost of the District Chair has been determined appears in Note 3. A similar figure appears in the Expenditure at Note 6.

Individual amounts categorised as *Other income* in the SOFA will be shown separately if they are considered material.

The District acts as agent in four matters:

1. the collection of quarterly assessments from circuits which are paid to the Methodist Church Fund
2. the payment of expenses of delegates from the District to the Methodist Conference
3. the collection taken at the autumn and spring synod on behalf of the Methodist Ministers' Children's Relief Fund
4. the cost of ministerial health checks recovered from Circuits

In all these matters the transactions are not reflected in the SOFA because there is no obligation on the District to make up any shortfall in assessments from Circuits. Sums received as Circuit assessments cannot be recognised as income in the District as they are the income of the MCF.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRSSE), the time of volunteers is not recognised.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

viii Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the District to pay out resources.

ix Grants

Grants are recognised in full when the award is made once the District accepts that there is a legal or constructive obligation to make the payment and that such payment is probable.

x VAT

Since the District is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged with the expenses to which it refers.

xi Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000. The freehold property is shown in the accounts at 2015 deemed values, of which the land component is deemed to be £70,000. No depreciation is provided on the building because the trustees consider the current residual fair value of the manse buildings (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year-end) to be not less than its current value. Any depreciation would not be material. The property has been reviewed for impairment.

xii Investments

The investments of the Darlington District are held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees. The valuations, at market value, are those provided by TMCP. The unrealised gains arising on investments at the end of the year are shown in the SOFA and in Note 11 below.

xiii Debtors and creditors; bank and cash

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the District or prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any trade discounts, where normal credit terms apply, or amount advanced to the District. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds of bank balances and deposit account balances are shown at the realisable values.

xiv Loans

Where concessionary loans (*i.e.*, free of interest) are made to (or received by) the District to further its charitable purposes, and are repayable after more than one year, they are initially recognised at the amount paid [or received], with the carrying value adjusted in subsequent years to reflect repayments and any accrued interest, adjusted for any impairment, if necessary.

Where there is objective evidence of impairment, an immediate impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities. Subsequent reversals of an impairment loss that objectively relate to an event occurring after the impairment loss was recognised, are recognised immediately in the Statement of Financial Activities.

xv Methodist Church Fund

The District acts as agent for the Methodist Church Fund (MCF) by collecting its assessments on Circuits and does not, therefore, include the assessments in the SOFA. If a Circuit is late in paying its MCF assessment to the District but such sum is received before the quarterly transfer to the MCF, the amount paid late will be shown as a debtor in the District's accounts.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

xvi Ministers' manse costs

The District is required to provide accommodation for each Minister and his / her family. The District bears the cost of repairs, maintenance, building insurance, Council Tax and water charges. These costs are not shown separately as benefits-in-kind for Ministers as HMRC does not seek to tax these receipts in the hands of the Ministers.

2 Assessment on Circuits

All Circuits (see list given below in this note) paid their assessments to the District and to the MCF during the year or shortly after it's end. An assessment on Circuits is annually determined by Districts by reference to the number of staff in the Circuits and the number of Church members but may also take into account a Circuit's ability to pay.

The District is made up of the following Circuits:

Circuit No	Circuit Name
1	Darlington, Barnard Castle and Teesdale
2	Middlesbrough & Eston
3	Stockton
4	Castle Eden
5	Stokesley
7	Cleveland & Danby
10	Bishop Auckland & Shildon
11	Durham & Deerness Valley
12	West Durham
19	North Yorkshire Dales

Contribution to Methodist Church Fund (MCF)

In addition to the assessments on the Circuits £74,856 (2020 - £75,959) to help defray the costs of running the District, the District acted as agent for the Methodist Church Fund which levied assessments on the Circuits in this District totalling £360,312 (2020 - £368,085) all of which were collected or shown as debtors at the end of the year and paid over to the MCF in the year. No balance was held at the end of the year; no fee is received for this service which is performed at nearly nil cost to the District. These sums collected for and remitted to the MCF do not appear elsewhere in these financial statements.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

3 Cost of Chair and trustees

The Chair of District chairs meetings of the District Policy Committee (DPC). The members of the DPC are the trustees of the District. The stipend, employer's NIC and employer's pension contributions of the Chair of District are paid by the Methodist Connexion. The Chair's other costs are met mostly by the District.

	2020-21	2019-20
	£	£
Stipend to Chair	32,074	31,065
Employer's National Insurance Contribution	3,211	3,075
Employer's pension contribution to the defined benefit scheme	6,866	6,685
Cash cost paid by the Connexion (see, SOFA, item 6)	42,151	40,825
Chair's expenses	1,639	4,278
Total cost	43,790	45,103

Since the stipend-related costs above £42,151 (2020 - £40,825) are borne by the Connexion, they appear both in the Income of the District and the Expenditure of the District (See Note 6). It should be noted that the chair is required to occupy the District manse. The manse is provided by the Darlington District and the District maintains the property. The sum of £750 per calendar month (2020 - £750) per calendar month) was determined by enquiry of local letting agents and does not appear elsewhere in these accounts. The Chair of District is the sole paid key management person but is supported by members of the DPC.

No accrual is made for the Chair's entitlement to a sabbatical as his / her functions are undertaken by a Deputy Chair at minimal extra cost to the District.

Payment to Trustees

It is District policy to offer to reimburse members of the District Policy Committee and others involved in the administration of District affairs for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties. The Chair of the District undertakes the primary executive role within the District. Apart from the Chair of District and The District Administrator and P.A. to the Chair no member of the District Policy Committee was in receipt of any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the District, although certain travelling and administration costs were reimbursed whenever this was requested.

None of the trustees receives any remuneration in their role as Trustees.

4 Other income

	2020-21	2019-20
	£	£
Grant for provision of District Enabler	24,000	43,000
Grant for One Opportunities		5,500
RSO, grant and contribution from Newcastle District	36,248	18,911
Grant for District Resourcing Mission Officer	9,000	
Grant for Children, Families & Young People Development Worker	6,000	
Grant for NewPlaces, New People	20,000	
Sundries		3,579
Total	95,248	70,990

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

5 Grants, donations and related Support costs

	2020-21	2019-20
	£	£
Unrestricted:		
- From General Fund	5,600	7,660
- From DAF	184,500	92,650
Total	190,100	100,310

Expenditure on charitable activities through the District Advance Fund

This fund receives formulaically determined contributions from the Circuit Model Trust Funds held by Circuits within the District and redistributes the monies to grantees in the District through relevant grants as assessed by the District Grants Committee. During the year the following grants commitments/paid were made:

Given to	Amount in £	Analysis of amounts given by type of work	Amount in £
Churches	26,774	Projects	109,100
Circuits	82,326	Ministry	81,000
Darlington District	81,000		
Total	190,100		190,100

The income of the fund was £138,002 during the year.

The Grants Committee is aware that grant applications must demonstrate public benefit.

The support costs for grant-funding to third parties are insignificant (principally because the secretary of the Grants Committee is a volunteer and undertakes the vast majority of this work) and are not separately disclosed.

6 Salaries and associated costs

Gross salaries paid to 15 part time (2019 :14) employees were as follows:

	2020-21	2019-20
	£	£
Gross pay	78,438	80,152
Employer's National Insurance contribution	5,776	4,606
Employer's pension contribution to defined contribution scheme	4,258	3,717
Employees expenses	2,670	12,485
Total cost for 5 staff members	91,142	100,960
Paid to trustee in his role as District Resourcing Mission Officer	6,397	9,857
Total staff costs (notes 6)	97,539	110,817
Cost of Chair (see Note 3)	43,790	44,278
Total weekly contractual hours of 5 Staff members	106	128

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

No employees received employee benefits that totalled more than £60,000. There is no accrual for holiday pay as it is immaterial; the holiday year ends on 31 August. All staff are paid at or above the living wage.

Whilst the total salary and expenses cost paid by the District was £91,142 Newcastle District of The Methodist Church contributed 50% (£17,249) towards the cost of the employee engaged exclusively in safeguarding matters and a part time safeguarding administrator.

In addition one of the trustees, Mr M Aspey, is paid a consultancy fee and expenses as above for his role as District

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Pensions

Most ordained presbyters and deacons are members of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS). This is a defined benefit scheme. The Supreme Court held in 2014 that Methodist ministers (which term includes presbyters and deacons) are not employees of the Church. For simplicity, however, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions and pension contributions, the terms 'employer' and 'employee' are used as they would be in an employing body.

On the other hand lay employees are contractually employees and have the option of joining the Pension and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church (PASLEMC), The Pensions Trust or some other arrangement. PASLEMC is a defined benefit scheme and the employing Churches and Circuits contribute as employers to this scheme.

The Pensions Trust is a defined contribution scheme with employer's contributions being 6% of gross salary.

The Connexion accounts for both the MMPS and PASLEMC pension schemes and shows the figures in the annual Methodist Church in Great Britain accounts. The MMPS is in deficit but a plan for removal of the deficit has been proposed and is being implemented. Details of the deficits on these schemes can be found in the Annual Report and Accounts of The Methodist Church at www.methodist.org.uk.

7 Property costs

	2020-21	2019-20
	£	£
District office, rent and services	3,088	5,154
Chair's manse which include some renovations costs	6,772	3,910
Total costs	9,860	9,064

8 Office expenses (General fund)

	2020-21	2019-20
	£	£
Printing, postage and stationery etc.	2,880	4,410
Other	-	-
Total charged to General Fund	2,880	4,410
TMCP charges	1,662	791
Total	4,542	5,201

None of the remaining individual amounts (aggregated as 'Other' above) is considered material and none is listed separately

9 Synods, Committees, Conference

	2020-21	2019-20
	£	£
Synods	661	1,701
Conference	-	-
Committees	-	-
Chair's travel (see note 3 for 2018-9)	-	-
Total costs	661	1,701

None of the remaining individual amounts (aggregated as 'Other' above) is considered material and none is listed separately.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

10 Other outgoings

	2020-21	2019-20
	£	£
Professional fees	1,500	1,440
Recruitment costs for District Enabler	-	-
Retreats	213	2,105
Surplus of 'One Opps NE' scheme returned to Newcastle District	-	10,593
Total other costs	1,713	14,138

None of the remaining individual amounts (aggregated as 'Sundry outgoings' above) is considered material and none is listed separately.

11 Investment management

During the year the District paid £791 to TMCP, the custodians of the District's investments (District Advance Fund and Darlington Training and Bursary Trust (2020 - £916). The sum of £791 was levied at 0.2% on the value of the funds at the end of the year and is shown as allocated to the two groups of funds: £703 and £88 at line 13 in the SOFA. See Note 8 above for TMCP charges.

None of the remaining individual amounts – aggregated as 'Other' above - is considered material and none is listed separately.

The sum of £9954 represents an unrealised gain (2020 - £3949) in the invested funds of the Training Fund. More information can be found in Note 20, Restricted Funds.

12 Transfer between funds

Transfers between funds are to reimburse funds for expenditure incurred and to transfer income received on behalf of other funds.

13 Manse and other property

The value of the District manse in Darlington is believed to be considerably greater than its historical cost in 2006 shown in the accounts. There is no depreciation on the manse as the impairment review at the end of the year confirmed that the current residual market value of the building was greater than the carrying value of that part of the asset's cost to date.

Cost or valuation	Land	Buildings	Total
Cost bf at 01/09/2020	70,000	205,000	275,000
Additions in the year	-	-	-
Revaluations in the year	-	-	-
Less: Disposals in the year	-	-	-
Transfers between categories	-	-	-
Cost cf at 31.8.2021	70,000	205,000	275,000

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

14 Debtors and prepayments

Debtors were made up as follows:

	2020-21	2019-20
	£	£
Trade debtors	-	-
Prepayments and accrued income (3 Gen fees paid in advance)	-	1,800
Other debtors	-	-
Total	-	1,800

15 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP)

The funds that support the District Advance Fund and the Manses Fund are held by TMCP in Trustees Interest Funds on which interest is credited to the accounts each month. These are regarded as medium and long term investments.

TMCP is the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds. Trust property is held for and on behalf of local Managing Trustees who are responsible for the day to day management of trust property. TMCP ensure that, through providing guidance and acting under their direction, the Managing Trustees comply with charity law and Methodist law and policy as determined by the Methodist Conference.

