

NORTH CUMBRIA METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ended 31st AUGUST 2023

Introduction

The Trustees are pleased to present the Annual Report of The Trustees of the North Cumbria Methodist Circuit (hereinafter referred to as “The Circuit”) for the year ending 31st August 2023.

The new Circuit is now two years old and we have continued to grow and develop together as a single circuit. The new Circuit Mission and Vision Plan was agreed.

The Charity chosen by the Circuit for this year was “Safe Families for Children.”

Staffing

Staffing levels remain the same with three presbyters based in Wigton, Carlisle and Brampton and a Deacon in Carlisle working across the circuit as a Mission Enabler. The two Superintendents have continued in their roles as Co-Superintendents.

The leadership team consists of the presbyters, Deacon and four circuit stewards who represent all Hubs. Much work has been undertaken to develop the Hubs. There have been many opportunities to come together in fellowship and in steering group meetings.

Following the correct procedures in full, the Circuit Invitation Committee recommended to the Circuit meeting 13/9/22 that David Newlove be invited for a further 5 years from September 2023. Agreed.

Phil Jackson has requested an extension. The invitation committee has been given authority by the Circuit to act on their behalf to this request.

The Mission Enabler has continued his work with Estate Ministry and Children and Families work.

On-line and Zoom meetings continued as well as Bible studies, Lent meetings, Prayer workshops, fellowship groups and training programmes.

Aims and organisation .

The Governing Document of the Charity is the Deed of Union of the Methodist Church 1932 and the Methodist Church Act 1976. The purposes of the Methodist Church are, and shall be deemed to have been since the Date of Union, the advancement of:

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

There are now 15 places of worship in the area covered by the Circuit and they are all open to anyone who may wish to visit them without any charge.

The Circuit continues with a quarterly preaching plan to ensure that regular acts of worship take place at all the churches and chapels in its geographical area and that the following activities take place to further the objectives set out above:-

- The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.
- The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.
- Taking religious assemblies in local schools.
- Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services.
- Provision of chaplaincy services where appropriate.

Public Benefit

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Brief financial review of the year

The main source of income in this and every year is the assessment paid by the churches within the Circuit area. In the year to 31st August 2023, the assessments totalled £177,248. The Circuit also received grant funding of £32,000 from the Connexion in respect of the employment of our Mission Enabler.

The main expenditure relates to the stipends of presbyters and the salaries of lay employees, together with related employment costs, including the provision of manses to presbyters and the reimbursement of travelling and other costs, totalling £220,794.

Stipends have increased annually in line with conference approved percentages and lay employees are paid, in accordance with Methodist Standing Orders, no less than the hourly rates set by the Living Wage Foundation.

Other costs include the contributions to the District £65,811.

There had been significant expense in relation to faults in the manses, in particular to Manor Gardens.

At 31 August 2023 the net current, unrestricted, assets of the Circuit were £262,107 compared with total expenditure for the year of £322,687.

Plans for the 2022/23 Circuit finances for the coming year have been prepared on the basis of our current staffing figure, with anticipated cost of living stipend and pay increases combined with an increase in the assessments paid to the District and Connexion. Levels of assessments requested from the churches in the Circuit have been discussed with all churches as some churches were still unable to meet the level of assessments requested by the Circuit.

Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document for the Circuit is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976). Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD). Day to day management of the Circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team comprising the presbyters, deacon and circuit stewards.

Trustee Training

A range of guidance is produced by Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the Circuit, including the leaflet "The Role of a Trustee in The Methodist Church".

Related Partners

The Circuit is part of the Cumbria District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference. 15 Churches are linked to the Circuit and are listed in Appendix B to this Report.

After presentations, discussions, consultations and voting it was agreed to a proposal to form a single North West Methodist District. Following Conference on 29th June a new North West Methodist District was formed incorporating Cumbria, Bolton and Rochdale, Lancashire and Liverpool into a single district from September 1st 2024.

In light of the above changes it was proposed that we consider forming a single Cumbria Circuit combining the current 9 circuits across the District.

Risk Management

Major risks, both physical and financial, are identified and recorded and professional advice taken as required. There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

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

Safeguarding

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

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

1. The care and nurture, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults.
The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable.
2. The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
3. The Circuit will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.
4. The Circuit will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, co-operating with the police and local authority in any investigation.

5. The Circuit will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
6. The Circuit will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
7. The Circuit will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
8. In all these principles the Circuit will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

The Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches. The Circuit commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

The Safeguarding Policy for the Circuit was renewed and signed and distributed to all churches.

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy for the Circuit is to hold approximately two quarter's average expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on manse and / or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of the failure of churches to meet their quarterly assessment liabilities in full.

Legal and Administrative

The Circuit's financial statement for the year ended 31 August 2023 has been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2014 version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (FRSSE) applicable in the UK (effective from 1st January 2015)

– the Charities SORP – in replacement for the SORP's 2005 version specified in its related 2008 Regulations and in accordance with the "true and fair override" provision contained therein. Full Name of Charity: North Cumbria Methodist Circuit

Registration Charity Number: 1134232

Date of registration 2014

Main communication address: 42, Kirkland Fold, Wigton. CA7 9LL

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

A full list of Trustees is shown in Appendix B to this Report.