16 Central Finance Board (CFB) and cash at bank

The District has 2 current accounts at HSBC plc, an authorised institution. The sums held on those accounts are immediately available. In addition the District has 3 deposit accounts at CFB. Interest is earned on these accounts and credited monthly; the sums deposited can be withdrawn without notice and without loss of interest. These sums are viewed as being liquid.

17 Creditors and accrued expenses

	2020-21	2019-20
	£	£
Creditors:		
Independent examinations, including VAT	1,500	1,380
<i>Total creditors</i>	1,500	1,380
Accruals:		
Expenses	-	420
<i>Total accruals</i>	-	420
Total of creditors and accrued expenses	1,500	1,800

It is expected that all sums accrued at 31 Aug 2020 would be paid during the year to 31 Aug 2021.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

18 Grant commitments and the District Advance Fund

It is the District's policy to recognise committed grants immediately as expenditure out of this fund and thus accrue the unpaid amounts at the year-end as liabilities.

	2020-21	£
End of year commitments to pay one-off grants or the first instalment in a future year		132,500
Anticipated second or subsequent instalments where the first instalment was paid in 2019-20 or earlier		174,227
Total anticipated commitment at 31 August 2021		<u>306,727</u>
Grants payable by future year as at 1 September 2021:		
2020-21 (current liability)		191,977
2021-22 (long term liability)	98,250	
2022-onwards (long term liability)	<u>16,500</u>	114,750
Total anticipated commitment at 31 August 2021		<u>306,727</u>

This total of anticipated grants of £297,001 was within the balance of £351,554 in the DAF as at 1 September 2020. In the following year and subsequent years, further sums were and are expected to be credited to the DAF from the CMTF levies of those years.

The award of a grant by the District does not create a contractual relationship but does create an operational liability if not made subject to performance conditions creating uncertainty as to the probability of future years' grant instalments being paid. It is now judged that such future instalments of grant will probably be paid and so the amounts due are no longer classified as Designated Reserves but instead are recognised as expenditure of the year when awarded.

No institution received grants of such materiality that they should be separately disclosed in these accounts.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

19 Unrestricted Funds

19.1 General Fund

Balance of £565,846 at 31 Aug 2021 (2020 - £516,971)

The purpose of the fund is for use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the District and which have not been designated for other purposes. About 49% of this fund is held as a freehold property, the District manse for the Chair of District. During the year £5,600 was paid out as grants and donations from the General Fund.

19.2 Other Designated Funds

Balance of £8795 at 31 Aug 2021 (2020 - £8783)

This fund is to serve a specific purposes but is not restricted by any document or deed to that purpose alone. These funds comprise:

The Manse Fund – balance £8795 (2020 - £8783) is available to meet maintenance in the accommodation at the District

20 Restricted Funds

Balance of £55389 at 31 Aug 2021 (2020 - £44510)

The Training Fund – balance £54795 (2020 - £43917) meet the training costs of Ministers and lay people in the district.

The Benevolence Fund - balance £594 (2020 - £593) provides financial support to ministers and lay people in the District in need of support.

The market valuations for the Training & Bursary Trust (known as the Training Fund) have been provided by TMCP. The funds of the Benevolence Fund are held on deposit at CFB.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

21 Summary of movements on significant individual funds

Year ended 31st August 2021						
	At 1st September 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains on inv assets	At 31st August 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds						
General fund	516,971	203,246	(154,371)		-	565,846
Designated funds						
District Advance Fund	54,553	138,002	(185,203)		-	7,352
Other designated funds						
Manse Maintenance	8,783	12	-		-	8,795
Total unrestricted funds	580,307	341,260	(339,574)		-	581,993
Restricted Funds						
Training	43,916	1,013	(88)		9,954	54,795
Benevolence Fund	594	-	-		-	594
Total restricted funds	44,510	1,013	(88)		9,954	55,389
Total Funds	624,817	342,273	(339,662)		9,954	637,382

Year ended 31st August 2020						
	At 1st September 2019	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains on inv assets	At 31st August 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds						
General fund	474,196	189,228	(186,455)	40,002	-	516,971
Designated funds						
District Advance Fund	4,334	143,556	(93,337)		-	54,553
Other designated funds						
Manse Maintenance	2,762	21	-	6,000	-	8,783
Total unrestricted funds	481,292	332,805	(279,792)	46,002	-	580,307
Restricted Funds						
Training	51,817	1,152	(104)	(5,000)	(3,949)	43,916
One Opportunity Fund	51,265	330	(10,593)	(41,002)	-	-
Benevolence Fund	589	5	-	-	-	594
Total restricted funds	103,671	1,487	(10,697)	(46,002)	(3,949)	44,510
Total Funds	584,963	334,292	(290,489)	-	(3,949)	624,817

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

22 Analysis of net assets amongst funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2021 are represented by:

	Unrestricted - general	Restricted including	Total funds
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	275,000	-	275,000
Current assets	615,220	55,389	670,609
Current liabilities	(193,477)	-	(193,477)
Payables due after one year	(114,750)	-	(114,750)
			-
Total	581,993	55,389	637,382

23 Connected organisations and related parties

All of the District trustees are members of one or another Church and Circuit within the District and may be trustees in their Churches and/or Circuits.

Connected organisations include the Methodist Connexion, Circuits and Churches within the District, other Methodist Districts in Great Britain, the Methodist Ministers' Children's Relief Association, CFB and TMCP, except as reported in Note 3. All of these entities have their own trustees or directors and autonomous administration such that Darlington District has no significant influence over any of them, nor they over the Darlington District. They are, therefore, not considered related parties.

Name of Connected Organisations	Receipts	Payments	Adjustments
	£	£	£
Donee: Methodist Church Fund	59,572	368,085	-
Doner: Circuits within the Darlington District (assessments on Circuits)	435,186	82,326	-
Donor / Donee: Circuits within the Darlington District (levies / grants)	77,161	81,000	-
Donor / Donee: Churches within the Darlington District (grants)	-	26,774	-

There were no related party transactions other than those already disclosed under notes 3 and 6.

24 Volunteer contributions

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit, Church) within the Methodist Church in GB is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. Principally this contribution is by serving on committees of the District that deal with mission, manses, finance, policy, grants, training, development. We are grateful to all of them for their help and commitment.

25 Capital commitments and contingent liabilities

There were no capital commitments or contingent liabilities at the year end (2019 - nil).

26 Lease commitments

Not Applicable

27 Auditor / Independent examiner

An accrual has been made for the fee of the independent examiner in the sum of £1,500 for the year (2020 - £1380). The independent examiner provided no additional services during the year.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

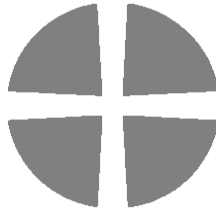
28 Prior Year Adjustment

There were no prior year adjustments.

DARLINGTON METHODIST DISTRICT

England & Wales - Charity number 1133814

Accounts



THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS
ACCRUALS BASIS
for the year ended 31 August 2021

Darlington	District	District no	13
Registered Charity - Registration number			1133814

District Chairs

Rev Richard Andrew

Synod Secretary

Mrs P Bissell

Treasurer

Mr J G Monkhouse

Name of District: **Darlington** No **13**

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-based accounts for the year to 31 August 2021 have been prepared from the records of the District and that they include all funds under the control of the District Policy Committee.

Signature of Treasurer *J G Monkhouse* Date 22/10/2021

Name and address of treasurer: John Graham Monkhouse
Post Code: TS20 1TQ

Presentation to the District Policy Committee

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 will be presented to the District Policy Committee at its meeting on 23.02.2022

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Name of the Chair of the meeting: Rev Richard Andrew Date

Name of District: **Darlington** No **13**

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the District, named above

The District's trustees are responsible for ensuring that the annual report and accounts for the year to 31 August 2021 present a true and fair view of the District's income and expenditure for the year and of its assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date.

The trustees consider that an audit is not necessary for this year under section 144 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 Charities Act 2011
- follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011
- 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 with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items, in nature or scale, or disclosures in the accounts, seeking explanations from the trustees concerning 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. My 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 (other than as disclosed below*)

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirement
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and conform with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 2011have 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.
- (3) I 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 MR J GRESHAM

Relevant professional qualification of Independent Examiner F.C.C.A.

Name of firm (where appropriate) AZETS

Address New Garth House, Upper Garth Gardens, Guisborough
Post Code TS14 6HA

Date

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1 Objectives and Activities

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the District Synod (under the leadership of the District Trustees) meets twice in each year, has given careful consideration to the Charity Commissioners' general guidance on public benefit and, in particular, to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing our objectives and conforms to the Charities Act 2011.

Darlington District's vision is to support and encourage Christian communities to develop in ways that:

- attract people to Jesus Christ;
- reflect God's presence in the world;
- explore and demonstrate ways to follow Christ;
- and promote God's rule in contemporary society by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This means that the district will invest its energy in:

- directing churches and circuits in developing the appropriate way forward for each church and circuit in the context of 'Our Calling' and 'Priorities for the Methodist Church'
- developing structures and processes to enable this way forward.

We will underpin everything we do with God centred worship and prayer and seek to develop a high standard of excellence.

2 Achievements and performance

The principal purpose of the District is to act as a supporting body between Circuits and the Connexion. The District does not seek and, in large measure, does not attain direct contact with the public. The direct contact is by Churches and Circuits and it is these that the District supports in their desire to provide benefit to the public.

Under the heading Collaborative arrangements with connected charities (3.3 below) there is information on how we obtained our funds. In this paragraph we show how they were spent. The money collected, or available for dissipation, was used as grants to support Churches and Circuits throughout the District with their work in their local communities and to subsidise the administrative costs of the District. In 2020-21 the District paid grants and made commitments out of the General Fund and the DAF that totalled £190,100 which was more than the sum received from the levies on some of the funds held by Circuits within the District. The shortfall was made up by drawing on District reserves.

The policy of the trustees on grant making is to ensure that all applications can demonstrate public benefit, pass a test of sustainability, show that there is commitment from the applicant organisation (e.g. the District grant is a minor part of the total funding) and show imagination and creativity as well as a perceived need for that for which the grant is being applied.

- Grants for the adaptation of buildings so that they could more easily meet the modern needs of Churches and help Churches provide services to the community e.g. lunch clubs for the elderly and house-bound, activities for the homeless and refugees
- Grants which supported part time or full time youth workers attached to Circuits or Local Churches
- Grants to support Mission and Ministry
- Grants to support Training and Development

Circuits and Churches that have received grants from the District will show in their own Trustees' Annual Reports (where these are required to be prepared) details of the outcome of the activities undertaken as a result of receiving the grant.

During the year, work has continued on developing links with the neighbouring Newcastle District. We have been pleased to support two candidates for ministry and one probationer presbyter who serves in the District.

Ministerial Development Reviews have been supported and the leadership and foundation module for creating safer space has been rolled out across the District.

The District also supports three Methodist Primary Schools

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

3 Financial review

3.1 Investment policy and performance

To comply with Methodist Standing Orders, monies for long term investment are lodged with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP). TMCP acts as custodian trustee for all real estate held by Districts and for all large (over £20k) bequests and for the proceeds of sale of any property formerly owned by the District. These sums are invested in unitised investments or held on deposit. The investment returns are close to tracking the movements in the FTSE100 index. The deposit income mirrors the deposit rates available elsewhere. The Darlington District Trustees' investment policy is aligned with that of the CFB and TMCP because these organisations take into consideration the social, environmental and ethical considerations, both negatively and positively, that make investments suitable for the Methodist Church.

Short term deposits are lodged directly with the Central Finance Board (CFB) and attract good rates of interest.

There are no bench marks for the expected returns or appreciation on investments at TMCP and CFB. It is the District's policy to manage the cash and investment resources of the District so that a rate of return on investment – both by way of dividend and capital appreciation – is obtained at least as good as market rate considering the District's low appetite for risk. The total return achieved on the

3.2 Reserves level and policy

Financial Review and Reserves Policy

The unrestricted reserves total £566k of which £275k is the value attributed to the District manse and £93k received in advance for funding the District Officers and the balance of £198k represents the year-end level of uncommitted reserves.

The District has a reserves policy covering all its unrestricted funds which is reviewed annually. Although grants are made annually out of the District Advance Fund (DAF), it is recognised that some grants will be paid by annual instalments and that there will be applications repeated in future years. The trustees seek to ensure that there is sufficient in the DAF to meet these anticipated requests and the trustees now recognise future grants as liabilities on the Balance Sheet.

The minimum policy level of the readily available part of the General Fund is such as to pay for six months' expenses, 10% of the Annual Connexional assessment + £20k. At 31 August 2021 this sum amounted to £120k against actual reserves of £198k as stated above. Actual readily available reserves were thus in excess of policy at the year end by £78k. The trustees are, however, mindful that future income from the Circuit Model Trust Funds (CMTFs) is not secure and it is judged prudent to retain a buffer against this funding volatility besides the quantified need of £120k. Furthermore, some Circuits may find it difficult to meet their future assessments due to the impact of Covid 19. Trustees have taken into account this substantial buffer when setting the District's budget for 2022-23. It is expected that the DAF will decrease, year on year, in the foreseeable future.

The reserves at the end of Aug21 were £565k [Aug20= £4517k]. The reserves held at the end of Aug 21 can be further split as follows:

Unrestricted funds:

Undesignated

- General, less property	£ 290,846
- District Advance Fund	£ 7,352

Designated

- Manse Fund	£ 8,795
--------------	---------

Total Unrestricted funds

£ 306,910

Restricted funds:

- Training	£ 54,795
- Benevolence	£ 594

Total Restricted funds

£ 55,389

Unrestricted and undesignated funds £ 178k

The Trustees have agreed that the uncommitted and readily available reserves may be reduced by £40k over the next 2 years and to do this by reducing the circuits assessments. The Trustees have also agreed that the Training Fund will continue to be reduced over the next 5 years by strongly encouraging the provision and taking up of Learning & Development.

The above proposed actions are in line with our Mission objectives.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

3.3 Collaborative arrangements with connected charities

The District's main source of funding was the assessments obtained from each Circuit within the District based on the membership and staffing levels of the Circuit and this was used to defray most of the cost of administering the District. This sum amounted to £74,856 (2020: £75,959).

The District also obtained from each Circuit with a reserve, known as a Circuit Model Trust Fund (CMTF), a levy based on the size of the Circuits' CMTFs at the start of the connexional year (01 September). In 2020-21 this sum was £77,161 and was credited to the District Advance Fund.

The District holds no funds as custodian trustee. It does, however, quarterly receive from Circuits within the District the Circuits' contributions to the Methodist Church Fund (MCF). These sums are collected as agent for the MCF and are passed to the MCF later in the same quarter. Funds received by the District as agent are not recognised as an asset in the financial statements because the funds are not within its control. No fee is earned in respect of this agency arrangement and the District incurs no cost through this arrangement.

4 Trustees' responsibilities

For each financial year ending on 31 August the Trustees are required to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the District's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees must:

1. select suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently using the accruals method
2. make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
3. follow applicable accounting standards
4. prepare accounts to comply with the Charities SORP

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the District and enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the District and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the District's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In addition to the above, the Trustees are responsible for the Health & Safety of the Regional Safeguarding Officer, the District Administrator & P.A to the Chair, the Administrator, the Co-ordinator and the young people employed by the District under the One Opportunity North East Scheme.

4.1 Risk

The District is largely risk averse, however in making grants to entities embarking on new and imaginative initiatives, the District is prepared to underwrite considered risks.

Risks are managed by being aware of them, quantifying their impact not only in cost terms but in possible reputational or structural damage, laying them off through an insurer and minimising them by either not taking them or by setting up control systems that report

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

5 Structure, governance and management

The District is an unincorporated association and is governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976, the Deed of Union and the Model Trust Deeds of the Methodist Church and was registered with the Charity Commissioners on 27 January 2010.

5.1 Structure

Circuits are the coordinating charities for local groups of Churches; Circuits pay the stipends of the ministers and employ lay staff to serve the Churches in the Circuit; most decisions are made at or ratified by the half yearly Circuit Meeting. A District is the coordinating charity for a group of contiguous Circuits and makes its decisions at the half yearly synods. The Methodist Conference meets once each year as the governing body for all Methodist Churches .

1. Overall regulatory authority rests with the Methodist Conference.
2. The Conference Office implements decisions made by Conference.
3. Conference decisions are passed to the Chair of the District and the appropriate officers of the District for implementation.
4. The District passes control to Circuit level for local implementation by the Superintendent Minister, ministerial staff and Circuit Stewards, and authority is delegated to the Circuit Meeting for certain matters.
5. The Circuit Meeting passes regulatory control to Church Councils for local implementation by the presbyter, the Church Stewards, and other officers, and this regulatory authority is then exercised by Church Councils as Managing Trustees of their charity.

5.2 Purpose of the District

The District is an expression, over a wider geographical area than any Circuit, of the Connexional character of the Church.

The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the date of the union the advancement of:

- a. the Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church, and
- b. any charitable purposes for the time being of any connexional, District, Circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church, and
- c. any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church, and
- d. any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary of the Methodist Church.

The primary purpose of this District is to advance the mission of the Church in Darlington District by

1. providing opportunities for Circuits to work together and support each other
2. offering to Circuits resources of finance, personnel and expertise.

The District serves the Local Churches and Circuits and the Conference in the support, deployment and oversight of the various ministries

5.3 Governance

The District operates within a statutory framework of regulation and seeks to ensure that it follows Methodist Standing Orders. It relies on the Connexional Office at 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR to provide guidance on changes that could affect the District.

The members of the District Policy Committee (DPC) are annually appointed by a vote of the Synod for a continuous term not normally exceeding six years. The Chair of District, The Synod Secretary, and members of the Darlington Vision and Strategy team (DVST) are *ex officio* members of the DPC. When a position becomes vacant on the District Policy Committee, nominations are sought from the appropriate circuits within the District. Their names are taken to the District Synod for appointment. Members may be either ministers or lay people attending Churches in the area covered by the District.

The District Policy Committee normally meets three times per year and deals with routine and exceptional matters. It oversees the work of the Synod Co-ordinating Group for Chinese Mission, Grants Committee, Manses Committee, Methodist Women in Britain (Darlington), Local Preachers Committee, District Vision and Strategy Team, Children & Young Persons Group.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

5.4 Responsibility of the District Policy Committee

- i to formulate and promote policies which will advance the mission of the Church in the Circuits and Local Churches and, in particular, to supervise the use of resources of personnel, property and finance and to assist Local Churches and Circuits having exceptional problems
- ii to encourage inter-Circuit and ecumenical co-operation
- iii to act in an executive capacity in matters remitted to the Committee by the Synod
- iv to keep within its purview all District concerns not dealt with elsewhere
- v to contribute and respond, as the case may be, to the development of Connexional policies as reflected in the work of the Conference and the Methodist Council, and to carry out its other responsibilities with any such development in mind
- vi to be aware that the stipend of the Chair of the District is set – currently by reference to the change over a year in the Consumer Price Index and to the annual change in the Average Weekly Earnings Index – using a formula that was agreed by the Methodist Conference for all ministers within the Connexion
- vii constantly to be aware of the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission

6 Reference and Administrative Details

6.1 Name of the charity

Darlington Methodist District

6.2 Charity registration number

1133814

6.3 Principal Office

2 Edinburgh Drive
Darlington
DL3 8AW

6.4 Chair of the District

Revd Richard Andrew

6.5 Secretary of the Synod

Mrs Penny Bissell

6.6 Secretary of the Synod (Presbyteral)

Revd Susan Richardson

6.7 District Treasurer

Mr John Monkhouse

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

6.8 Names of trustees

The following served as trustees throughout part or all of the year 2019-20 or were trustees at the time of this report being approved:

Rev Richard Andrew- Chair of District
Rev Tim Boocock - Darlington and Barnard Castle and Teesdale Circuit.
Mrs Hazel Neasham - Darlington and Barnard Castle and Teesdale Circuit.
Rev Charity Hamilton- Middlesbrough & Eston Circuit
Mrs Margaret Walton - Stockton Circuit
Rev Beverly Hollings (Deputy Chair of District), - Castle Eden Circuit
Mr John Kidd - Castle Eden Circuit
Rev Andrew Robinson - Stokesley Circuit
Rev John Henry - Cleveland & Danby Circuit
Mr Colin Crossman- Cleveland and Danby Circuit
Mr Mark Braithwaite (Methodist Council Rep)
Rev John Squares - (Deputy Chair of District), Durham & Deerness Circuit
Rev David Payne - Bishop Auckland and Shildon Circuit
Rev Melanie Reed - North Yorkshire Dales Circuit
Mrs Penny Bissell - Synod Secretary, (appointed 01.09.19)
Mrs Sue Smith - Secretary DPC
Mr Ron Kirk - Finance Team
Mr John Monkhouse- District Treasurer
Mr Bill Offler - District Ecumenical Officer
Mr Maurice Aspey - District Resourcing Mission Officer
Mr Mark Bagnall - Co-ordinator of Ministries and Mission.

6.9 District Administrator & P.A. to District Chair

Miss Keira Prior

6.10 Bankers

HSBC, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL10 4QQ.
Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
9 Bonhill Street, London, EC2A 4PE

6.11 Investment managers and custodian trustees

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

6.12 Independent Examiner

Mr J Gresham of AZETS

New Garth House, Upper Garth Gardens, Guisborough. TS14 6HA

Approvals:

District Chair Date **23/02/2022** District Treasurer Date **23/02/2022**

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

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	District Advance Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds	Total	2019-20 £
Income from								
1 Donations and legacies		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 Connexional Advance & Property Fund		-	62,454	-	-	-	-	62,454
3 Income from investments		1,454	3,310	21	1,487	-	-	6,272
Income from charitable activities								
4 Assessments on circuits	2	75,959	-	-	-	-	-	75,959
5 From Circuit Model Trust Funds		-	77,792	-	-	-	-	77,792
6 Contribution to the cost of the Chair	3	40,825	-	-	-	-	-	40,825
7 Other charitable activities		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8 Income from other trading activities		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9 Other income	4	70,990	-	-	-	-	-	70,990
Total income		189,228	143,556	21	1,487	-	-	334,292
Expenditure								
9 Grants, commitments and donations	5	7,660	92,650	-	-	-	-	100,310
10 Salaries and associated costs	6	110,817	-	-	-	-	-	110,817
11 Cost of the Chair	3	45,103	-	-	-	-	-	45,103
12 Property Maintenance	7	9,064	-	-	-	-	-	9,064
13 Office expenses	8	4,410	687	-	104	-	-	5,201
14 Synods, committees, Conference	9	1,701	-	-	-	-	-	1,701
15 Training		4,155	-	-	-	-	-	4,155
16 Professional fees	10	1,440	-	-	-	-	-	1,440
17 Other outgoings	10	2,105	-	-	10,593	-	-	12,698
Total expenditure		186,455	93,337	-	10,697	-	-	290,489
Net income/(expenditure) before gains and losses on investments								
		2,773	50,219	21	(9,210)	-	-	43,803
18 Net gains/(losses) on investments	11	-	-	-	(3,949)	-	-	(3,949)
Net income/(expenditure)		2,773	50,219	21	(13,159)	-	-	39,854
19 Transfers between funds	12	40,002	-	6,000	(46,002)	-	-	-
20 Other gains/(losses)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		42,775	50,219	6,021	(59,161)	-	-	39,854
Total funds brought forward	19,20	474,196	4,334	2,762	103,671	-	-	584,963
Total funds carried forward	19,20	516,971	54,553	8,783	44,510	-	-	624,817

Darlington District						District No	13	
Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2021								
	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	District Advance Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2020-21	Total 2019-20
		£	£	£	£		£	£
Income from								
1 Donations and legacies		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 Connexional Advance & Property Fund		-	59,572	-	-	-	59,572	62,454
3 Income from investments		341	1,269	12	1,013	-	2,635	6,272
Income from charitable activities								
4 Assessments on circuits	2	74,856	-	-	-	-	74,856	75,959
5 From Circuit Model Trust Funds		-	77,161	-	-	-	77,161	77,792
6 Contribution to the cost of the Chair	3	42,151	-	-	-	-	42,151	40,825
7 Other charitable activities		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8 Income from other trading activities		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9 Other income	4	95,248	-	-	-	-	95,248	70,990
Total income		212,596	138,002	12	1,013	-	351,623	334,292
Expenditure								
9 Grants, commitments and donations	5	5,600	184,500	-	-	-	190,100	100,310
10 Salaries and associated costs	6	97,539	-	-	-	-	97,539	110,817
11 Cost of the Chair	3	43,790	-	-	-	-	43,790	45,103
12 Property Maintenance	7	9,860	-	-	-	-	9,860	9,064
13 Office expenses	8	3,751	703	-	88	-	4,542	5,201
14 Synods, committees, Conference	9	661	-	-	-	-	661	1,701
15 Training		890	-	-	-	-	890	4,155
16 Professional fees	10	1,500	-	-	-	-	1,500	1,440
17 Other outgoings	10	213	-	-	-	-	213	12,698
Total expenditure		163,804	185,203	-	88	-	349,095	290,489
Net income/(expenditure) before gains and losses on investments								
18 Net gains/(losses) on investments	11	-	-	-	9,954	-	9,954	(3,949)
Net income/(expenditure)		48,792	(47,201)	12	10,879	-	12,482	39,854
19 Transfers between funds	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 Other gains/(losses)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		48,792	(47,201)	12	10,879	-	12,482	39,854
Total funds brought forward	19,20	516,971	54,553	8,783	44,510	-	624,817	584,963
Total funds carried forward	19,20	565,763	7,352	8,795	55,389	-	637,299	624,817

Name of District	Darlington						District No	13	
Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2021									
	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	District Advance Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2020/21	Totals 2019/20	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Fixed Assets									
Tangible fixed assets	13	275,000	-	-	-	-	275,000	275,000	
Investment properties		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Investments		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total fixed assets		275,000	-	-	-	-	275,000	275,000	
Current Assets									
Debtors	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,000	
Loans by the District		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Investments with TMCP		-	314,079	-	54,795	-	368,874	395,652	
Central Finance Board Deposits		285,161	-	8,795	594	-	294,550	251,215	
Cash at Bank and in hand		7,185	-	-	-	-	7,185	4,597	
Total current assets		292,346	314,079	8,795	55,389	-	670,609	654,464	
Current liabilities									
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	17	1,500	-	-	-	-	1,500	5,000	
Grants payable in 2021-22	18	-	191,977	-	-	-	191,977	147,500	
Total current liabilities		1,500	191,977	-	-	-	193,477	152,500	
Net current assets/liabilities		290,846	122,102	8,795	55,389	-	477,132	501,964	
Total assets less current liabilities		565,846	122,102	8,795	55,389	-	752,132	776,964	
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)									
Grants payable after 2020-21	18	-	114,750	-	-	-	114,750	192,001	
Loans to the District		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Net assets		565,846	7,352	8,795	55,389	-	637,382	584,963	
Funds of the District									
General Fund (Unrestricted)	19	565,846	-	-	-	-	565,846	474,196	
District Advance Fund (Unrestricted)		-	7,352	-	-	-	7,352	4,334	
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	19	-	-	8,795	-	-	8,795	2,762	
Total Unrestricted Funds		565,846	7,352	8,795	-	-	581,993	481,292	
Restricted Funds	20	-	-	-	55,389	-	55,389	103,671	
Endowment Funds		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Funds		565,846	7,352	8,795	55,389	-	637,382	584,963	
					Signed				
					<i>J G Monkhouse</i>				
					21/10/2021				
					District Treasurer				

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1 Accounting framework and accounting policies

i Accounting framework

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with FRS102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Ireland" ("FRS102"), "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities applying FRS102 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice as it applies from 1st January 2015.

ii Public benefit entity

The Darlington District meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s) below.

iii Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that investments are shown at their market value at the end of the year, on the accruals basis to show a true and fair view of the District's financial position and activities.

iv Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £ Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

v Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2020, the trustees believe that the District is a going concern.

vi Consolidation

The District oversees the work of ministers and lay workers in Churches and Circuits within the District but does not have control over those Circuits or Churches, ministers or lay workers except in extreme circumstances, none of which were applicable. For this reason, the financial statements of the Churches and Circuits within the District are not consolidated into these financial statements.

vii Income recognition

Income is brought into account when it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will accrue to the Darlington District. No attempt is made to measure the value of services donated by volunteers. Details of how the contribution to the cost of the District Chair has been determined appears in Note 3. A similar figure appears in the Expenditure at Note 6.

Individual amounts categorised as *Other income* in the SOFA will be shown separately if they are considered material.

The District acts as agent in four matters:

1. the collection of quarterly assessments from circuits which are paid to the Methodist Church Fund
2. the payment of expenses of delegates from the District to the Methodist Conference
3. the collection taken at the autumn and spring synod on behalf of the Methodist Ministers' Children's Relief Fund
4. the cost of ministerial health checks recovered from Circuits

In all these matters the transactions are not reflected in the SOFA because there is no obligation on the District to make up any shortfall in assessments from Circuits. Sums received as Circuit assessments cannot be recognised as income in the District as they are the income of the MCF.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRSSE), the time of volunteers is not recognised.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

viii Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the District to pay out resources.

ix Grants

Grants are recognised in full when the award is made once the District accepts that there is a legal or constructive obligation to make the payment and that such payment is probable.

x VAT

Since the District is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged with the expenses to which it refers.

xi Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000. The freehold property is shown in the accounts at 2015 deemed values, of which the land component is deemed to be £70,000. No depreciation is provided on the building because the trustees consider the current residual fair value of the manse buildings (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year-end) to be not less than its current value. Any depreciation would not be material. The property has been reviewed for impairment.

xii Investments

The investments of the Darlington District are held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees. The valuations, at market value, are those provided by TMCP. The unrealised gains arising on investments at the end of the year are shown in the SOFA and in Note 11 below.

xiii Debtors and creditors; bank and cash

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the District or prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any trade discounts, where normal credit terms apply, or amount advanced to the District. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds of bank balances and deposit account balances are shown at the realisable values.

xiv Loans

Where concessionary loans (*i.e.*, free of interest) are made to (or received by) the District to further its charitable purposes, and are repayable after more than one year, they are initially recognised at the amount paid [or received], with the carrying value adjusted in subsequent years to reflect repayments and any accrued interest, adjusted for any impairment, if necessary.

Where there is objective evidence of impairment, an immediate impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities. Subsequent reversals of an impairment loss that objectively relate to an event occurring after the impairment loss was recognised, are recognised immediately in the Statement of Financial Activities.

xv Methodist Church Fund

The District acts as agent for the Methodist Church Fund (MCF) by collecting its assessments on Circuits and does not, therefore, include the assessments in the SOFA. If a Circuit is late in paying its MCF assessment to the District but such sum is received before the quarterly transfer to the MCF, the amount paid late will be shown as a debtor in the District's accounts.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

xvi Ministers' manse costs

The District is required to provide accommodation for each Minister and his / her family. The District bears the cost of repairs, maintenance, building insurance, Council Tax and water charges. These costs are not shown separately as benefits-in-kind for Ministers as HMRC does not seek to tax these receipts in the hands of the Ministers.

2 Assessment on Circuits

All Circuits (see list given below in this note) paid their assessments to the District and to the MCF during the year or shortly after it's end. An assessment on Circuits is annually determined by Districts by reference to the number of staff in the Circuits and the number of Church members but may also take into account a Circuit's ability to pay.

The District is made up of the following Circuits:

Circuit No	Circuit Name
1	Darlington, Barnard Castle and Teesdale
2	Middlesbrough & Eston
3	Stockton
4	Castle Eden
5	Stokesley
7	Cleveland & Danby
10	Bishop Auckland & Shildon
11	Durham & Deerness Valley
12	West Durham
19	North Yorkshire Dales

Contribution to Methodist Church Fund (MCF)

In addition to the assessments on the Circuits £74,856 (2020 - £75,959) to help defray the costs of running the District, the District acted as agent for the Methodist Church Fund which levied assessments on the Circuits in this District totalling £360,312 (2020 - £368,085) all of which were collected or shown as debtors at the end of the year and paid over to the MCF in the year. No balance was held at the end of the year; no fee is received for this service which is performed at nearly nil cost to the District. These sums collected for and remitted to the MCF do not appear elsewhere in these financial statements.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

3 Cost of Chair and trustees

The Chair of District chairs meetings of the District Policy Committee (DPC). The members of the DPC are the trustees of the District. The stipend, employer's NIC and employer's pension contributions of the Chair of District are paid by the Methodist Connexion. The Chair's other costs are met mostly by the District.

	2020-21	2019-20
	£	£
Stipend to Chair	32,074	31,065
Employer's National Insurance Contribution	3,211	3,075
Employer's pension contribution to the defined benefit scheme	6,866	6,685
Cash cost paid by the Connexion (see, SOFA, item 6)	42,151	40,825
Chair's expenses	1,639	4,278
Total cost	43,790	45,103

Since the stipend-related costs above £42,151 (2020 - £40,825) are borne by the Connexion, they appear both in the Income of the District and the Expenditure of the District (See Note 6). It should be noted that the chair is required to occupy the District manse. The manse is provided by the Darlington District and the District maintains the property. The sum of £750 per calendar month (2020 - £750) per calendar month) was determined by enquiry of local letting agents and does not appear elsewhere in these accounts. The Chair of District is the sole paid key management person but is supported by members of the DPC.

No accrual is made for the Chair's entitlement to a sabbatical as his / her functions are undertaken by a Deputy Chair at minimal extra cost to the District.

Payment to Trustees

It is District policy to offer to reimburse members of the District Policy Committee and others involved in the administration of District affairs for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties. The Chair of the District undertakes the primary executive role within the District. Apart from the Chair of District and The District Administrator and P.A. to the Chair no member of the District Policy Committee was in receipt of any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the District, although certain travelling and administration costs were reimbursed whenever this was requested.

None of the trustees receives any remuneration in their role as Trustees.

4 Other income

	2020-21	2019-20
	£	£
Grant for provision of District Enabler	24,000	43,000
Grant for One Opportunities		5,500
RSO, grant and contribution from Newcastle District	36,248	18,911
Grant for District Resourcing Mission Officer	9,000	
Grant for Children, Families & Young People Development Worker	6,000	
Grant for NewPlaces, New People	20,000	
Sundries		3,579
Total	95,248	70,990

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

5 Grants, donations and related Support costs

	2020-21	2019-20
	£	£
Unrestricted:		
- From General Fund	5,600	7,660
- From DAF	184,500	92,650
Total	190,100	100,310

Expenditure on charitable activities through the District Advance Fund

This fund receives formulaically determined contributions from the Circuit Model Trust Funds held by Circuits within the District and redistributes the monies to grantees in the District through relevant grants as assessed by the District Grants Committee. During the year the following grants commitments/paid were made:

Given to	Amount in £	Analysis of amounts given by type of work	Amount in £
Churches	26,774	Projects	109,100
Circuits	82,326	Ministry	81,000
Darlington District	81,000		
Total	190,100		190,100

The income of the fund was £138,002 during the year.

The Grants Committee is aware that grant applications must demonstrate public benefit.

The support costs for grant-funding to third parties are insignificant (principally because the secretary of the Grants Committee is a volunteer and undertakes the vast majority of this work) and are not separately disclosed.

6 Salaries and associated costs

Gross salaries paid to 15 part time (2019 :14) employees were as follows:

	2020-21	2019-20
	£	£
Gross pay	78,438	80,152
Employer's National Insurance contribution	5,776	4,606
Employer's pension contribution to defined contribution scheme	4,258	3,717
Employees expenses	2,670	12,485
Total cost for 5 staff members	91,142	100,960
Paid to trustee in his role as District Resourcing Mission Officer	6,397	9,857
Total staff costs (notes 6)	97,539	110,817
Cost of Chair (see Note 3)	43,790	44,278
Total weekly contractual hours of 5 Staff members	106	128

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

No employees received employee benefits that totalled more than £60,000. There is no accrual for holiday pay as it is immaterial; the holiday year ends on 31 August. All staff are paid at or above the living wage.

Whilst the total salary and expenses cost paid by the District was £91,142 Newcastle District of The Methodist Church contributed 50% (£17,249) towards the cost of the employee engaged exclusively in safeguarding matters and a part time safeguarding administrator.

In addition one of the trustees, Mr M Aspey, is paid a consultancy fee and expenses as above for his role as District

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Pensions

Most ordained presbyters and deacons are members of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS). This is a defined benefit scheme. The Supreme Court held in 2014 that Methodist ministers (which term includes presbyters and deacons) are not employees of the Church. For simplicity, however, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions and pension contributions, the terms 'employer' and 'employee' are used as they would be in an employing body.

On the other hand lay employees are contractually employees and have the option of joining the Pension and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church (PASLEMC), The Pensions Trust or some other arrangement. PASLEMC is a defined benefit scheme and the employing Churches and Circuits contribute as employers to this scheme.

The Pensions Trust is a defined contribution scheme with employer's contributions being 6% of gross salary.

The Connexion accounts for both the MMPS and PASLEMC pension schemes and shows the figures in the annual Methodist Church in Great Britain accounts. The MMPS is in deficit but a plan for removal of the deficit has been proposed and is being implemented. Details of the deficits on these schemes can be found in the Annual Report and Accounts of The Methodist Church at www.methodist.org.uk.

7 Property costs

	2020-21	2019-20
	£	£
District office, rent and services	3,088	5,154
Chair's manse which include some renovations costs	6,772	3,910
Total costs	9,860	9,064

8 Office expenses (General fund)

	2020-21	2019-20
	£	£
Printing, postage and stationery etc.	2,880	4,410
Other	-	-
Total charged to General Fund	2,880	4,410
TMCP charges	1,662	791
Total	4,542	5,201

None of the remaining individual amounts (aggregated as 'Other' above) is considered material and none is listed separately

9 Synods, Committees, Conference

	2020-21	2019-20
	£	£
Synods	661	1,701
Conference	-	-
Committees	-	-
Chair's travel (see note 3 for 2018-9)	-	-
Total costs	661	1,701

None of the remaining individual amounts (aggregated as 'Other' above) is considered material and none is listed separately.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

10 Other outgoings

	2020-21	2019-20
	£	£
Professional fees	1,500	1,440
Recruitment costs for District Enabler	-	-
Retreats	213	2,105
Surplus of 'One Opps NE' scheme returned to Newcastle District	-	10,593
Total other costs	1,713	14,138

None of the remaining individual amounts (aggregated as 'Sundry outgoings' above) is considered material and none is listed separately.

11 Investment management

During the year the District paid £791 to TMCP, the custodians of the District's investments (District Advance Fund and Darlington Training and Bursary Trust (2020 - £916). The sum of £791 was levied at 0.2% on the value of the funds at the end of the year and is shown as allocated to the two groups of funds: £703 and £88 at line 13 in the SOFA. See Note 8 above for TMCP charges.

None of the remaining individual amounts – aggregated as 'Other' above - is considered material and none is listed separately.

The sum of £9954 represents an unrealised gain (2020 - £3949) in the invested funds of the Training Fund. More information can be found in Note 20, Restricted Funds.

12 Transfer between funds

Transfers between funds are to reimburse funds for expenditure incurred and to transfer income received on behalf of other funds.

13 Manse and other property

The value of the District manse in Darlington is believed to be considerably greater than its historical cost in 2006 shown in the accounts. There is no depreciation on the manse as the impairment review at the end of the year confirmed that the current residual market value of the building was greater than the carrying value of that part of the asset's cost to date.

Cost or valuation	Land	Buildings	Total
Cost bf at 01/09/2020	70,000	205,000	275,000
Additions in the year	-	-	-
Revaluations in the year	-	-	-
Less: Disposals in the year	-	-	-
Transfers between categories	-	-	-
Cost cf at 31.8.2021	70,000	205,000	275,000

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

14 Debtors and prepayments

Debtors were made up as follows:

	2020-21	2019-20
	£	£
Trade debtors	-	-
Prepayments and accrued income (3 Gen fees paid in advance)	-	1,800
Other debtors	-	-
Total	-	1,800

15 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP)

The funds that support the District Advance Fund and the Manses Fund are held by TMCP in Trustees Interest Funds on which interest is credited to the accounts each month. These are regarded as medium and long term investments.

TMCP is the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds. Trust property is held for and on behalf of local Managing Trustees who are responsible for the day to day management of trust property. TMCP ensure that, through providing guidance and acting under their direction, the Managing Trustees comply with charity law and Methodist law and policy as determined by the Methodist Conference.

16 Central Finance Board (CFB) and cash at bank

The District has 2 current accounts at HSBC plc, an authorised institution. The sums held on those accounts are immediately available. In addition the District has 3 deposit accounts at CFB. Interest is earned on these accounts and credited monthly; the sums deposited can be withdrawn without notice and without loss of interest. These sums are viewed as being liquid.

17 Creditors and accrued expenses

	2020-21	2019-20
	£	£
Creditors:		
Independent examinations, including VAT	1,500	1,380
<i>Total creditors</i>	1,500	1,380
Accruals:		
Expenses	-	420
<i>Total accruals</i>	-	420
Total of creditors and accrued expenses	1,500	1,800

It is expected that all sums accrued at 31 Aug 2020 would be paid during the year to 31 Aug 2021.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

18 Grant commitments and the District Advance Fund

It is the District's policy to recognise committed grants immediately as expenditure out of this fund and thus accrue the unpaid amounts at the year-end as liabilities.

	2020-21	£
End of year commitments to pay one-off grants or the first instalment in a future year		132,500
Anticipated second or subsequent instalments where the first instalment was paid in 2019-20 or earlier		174,227
Total anticipated commitment at 31 August 2021		<u>306,727</u>
Grants payable by future year as at 1 September 2021:		
2020-21 (current liability)		191,977
2021-22 (long term liability)	98,250	
2022-onwards (long term liability)	<u>16,500</u>	114,750
Total anticipated commitment at 31 August 2021		<u>306,727</u>

This total of anticipated grants of £297,001 was within the balance of £351,554 in the DAF as at 1 September 2020. In the following year and subsequent years, further sums were and are expected to be credited to the DAF from the CMTF levies of those years.

The award of a grant by the District does not create a contractual relationship but does create an operational liability if not made subject to performance conditions creating uncertainty as to the probability of future years' grant instalments being paid. It is now judged that such future instalments of grant will probably be paid and so the amounts due are no longer classified as Designated Reserves but instead are recognised as expenditure of the year when awarded.

No institution received grants of such materiality that they should be separately disclosed in these accounts.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

19 Unrestricted Funds

19.1 General Fund

Balance of £565,846 at 31 Aug 2021 (2020 - £516,971)

The purpose of the fund is for use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the District and which have not been designated for other purposes. About 49% of this fund is held as a freehold property, the District manse for the Chair of District. During the year £5,600 was paid out as grants and donations from the General Fund.

19.2 Other Designated Funds

Balance of £8795 at 31 Aug 2021 (2020 - £8783)

This fund is to serve a specific purposes but is not restricted by any document or deed to that purpose alone. These funds comprise:

The Manse Fund – balance £8795 (2020 - £8783) is available to meet maintenance in the accommodation at the District

20 Restricted Funds

Balance of £55389 at 31 Aug 2021 (2020 - £44510)

The Training Fund – balance £54795 (2020 - £43917) meet the training costs of Ministers and lay people in the district.

The Benevolence Fund - balance £594 (2020 - £593) provides financial support to ministers and lay people in the District in need of support.

The market valuations for the Training & Bursary Trust (known as the Training Fund) have been provided by TMCP. The funds of the Benevolence Fund are held on deposit at CFB.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

21 Summary of movements on significant individual funds

Year ended 31st August 2021						
	At 1st September 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains on inv assets	At 31st August 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds						
General fund	516,971	203,246	(154,371)		-	565,846
Designated funds						
District Advance Fund	54,553	138,002	(185,203)		-	7,352
Other designated funds						
Manse Maintenance	8,783	12	-		-	8,795
Total unrestricted funds	580,307	341,260	(339,574)			581,993
Restricted Funds						
Training	43,916	1,013	(88)		9,954	54,795
Benevolence Fund	594	-	-		-	594
Total restricted funds	44,510	1,013	(88)		9,954	55,389
Total Funds	624,817	342,273	(339,662)		9,954	637,382

Year ended 31st August 2020						
	At 1st September 2019	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains on inv assets	At 31st August 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds						
General fund	474,196	189,228	(186,455)	40,002	-	516,971
Designated funds						
District Advance Fund	4,334	143,556	(93,337)		-	54,553
Other designated funds						
Manse Maintenance	2,762	21	-	6,000	-	8,783
Total unrestricted funds	481,292	332,805	(279,792)	46,002		580,307
Restricted Funds						
Training	51,817	1,152	(104)	(5,000)	(3,949)	43,916
One Opportunity Fund	51,265	330	(10,593)	(41,002)	-	-
Benevolence Fund	589	5	-	-	-	594
Total restricted funds	103,671	1,487	(10,697)	(46,002)	(3,949)	44,510
Total Funds	584,963	334,292	(290,489)		(3,949)	624,817

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

22 Analysis of net assets amongst funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2021 are represented by:

	Unrestricted - general	Restricted including	Total funds
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	275,000	-	275,000
Current assets	615,220	55,389	670,609
Current liabilities	(193,477)	-	(193,477)
Payables due after one year	(114,750)	-	(114,750)
			-
Total	581,993	55,389	637,382

23 Connected organisations and related parties

All of the District trustees are members of one or another Church and Circuit within the District and may be trustees in their Churches and/or Circuits.

Connected organisations include the Methodist Connexion, Circuits and Churches within the District, other Methodist Districts in Great Britain, the Methodist Ministers' Children's Relief Association, CFB and TMCP, except as reported in Note 3. All of these entities have their own trustees or directors and autonomous administration such that Darlington District has no significant influence over any of them, nor they over the Darlington District. They are, therefore, not considered related parties.

Name of Connected Organisations	Receipts	Payments	Adjustments
	£	£	£
Donee: Methodist Church Fund	59,572	368,085	-
Doner: Circuits within the Darlington District (assessments on Circuits)	435,186	82,326	-
Donor / Donee: Circuits within the Darlington District (levies / grants)	77,161	81,000	-
Donor / Donee: Churches within the Darlington District (grants)	-	26,774	-

There were no related party transactions other than those already disclosed under notes 3 and 6.

24 Volunteer contributions

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit, Church) within the Methodist Church in GB is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. Principally this contribution is by serving on committees of the District that deal with mission, manses, finance, policy, grants, training, development. We are grateful to all of them for their help and commitment.

25 Capital commitments and contingent liabilities

There were no capital commitments or contingent liabilities at the year end (2019 - nil).

26 Lease commitments

Not Applicable

27 Auditor / Independent examiner

An accrual has been made for the fee of the independent examiner in the sum of £1,500 for the year (2020 - £1380). The independent examiner provided no additional services during the year.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

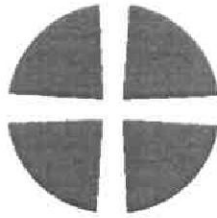
28 Prior Year Adjustment

There were no prior year adjustments.

DARLINGTON METHODIST DISTRICT

England & Wales - Charity number 1133814

Accounts



THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS
ACCRUALS BASIS
for the year ended 31 August 2020

Darlington	District	District no	13
-------------------	-----------------	--------------------	-----------

Registered Charity - Registration number	1133814
---	----------------

District Chairs

Rev Richard Andrew

Synod Secretary

Mrs Penny Bissell (appointed 01/09/2019)

Treasurer

Mr J G Monkhouse

Name of District:


Darlington

No 13

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 District and that they include all funds under the control of the District Policy Committee.

Signature of Treasurer



Date 03/03/2021

Name and address of treasurer: John Graham Monkhouse

Post Code: TS20 1TQ

Presentation to the District Leadership Team

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 will be presented to the District Leadership Team at its meeting on 15/03/2021

Signature of the Chair of the meeting



Name of the Chair of the meeting: Rev Richard Andrew

Date 15/03/2021

Independent Examiner’s Report to the Trustees of the District, named above

The District’s trustees are responsible for ensuring that the annual report and accounts for the year to 31 August 2020 present a true and fair view of the District’s income and expenditure for the year and of its assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date.

The trustees consider that an audit is not necessary for this year under section 144 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 Charities Act 2011
- follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011
- 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 with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items, in nature or scale, or disclosures in the accounts, seeking explanations from the trustees concerning 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. My report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

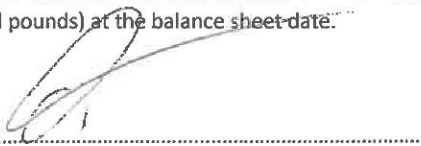
Independent Examiner’s Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than as disclosed below*)

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

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.
- (3) I 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 MR J GRESHAM

Relevant professional qualification of Independent Examiner F.C.C.A.

Name of firm (where appropriate) AZETS

Address New Garth House, Upper Garth Gardens, Guisborough
Post Code TS14 6HA

Date 17.3.2021

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1 Objectives and Activities

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the District Synod (under the leadership of the District Trustees) meets twice in each year, has given careful consideration to the Charity Commissioners' general guidance on public benefit and, in particular, to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing our objectives and conforms to the Charities Act 2011.

Darlington District's vision is to support and encourage Christian communities to develop in ways that:

- attract people to Jesus Christ;
- reflect God's presence in the world;
- explore and demonstrate ways to follow Christ;
- and promote God's rule in contemporary society by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This means that the district will invest its energy in:

- directing churches and circuits in developing the appropriate way forward for each church and circuit in the context of 'Our Calling' and 'Priorities for the Methodist Church'
- developing structures and processes to enable this way forward.

We will underpin everything we do with God centred worship and prayer and seek to develop a high standard of excellence.

2 Achievements and performance

The principal purpose of the District is to act as a supporting body between Circuits and the Connexion. The District does not seek and, in large measure, does not attain direct contact with the public. The direct contact is by Churches and Circuits and it is these that the District supports in their desire to provide benefit to the public.

Under the heading Collaborative arrangements with connected charities (3.3 below) there is information on how we obtained our funds. In this paragraph we show how they were spent. The money collected, or available for dissipation, was used as grants to support Churches and Circuits throughout the District with their work in their local communities and to subsidise the administrative costs of the District. In 2019-20 the District paid grants and made commitments out of the General Fund and the DAF that totalled £100,310 which was more than the sum received from the levies on some of the funds held by Circuits within the District. The shortfall was made up by drawing on District reserves.

The policy of the trustees on grant making is to ensure that all applications can demonstrate public benefit, pass a test of sustainability, show that there is commitment from the applicant organisation (e.g. the District grant is a minor part of the total funding) and show imagination and creativity as well as a perceived need for that for which the grant is being applied.

- Grants for the adaptation of buildings so that they could more easily meet the modern needs of Churches and help Churches provide services to the community e.g. lunch clubs for the elderly and house-bound, activities for the homeless and refugees
- Grants which supported part time or full time youth workers attached to Circuits or Local Churches
- Grants to support Mission and Ministry
- Grants to support Training and Development

Circuits and Churches that have received grants from the District will show in their own Trustees' Annual Reports (where these are required to be prepared) details of the outcome of the activities undertaken as a result of receiving the grant.

During the year, work has continued on developing links with the neighbouring Newcastle District. We have been pleased to support two candidates for ministry and one probationer presbyter who serves in the District.

Ministerial Development Reviews have been supported and the leadership and foundation module for creating safer space has been rolled out across the District.

The District also supports three Methodist Primary Schools

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

3 Financial review

3.1 Investment policy and performance

To comply with Methodist Standing Orders, monies for long term investment are lodged with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP). TMCP acts as custodian trustee for all real estate held by Districts and for all large (over £20k) bequests and for the proceeds of sale of any property formerly owned by the District. These sums are invested in unitised investments or held on deposit. The investment returns are close to tracking the movements in the FTSE100 index. The deposit income mirrors the deposit rates available elsewhere. The Darlington District Trustees' investment policy is aligned with that of the CFB and TMCP because these organisations take into consideration the social, environmental and ethical considerations, both negatively and positively, that make investments suitable for the Methodist Church.

Short term deposits are lodged directly with the Central Finance Board (CFB) and attract good rates of interest.

There are no bench marks for the expected returns or appreciation on investments at TMCP and CFB. It is the District's policy to manage the cash and investment resources of the District so that a rate of return on investment – both by way of dividend and capital appreciation – is obtained at least as good as market rate considering the District's low appetite for risk. The total return achieved on the

3.2 Reserves level and policy

Financial Review and Reserves Policy

The unrestricted reserves total £517k of which £275k is the value attributed to the District manse and £65k received in advance for funding the District Enabler and the balance of £177k represents the year-end level of uncommitted reserves.

The District has a reserves policy covering all its unrestricted funds which is reviewed annually. Although grants are made annually out of the District Advance Fund (DAF), it is recognised that some grants will be paid by annual instalments and that there will be applications repeated in future years. The trustees seek to ensure that there is sufficient in the DAF to meet these anticipated requests and the trustees now recognise future grants as liabilities on the Balance Sheet.

The minimum policy level of the readily available part of the General Fund is such as to pay for six months' expenses, 10% of the Annual Connexional assessment + £5k. At 31 August 2020 this sum amounted to £100k against actual reserves of £177k as stated above. Actual readily available reserves were thus in excess of policy at the year end by £77k. The trustees are, however, mindful that future income from the Circuit Model Trust Funds (CMTFs) is not secure and it is judged prudent to retain a buffer against this funding volatility besides the quantified need of £100k. Furthermore, some Circuits may find it difficult to meet their future assessments due to the impact of Covid 19. Trustees have take into account this substantial buffer when setting the District's budget for 2021-22. It is expected that the DAF will decrease, year on year, in the foreseeable future.

The reserves at the end of Aug20 were £517k [Aug19= £481k]. The reserves held at the end of Aug 20 can be further split as follows:

Unrestricted funds:

Undesignated

- General, less property	£ 241,971
- District Advance Fund	£ 54,553

Designated

- Manse Fund	£ 8,783
--------------	---------

Total Unrestricted funds

£ 305,307

Restricted funds:

- Training	£ 43917
- Benevolence	£ 593

Total Restricted funds

£ 44,510

Unrestricted and undesignated funds £ 232k

Uncommitted reserves, readily available £ 177k

The Trustees have agreed that the uncommitted and readily available reserves may be reduced by £40k over the next 2 years and to do this by reducing the circuits assessments. The Trustees have also agreed that the Training Fund will continue to be reduced over the next 5 years by strongly encouraging the provision and taking up of Learning & Development.

The above proposed actions are in line with our Mission objectives.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

3.3 Collaborative arrangements with connected charities

The District's main source of funding was the assessments obtained from each Circuit within the District based on the membership and staffing levels of the Circuit and this was used to defray most of the cost of administering the District. This sum amounted to £75,959 (2019: £73,623).

The District also obtained from each Circuit with a reserve, known as a Circuit Model Trust Fund (CMTF), a levy based on the size of the Circuits' CMTFs at the start of the connexional year (01 September). In 2019-20 this sum was £77,792 and was credited to the District Advance Fund.

The District holds no funds as custodian trustee. It does, however, quarterly receive from Circuits within the District the Circuits' contributions to the Methodist Church Fund (MCF). These sums are collected as agent for the MCF and are passed to the MCF later in the same quarter. Funds received by the District as agent are not recognised as an asset in the financial statements because the funds are not within its control. No fee is earned in respect of this agency arrangement and the District incurs no cost through this arrangement.

4 Trustees' responsibilities

For each financial year ending on 31 August the Trustees are required to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the District's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees must:

1. select suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently using the accruals method
2. make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
3. follow applicable accounting standards
4. prepare accounts to comply with the Charities SORP

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the District and enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the District and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the District's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In addition to the above, the Trustees are responsible for the Health & Safety of the Regional Safeguarding Officer, the District Administrator & P.A to the Chair, the Administrator, the Co-ordinator and the young people employed by the District under the One Opportunity North East Scheme.

4.1 Risk

The District is largely risk averse, however in making grants to entities embarking on new and imaginative initiatives, the District is prepared to underwrite considered risks.

Risks are managed by being aware of them, quantifying their impact not only in cost terms but in possible reputational or structural damage, laying them off through an insurer and minimising them by either not taking them or by setting up control systems that report

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

5 Structure, governance and management

The District is an unincorporated association and is governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976, the Deed of Union and the Model Trust Deeds of the Methodist Church and was registered with the Charity Commissioners on 27 January 2010.

5.1 Structure

Circuits are the coordinating charities for local groups of Churches; Circuits pay the stipends of the ministers and employ lay staff to serve the Churches in the Circuit; most decisions are made at or ratified by the half yearly Circuit Meeting. A District is the coordinating charity for a group of contiguous Circuits and makes its decisions at the half yearly synods. The Methodist Conference meets once each year as the governing body for all Methodist Churches.

1. Overall regulatory authority rests with the Methodist Conference.
2. The Conference Office implements decisions made by Conference.
3. Conference decisions are passed to the Chair of the District and the appropriate officers of the District for implementation.
4. The District passes control to Circuit level for local implementation by the Superintendent Minister, ministerial staff and Circuit Stewards, and authority is delegated to the Circuit Meeting for certain matters.
5. The Circuit Meeting passes regulatory control to Church Councils for local implementation by the presbyter, the Church Stewards, and other officers, and this regulatory authority is then exercised by Church Councils as Managing Trustees of their charity.

5.2 Purpose of the District

The District is an expression, over a wider geographical area than any Circuit, of the Connexional character of the Church.

The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the date of the union the advancement of:

- a. the Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church, and
- b. any charitable purposes for the time being of any connexional, District, Circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church, and
- c. any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church, and
- d. any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary of the Methodist Church.

The primary purpose of this District is to advance the mission of the Church in Darlington District by

1. providing opportunities for Circuits to work together and support each other
2. offering to Circuits resources of finance, personnel and expertise.

The District serves the Local Churches and Circuits and the Conference in the support, deployment and oversight of the various ministries

5.3 Governance

The District operates within a statutory framework of regulation and seeks to ensure that it follows Methodist Standing Orders. It relies on the Connexional Office at 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR to provide guidance on changes that could affect the District.

The members of the District Policy Committee (DPC) are annually appointed by a vote of the Synod for a continuous term not normally exceeding six years. The Chair of District, The Synod Secretary, and members of the Darlington Vision and Strategy team (DVST) are *ex officio* members of the DPC. When a position becomes vacant on the District Policy Committee, nominations are sought from the appropriate circuits within the District. Their names are taken to the District Synod for appointment. Members may be either ministers or lay people attending Churches in the area covered by the District.

The District Policy Committee normally meets three times per year and deals with routine and exceptional matters. It oversees the work of the Synod Co-ordinating Group for Chinese Mission, Grants Committee, Manses Committee, Methodist Women in Britain (Darlington), Local Preachers Committee, District Vision and Strategy Team, Children & Young Persons Group.

5.4 Responsibility of the District Policy Committee

- i to formulate and promote policies which will advance the mission of the Church in the Circuits and Local Churches and, in particular, to supervise the use of resources of personnel, property and finance and to assist Local Churches and Circuits having exceptional problems
- ii to encourage inter-Circuit and ecumenical co-operation
- iii to act in an executive capacity in matters remitted to the Committee by the Synod
- iv to keep within its purview all District concerns not dealt with elsewhere
- v to contribute and respond, as the case may be, to the development of Connexional policies as reflected in the work of the Conference and the Methodist Council, and to carry out its other responsibilities with any such development in mind
- vi to be aware that the stipend of the Chair of the District is set – currently by reference to the change over a year in the Consumer Price Index and to the annual change in the Average Weekly Earnings Index – using a formula that was agreed by the Methodist Conference for all ministers within the Connexion
- vii constantly to be aware of the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

6 Reference and Administrative Details

6.1 Name of the charity

Darlington Methodist District

6.2 Charity registration number

1133814

6.3 Principal Office

2 Edinburgh Drive
Darlington
DL3 8AW

6.4 Chair of the District

Revd Richard Andrew

6.5 Secretary of the Synod

Mrs Penny Bissell

6.6 Assistant Secretary of the Synod (Presbyteral)

Revd Susan Richardson

6.7 District Treasurer

Mr John Monkhouse

6.8 Names of trustees

The following served as trustees throughout part or all of the year 2019-20 or were trustees at the time of this report being approved:

Rev Richard Andrew- Chair of District
Rev Tim Boocock - Darlington and Barnard Castle and Teesdale Circuit.
Mrs Hazel Neasham - Darlington and Barnard Castle and Teesdale Circuit.
Rev Charity Hamilton- Middlesbrough & Eston Circuit
Mrs Margaret Walton - Stockton Circuit
Rev Beverly Hollings (Deputy Chair of District), Dist Rep to the Methodist Council - Castle Eden Circuit
Mr John Kidd - Castle Eden Circuit
Rev Andrew Robinson - Stokesley Circuit
Rev John Henry - Cleveland & Danby Circuit
Mr Colin Crossman- Cleveland and Danby Circuit
Mrs Jeanne Spencer - Bishop Auckland & Shildon Circuit
Rev John Squares - (Deputy Chair of District), Durham & Deerness Circuit
Mr David Dixon - West Durham Circuit, Finance Team.
Rev Melanie Reed - North Yorkshire Dales Circuit
Mrs Penny Bissell - Synod Secretary, (appointed 01.09.19)
Mrs Sue Smith - Secretary DPC
Mr Ron Kirk - Finance Team
Mr John Monkhouse- District Treasurer
Mr Bill Offler - District Ecumenical Officer
Mr Maurice Aspey - District Resourcing Mission Officer
Mr Mark Bagnall - Co-ordinator of Ministries and Mission.

**THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

6.9 District Administrator & P.A. to District Chair

Miss Rebecca Catford (resigned September 2019) and Miss Keira Prior was appointed.

6.10 Bankers

HSBC, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL10 4QQ.
Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
9 Bonhill Street, London, EC2A 4PE

6.11 Investment managers and custodian trustees

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

6.12 Independent Examiner

Mr J Gresham of AZETS
New Garth House, Upper Garth Gardens, Guisborough. TS14 6HA

Approvals:



District Chair

Date 15.03.2021



District Treasurer

Date 15.03.2021.

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

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	District Advance Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds	Total 2019-20 £	Total 2018-19 £
Income from								
1 Donations and legacies		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 Connexional Advance & Property Fund		-	62,454	-	-	-	62,454	60,781
3 Income from investments		1,454	3,310	21	1,487	-	6,272	6,184
Income from charitable activities								
4 Assessments on circuits	2	75,959	-	-	-	-	75,959	73,623
5 From Circuit Model Trust Funds		-	77,792	-	-	-	77,792	80,625
6 Contribution to the cost of the Chair	3	40,825	-	-	-	-	40,825	39,717
7 Other charitable activities		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8 Income from other trading activities		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9 Other income	4	70,990	-	-	-	-	70,990	89,556
Total income		189,228	143,556	21	1,487	-	334,292	350,486
Expenditure								
9 Grants, commitments and donations	5	7,660	92,650	-	-	-	100,310	254,113
10 Salaries and associated costs	6	110,817	-	-	-	-	110,817	97,118
11 Cost of the Chair	3	45,103	-	-	-	-	45,103	51,858
12 Property Maintenance	7	9,064	-	-	-	-	9,064	19,731
13 Office expenses	8	4,410	687	-	104	-	5,201	11,363
14 Synods, committees, Conference	9	1,701	-	-	-	-	1,701	4,358
15 Training		4,155	-	-	-	-	4,155	3,136
16 Professional fees	10	1,440	-	-	-	-	1,440	3,016
17 Other outgoings	10	2,105	-	-	10,593	-	12,698	2,995
Total expenditure		186,455	93,337	-	10,697	-	290,489	447,688
Net income/(expenditure) before gains and losses on investments								
18 Net gains/(losses) on investments	11	2,773	50,219	21	(9,210)	-	43,803	(97,202)
Net income/(expenditure)		2,773	50,219	21	(3,949)	-	(3,949)	-
19 Transfers between funds	12	40,002	-	6,000	(46,002)	-	39,854	(97,202)
20 Other gains/(losses)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		42,775	50,219	6,021	(59,161)	-	39,854	(97,202)
Total funds brought forward	19,20	474,196	4,334	2,762	103,671	-	584,963	682,165
Total funds carried forward	19,20	516,971	54,553	8,783	44,510	-	624,817	584,963

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1 Accounting framework and accounting policies

i Accounting framework

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with FRS102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Ireland" ("FRS102"), "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities applying FRS102 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice as it applies from 1st January 2015.

ii Public benefit entity

The Darlington District meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s) below.

iii Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that investments are shown at their market value at the end of the year, on the accruals basis to show a true and fair view of the District's financial position and activities.

iv Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £ Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

v Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2020, the trustees believe that the District is a going concern.

vi Consolidation

The District oversees the work of ministers and lay workers in Churches and Circuits within the District but does not have control over those Circuits or Churches, ministers or lay workers except in extreme circumstances, none of which were applicable. For this reason, the financial statements of the Churches and Circuits within the District are not consolidated into these financial statements.

vii Income recognition

Income is brought into account when it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will accrue to the Darlington District. No attempt is made to measure the value of services donated by volunteers. Details of how the contribution to the cost of the District Chair has been determined appears in Note 3. A similar figure appears in the Expenditure at Note 6.

Individual amounts categorised as *Other income* in the SOFA will be shown separately if they are considered material.

The District acts as agent in four matters:

1. the collection of quarterly assessments from circuits which are paid to the Methodist Church Fund
2. the payment of expenses of delegates from the District to the Methodist Conference
3. the collection taken at the autumn and spring synod on behalf of the Methodist Ministers' Children's Relief Fund
4. the cost of ministerial health checks recovered from Circuits

In all these matters the transactions are not reflected in the SOFA because there is no obligation on the District to make up any shortfall in assessments from Circuits. Sums received as Circuit assessments cannot be recognised as income in the District as they are the income of the MCF.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRSSE), the time of volunteers is not recognised.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

viii Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the District to pay out resources.

ix Grants

Grants are recognised in full when the award is made once the District accepts that there is a legal or constructive obligation to make the payment and that such payment is probable.

x VAT

Since the District is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged with the expenses to which it refers.

xi Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000. The freehold property is shown in the accounts at 2015 deemed values, of which the land component is deemed to be £70,000. No depreciation is provided on the building because the trustees consider the current residual fair value of the manse buildings (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year-end) to be not less than its current value. Any depreciation would not be material. The property has been reviewed for impairment.

xii Investments

The investments of the Darlington District are held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees. The valuations, at market value, are those provided by TMCP. The unrealised gains arising on investments at the end of the year are shown in the SOFA and in Note 11 below.

xiii Debtors and creditors; bank and cash

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the District or prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any trade discounts, where normal credit terms apply, or amount advanced to the District. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds of bank balances and deposit account balances are shown at the realisable values.

xiv Loans

Where concessionary loans (*i.e.*, free of interest) are made to (or received by) the District to further its charitable purposes, and are repayable after more than one year, they are initially recognised at the amount paid (or received), with the carrying value adjusted in subsequent years to reflect repayments and any accrued interest, adjusted for any impairment, if necessary.

Where there is objective evidence of impairment, an immediate impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities. Subsequent reversals of an impairment loss that objectively relate to an event occurring after the impairment loss was recognised, are recognised immediately in the Statement of Financial Activities.

xv Methodist Church Fund

The District acts as agent for the Methodist Church Fund (MCF) by collecting its assessments on Circuits and does not, therefore, include the assessments in the SOFA. If a Circuit is late in paying its MCF assessment to the District but such sum is received before the quarterly transfer to the MCF, the amount paid late will be shown as a debtor in the District's accounts.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

xvi Ministers' manse costs

The District is required to provide accommodation for each Minister and his / her family. The District bears the cost of repairs, maintenance, building insurance, Council Tax and water charges. These costs are not shown separately as benefits-in-kind for Ministers as HMRC does not seek to tax these receipts in the hands of the Ministers.

2 Assessment on Circuits

All Circuits (see list given below in this note) paid their assessments to the District and to the MCF during the year or shortly after it's end. An assessment on Circuits is annually determined by Districts by reference to the number of staff in the Circuits and the number of Church members but may also take into account a Circuit's ability to pay.

The District is made up of the following Circuits:

Circuit No	Circuit Name
1	Darlington
2	Middlesbrough & Eston
3	Stockton
4	Castle Eden
5	Stokesley
7	Cleveland & Danby
10	Bishop Auckland & Shildon
11	Durham & Deerness Valley
12	West Durham
17	Barnard Castle & Teesdale
19	North Yorkshire Dales

Contribution to Methodist Church Fund (MCF)

In addition to the assessments on the Circuits £75,959 (2019 - £73,623) to help defray the costs of running the District, the District acted as agent for the Methodist Church Fund which levied assessments on the Circuits in this District totalling £368,085 (2019 - £351,305) all of which were collected or shown as debtors at the end of the year and paid over to the MCF in the year. No balance was held at the end of the year; no fee is received for this service which is performed at nearly nil cost to the District. These sums collected for and remitted to the MCF do not appear elsewhere in these financial statements.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

3 Cost of Chair and trustees

The Chair of District chairs meetings of the District Policy Committee (DPC). The members of the DPC are the trustees of the District. The stipend, employer's NIC and employer's pension contributions of the Chair of District are paid by the Methodist Connexion. The Chair's other costs are met mostly by the District.

	2019-20	2018-19
	£	£
Stipend to Chair	31,065	30,210
Employer's National Insurance Contribution	3,075	3,006
Employer's pension contribution to the defined benefit scheme	6,685	6,501
Cash cost paid by the Connexion (see, SOFA, item 6)	40,825	39,717
Chair's expenses	4,278	12,141
Total cost	45,103	51,858

Since the stipend-related costs above £40,825 (2019 - £39,717) are borne by the Connexion, they appear both in the Income of the District and the Expenditure of the District (See Note 6). It should be noted that the chair is required to occupy the District manse. The manse is provided by the Darlington District and the District maintains the property. The sum of £750 per calendar month (2019 - £750) per calendar month) was determined by enquiry of local letting agents and does not appear elsewhere in these accounts. The Chair of District is the sole paid key management person but is supported by members of the DPC.

No accrual is made for the Chair's entitlement to a sabbatical as his / her functions are undertaken by a Deputy Chair at minimal extra cost to the District.

Payment to Trustees

It is District policy to offer to reimburse members of the District Policy Committee and others involved in the administration of District affairs for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties. The Chair of the District undertakes the primary executive role within the District. Apart from the Chair of District and The District Administrator and P.A. to the Chair no member of the District Policy Committee was in receipt of any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the District, although certain travelling and administration costs were reimbursed whenever this was requested.

None of the trustees receives any remuneration in their role as Trustees.

4 Other income

	2019-20	2018-19
	£	£
Grant for provision of District Enabler	43,000	38,000
Grant for One Opportunities	5,500	24,950
RSO contribution from Newcastle District	18,911	18,890
Sundries	3,579	7,716
Total	70,990	89,556

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

5 Grants, donations and related Support costs

Net Grants and donations totalling £100,310, were made during the year (2019 - £254,113) as shown in the table below.

	2019-20	2018-19
	£	£
Unrestricted:		
- From General Fund	7,660	12,384
- From DAF	92,650	241,729
Sub total	100,310	254,113
Restricted:		
- From Benevolence Fund	-	-
Sub total	-	-
Total	100,310	254,113

Expenditure on charitable activities through the District Advance Fund

This fund receives formulaically determined contributions from the Circuit Model Trust Funds held by Circuits within the District and redistributes the monies to grantees in the District through relevant grants as assessed by the District Grants Committee. During the year the following grants commitments/paid were made:

Given to	Amount in £	Analysis of amounts given by type of work	Amount in £
Churches	9,300	Projects	9,300
Circuits	26,750	Ministry	83,350
Methodist Asylum Proj:		General	-
Institutions	-		
Individuals	-		
Darlington District	56,600		
Total	92,650		92,650

The income of the fund was £143,556 during the year.

The Grants Committee is aware that grant applications must demonstrate public benefit.

The support costs for grant-funding to third parties are insignificant (principally because the secretary of the Grants Committee is a volunteer and undertakes the vast majority of this work) and are not separately disclosed.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

6 Salaries and associated costs

Gross salaries paid to 15 part time (2019 :14) employees were as follows:

	2019-20	2018-19
	£	£
Gross pay	80,152	66,617
Employer's National Insurance contribution	4,606	3,557
Employer's pension contribution to defined contribution scheme	3,717	3,131
Employees expenses	12,485	15,170
Total cost for 15 staff members	100,960	88,475
Paid to trustee in his role as District Resourcing Mission Officer	9,857	8,643
Total staff costs (notes 6)	110,817	97,118
Cost of Chair (see Note 3)	44,278	51,858
Total weekly contractual hours of 15 Staff members	128	106

No employees received employee benefits that totalled more than £60,000. There is no accrual for holiday pay as it is immaterial; the holiday year ends on 31 August. All staff are paid at or above the living wage.

Whilst the total salary and expenses cost paid by the District was £100,960 Newcastle District of The Methodist Church contributed 50% (£18,912) towards the cost of one part time employee engaged exclusively in safeguarding matters and a part time safeguarding administrator.

Of the remaining 13 part time employees one is the Co-ordinator, another the Administrator of the One Opportunity North East scheme together with 10 young people who were employed under the same scheme. The One Opportunity North East scheme has finished at 31/08/2020 .

In addition one of the trustees, Mr M Aspey, is paid a consultancy fee and expenses as above for his role as District Resourcing Mission Officer.

Pensions

Most ordained presbyters and deacons are members of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS). This is a defined benefit scheme. The Supreme Court held in 2014 that Methodist ministers (which term includes presbyters and deacons) are not employees of the Church. For simplicity, however, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions and pension contributions, the terms 'employer' and 'employee' are used as they would be in an employing body.

On the other hand lay employees are contractually employees and have the option of joining the Pension and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church (PASLEMC), The Pensions Trust or some other arrangement. PASLEMC is a defined benefit scheme and the employing Churches and Circuits contribute as employers to this scheme.

The Pensions Trust is a defined contribution scheme with employer's contributions being 6% of gross salary.

The Connexion accounts for both the MMPS and PASLEMC pension schemes and shows the figures in the annual Methodist Church in Great Britain accounts. The MMPS is in deficit but a plan for removal of the deficit has been proposed and is being implemented. Details of the deficits on these schemes can be found in the Annual Report and Accounts of The Methodist Church at www.methodist.org.uk .

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

7 Property costs

	2019-20	2018-19
	£	£
District office, rent and services	5,154	2,460
Chair's manse which include some renovations costs	3,910	17,271
Total costs	9,064	19,731

8 Office expenses (General fund)

	2018-19	2018-19
	£	£
Printing, postage and stationery etc.	4,410	10,447
Other	-	-
Total charged to General Fund	4,410	10,447
TMCP charges	791	916
Total	5,201	11,363

None of the remaining individual amounts (aggregated as 'Other' above) is considered material and none is listed separately

9 Synods, Committees, Conference

	2019-20	2018-19
	£	£
Synods	1,701	956
Conference	-	200
Committees	-	3,202
Chair's travel (see note 3 for 2018-9)	-	-
Total costs	1,701	4,358

None of the remaining individual amounts (aggregated as 'Other' above) is considered material and none is listed separately.

10 Other outgoings

	2019-20	2018-19
	£	£
Professional fees	1,440	1,900
Recruitment costs for District Enabler	-	1,116
Retreats	2,105	2,995
Surplus of 'One Opps NE' scheme returned to Newcastle District	10,593	-
Total other costs	14,138	6,011

None of the remaining individual amounts (aggregated as 'Sundry outgoings' above) is considered material and none is listed separately.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

11 Investment management

During the year the District paid £791 to TMCP, the custodians of the District's investments (District Advance Fund and Darlington Training and Bursary Trust (2019 - £916). The sum of £791 was levied at 0.2% on the value of the funds at the end of the year and is shown as allocated to the two groups of funds: £687 and £104 at line 13 in the SOFA. See Note 8 above for TMCP charges.

None of the remaining individual amounts – aggregated as 'Other' above - is considered material and none is listed separately.

The sum of £3949 represents an unrealised gain (2019 - nil) in the invested funds of the Training Fund. More information can be found in Note 20, Restricted Funds.

12 Transfer between funds

Transfers between funds are to reimburse funds for expenditure incurred and to transfer income received on behalf of other funds.

13 Manse and other property

The value of the District manse in Darlington is believed to be considerably greater than its historical cost in 2006 shown in the accounts. There is no depreciation on the manse as the impairment review at the end of the year confirmed that the current residual market value of the building was greater than the carrying value of that part of the asset's cost to date.

	Land	Buildings	Total
Cost or valuation			
Cost bf at 1.9.2019	70,000	205,000	275,000
Additions in the year	-	-	-
Revaluations in the year	-	-	-
Less: Disposals in the year	-	-	-
Transfers between categories	-	-	-
Cost cf at 31.8.2020	70,000	205,000	275,000

14 Debtors and prepayments

Debtors were made up as follows:

	2019-20	2018-19
	£	£
Trade debtors	-	-
Prepayments and accrued income (3 Gen fees paid in advance)	1,800	3,000
Other debtors	-	-
Total	1,800	3,000

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

15 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP)

The funds that support the District Advance Fund and the Manses Fund are held by TMCP in Trustees Interest Funds on which interest is credited to the accounts each month. These are regarded as medium and long term investments.

TMCP is the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds. Trust property is held for and on behalf of local Managing Trustees who are responsible for the day to day management of trust property. TMCP ensure that, through providing guidance and acting under their direction, the Managing Trustees comply with charity law and Methodist law and policy as determined by the Methodist Conference.

16 Central Finance Board (CFB) and cash at bank

The District has 2 current accounts at HSBC plc, an authorised institution. The sums held on those accounts are immediately available. In addition the District has 3 deposit accounts at CFB. Interest is earned on these accounts and credited monthly; the sums deposited can be withdrawn without notice and without loss of interest. These sums are viewed as being liquid.

17 Creditors and accrued expenses

	2019-20	2018-19
	£	£
Creditors:		
Independent examinations	1,200	1,200
<i>Total creditors</i>	1,200	1,200
Accruals:		
Expenses	600	3,800
<i>Total accruals</i>	600	3,800
Total of creditors and accrued expenses	1,800	5,000

It is expected that all sums accrued at 31 Aug 2020 would be paid during the year to 31 Aug 2021.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

18 Grant commitments and the District Advance Fund

It is the District's policy to recognise committed grants immediately as expenditure out of this fund and thus accrue the unpaid amounts at the year-end as liabilities.

		2019-20
		£
End of year commitments to pay one-off grants or the first instalment in a future year		46,000
Anticipated second or subsequent instalments where the first instalment was paid in 2019-20 or earlier		251,001
Total anticipated commitment at 31 August 2020		<u>297,001</u>
Grants payable by future year as at 1 September 2020:		
2020-21	(current liability)	135,524
2021-22	(long term liability)	87,977
2022-23	(long term liability)	<u>73,500</u>
Total anticipated commitment at 31 August 2019		<u>297,001</u>

This total of anticipated grants of £297,001 was within the balance of £351,554 in the DAF as at 1 September 2020. In the following year and subsequent years, further sums were and are expected to be credited to the DAF from the CMTF levies of those years.

The award of a grant by the District does not create a contractual relationship but does create an operational liability if not made subject to performance conditions creating uncertainty as to the probability of future years' grant instalments being paid. It is now judged that such future instalments of grant will probably be paid and so the amounts due are no longer classified as Designated Reserves but instead are recognised as expenditure of the year when awarded.

No institution received grants of such materiality that they should be separately disclosed in these accounts.

19 Unrestricted Funds

19.1 General Fund

Balance of £516,971 at 31 Aug 2020 (2019 - £474,196)

The purpose of the fund is for use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the District and which have not been designated for other purposes. About 53% of this fund is held as a freehold property, the District manse for the Chair of District. During the year £7,660 was paid out as grants and donations from the General Fund.

19.2 Other Designated Funds

Balance of £8,783 at 31 Aug 2020 (2019 - £2,762)

This fund is to serve a specific purposes but is not restricted by any document or deed to that purpose alone. These funds comprise:

The Manse Fund – balance £8,783 (2019 - £2,762) is available to meet maintenance in the accommodation at the District

20 Restricted Funds

Balance of £44,510 at 31 Aug 2020 (2019 - £103,671)

The Training Fund – balance £43,917 (2019 - £51,816) meet some of the the training costs of Ministers and lay people in the district.

The One Opportunity Fund - balance £nil (2019 - £51,266) is to meet the costs and expenses of the staff and young people employed under the One Opportunity North East scheme. The scheme end during the year and the surplus £21,186 was returned equally to the Newcastle and Darlington Districts

The Benevolence Fund - balance £593 (2019 - £589) provides financial support to ministers and lay people in the District in need of support.

The market valuations for the Training & Bursary Trust (known as the Training Fund) have been provided by TMCP. The funds of the Benevolence Fund are held on deposit at CFB.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

21 Summary of movements on significant individual funds

Year ended 31st August 2020						
	At 1st September 2019	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains on inv assets	At 31st August 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds						
General fund	474,196	189,228	(186,455)	40,002	-	516,971
Designated funds						
District Advance Fund	4,334	143,556	(93,337)	-	-	54,553
Other designated funds						
Manse Maintenance	2,762	21	-	6,000	-	8,783
Total unrestricted funds	481,292	332,805	(279,792)	46,002	-	580,307
Restricted Funds						
Training	51,817	1,152	(104)	(5,000)	(3,949)	43,916
One Opportunity Fund	51,265	330	(10,593)	(41,002)	-	-
Benevolence Fund	589	5	-	-	-	594
Total restricted funds	103,671	1,487	(10,697)	(46,002)	(3,949)	44,510
Total Funds	584,963	334,292	(290,489)	-	(3,949)	624,817

Year ended 31st August 2019						
	At 1st September 2018	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains on inv assets	At 31st August 2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds						
General fund	471,118	194,450	(205,043)	13,671	-	474,196
Designated funds						
District Advance Fund	80,069	144,834	(242,533)	21,964	-	4,334
Other designated funds						
Manse Maintenance	7,853	29	-	(5,120)	-	2,762
Total unrestricted funds	559,040	339,313	(447,576)	30,515	-	481,292
Restricted Funds						
Training	56,171	758	(112)	(5,000)	-	51,817
Kenya	4,195	15	-	(4,210)	-	-
One Opportunity Fund	62,174	10,396	-	(21,305)	-	51,265
Benevolence Fund	585	4	-	-	-	589
Total restricted funds	123,125	11,173	(112)	(30,515)	-	103,671
Total Funds	682,165	350,486	(447,688)	-	-	584,963

THE METHODIST CHURCH - DARLINGTON DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

22 Analysis of net assets amongst funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2020 are represented by:

	Unrestricted - general	Restricted including	Total funds
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	275,000	-	275,000
Current assets	604,108	44,510	648,618
Current liabilities	(137,324)	-	(137,324)
Payables due after one year	(161,477)	-	(161,477)
			-
Total	580,307	44,510	624,817

23 Connected organisations and related parties

All of the District trustees are members of one or another Church and Circuit within the District and may be trustees in their Churches and/or Circuits.

Connected organisations include the Methodist Connexion, Circuits and Churches within the District, other Methodist Districts in Great Britain, the Methodist Ministers' Children's Relief Association, CFB and TMCP, except as reported in Note 3. All of these entities have their own trustees or directors and autonomous administration such that Darlington District has no significant influence over any of them, nor they over the Darlington District. They are, therefore, not considered related parties.

Name of Connected Organisations	Receipts	Payments	Adjustments
	£	£	£
Donee: Methodist Church Fund Association	228	368,085	-
	-	228	-
Donor: Circuits within the Darlington District (assessments on Circuits)	444,044	46,000	75,959
Donor / Donee: Circuits within the Darlington District (levies / grants)	140,246	79,850	-
Donor / Donee: Churches within the Darlington District (grants)	-	9,300	-

There were no related party transactions other than those already disclosed under notes 3 and 6.

24 Volunteer contributions

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit, Church) within the Methodist Church in GB is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. Principally this contribution is by serving on committees of the District that deal with mission, mannes, finance, policy, grants, training, development. We are grateful to all of them for their help and commitment.

25 Capital commitments and contingent liabilities

There were no capital commitments or contingent liabilities at the year end (2019 - nil).

26 Lease commitments

Not Applicable

27 Auditor / Independent examiner

An accrual has been made for the fee of the independent examiner in the sum of £1,200 for the year (2019 - £1,200). The independent examiner provided no additional services during the year.

28 Prior Year Adjustment

There were no prior year adjustments.