Circuit Ministers and officers

Active Circuit Ministers :

Rev David Newlove, Rev Phil Jackson, Rev Tokunbo Asogbon,

Deacon Mark Atwood

Circuit Stewards

Mr George Denholm - Steward with financial responsibility, replaced Harold Bowron as Primary User for access to on-line banking.

Mr Alan Fearon

Mr Selby Harrison

Mrs Rita Yeowart

Administrator Miss Vicky Logan

Vicky Logan was asked to take up the vacant role of Circuit Secretary as no-one had come forward. This would be a paid position.

Saints and Co accountants were to be used for Circuit accounts.

Independent examiner Mr Malcolm Uppard, 1 Green Lane, Houghton, Carlisle. CA3 0NT.

Investment Bankers Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church

Trustees for Methodist Church purposes

Bankers H.S.B.C. 29 English Street, Carlisle. CA3 8JX.

APPENDIX B

LIST OF CHURCHES IN THE NORTH CUMBRIA CIRCUIT

Cornerstones Hub:

Aspatria, Abbeytown, *Caldbeck, *Silloth, Wigton.

Solway Hub:

Dalston, Monkhill, *Thursby, Thurstonfield.

City Hub:

Newtown, *Tithe Barn, Wigton Road, Upperby.

Border Hub:

Brampton, Gilsland, *Longtown, Wetheral

***Port Carlisle (Circuit resource centre)**

*Caldbeck Chapel - been valued

*Longtown Methodist Church - meet in Community Centre

*Port Carlisle (Now renamed Port Carlisle Community Chapel)

*Silloth Methodist Church - Sold

*Thursby Methodist Church - no longer open for services

MANSES:

Etterby Street

Charlton Way

Grange Drive

Kirkland Meadows

Manor Gardens

Etterby Street Manse was now being overseen by a Letting Agency as the post of Property Steward has still not been filled.

List of Trustees up to 31st August 2023

Role	Church	First Name	Surname	
Church Rep	Brampton	Di	Armstrong	
Minister	Circuit	Tokunbo	Asogbon	
Deacon	Circuit	Mark	Attwood	
Church Steward	CMC, Upperby	Jean	Baron	
Church Treasurer	Longtown	Christine	Batey	
Supernumerary	Circuit	Paul	Beard	
Church Treasurer	Monkhill	Harold	Bowron	
Church Steward	Monkhill	Kathleen	Bowron	
Church Treasurer	CMC, Wigton Road	Mary	Caddle	
Finance Steward	Circuit	George	Denholm	
Church Rep	Cornerstone	Rosalind	Denholm	
Church Steward	CMC, Re:Fresh	Clare	Driffield	
Safeguarding	Circuit	Margaret	Drury	
Circuit Steward	Circuit	Alan	Fearon	
Hub Steward	Cornerstone	Margaret	Ferriby	
Supernumerary	Circuit	Joan	Gooding	
Church Steward	Monkhill	Lynne	Graham	
Church Steward	CMC, Wigton Road	Janice	Gray	
Supernumerary	Circuit	Gilbert	Hall	
Supernumerary	Circuit	Colin	Harbach	
Hub Steward	Cornerstone	Steve	Harding	
Circuit Steward	Circuit	Selby	Harrison	
Hub Treasurer	Cornerstone	Abigail	Hartshorne-Bell	
Church Steward	CMC, Newtown	Ken	Holmes	
Circuit Archivist	Circuit	John	Huggon	
Supernumerary	Circuit	Margaret	Jackson	
Superintendent	Circuit	Phil	Jackson	

Role	Church	First Name	Surname	
Church Treasurer	Brampton	Linda	Johnson	
Church Rep	Thurstonfield	Archie	Kelly	
Manse Secretary	Circuit	Christine	Kelly	
Supernumerary	Circuit	Ruth	Kershaw	
Church Steward	CMC, Wigton Road	Susan	Kydd	
Church Steward	Longtown	Dorothy	Lamb	
M.W.i.B. Rep	Dalston	Margery	Little	
Church Steward	Dalston	William	Little	
LP Meeting Rep	Dalston	Margery	Mallinson	
Church Treasurer	CMC, Upperby	Leo	Mann	
Church Steward	Wetheral	Millie	Mckey	
Church Rep	Monkhill	Glynis	Milburn	
Supernumerary	Circuit	John	Millard	
LP & WL Secretary	Circuit	Chris	Mitchelson	
Superintendent	Circuit	David	Newlove	
Church Treasurer	Dalston	John	Oldman	
Church Secretary	Dalston	Ann	Oldman	
Church Steward	Thurstonfield	Nathan	Pattinson	
Hub Steward	Cornerstone	Janet	Porthouse	
Church Steward	CMC, Newtown	Marion	Proudfoot	
Church Rep	Longtown	Pauline	Robson	
Church Steward	Brampton	Nancy	Simpson	
Church Steward	CMC, Wigton Road	Pat	Staley	
Church Rep	CMC, Upperby	Ian	Stewart	
Church Rep	CMC, Wigton Road	Janet	Thompson	
Meeting Secretary	Circuit	Christine	Wharton	

Role	Church	First Name	Surname	
Church Secretary	Gilsland	Melvyn	Whatmough	
Supernumerary	Circuit	Robert	White	
Church Treasurer	CMC, Re:Fresh	Stuart	Wilkinson	
Church Steward	Dalston	Janet	Wright	
Circuit Steward	Circuit	Rita	Yeowart	

Signed on behalf of the Circuit by

David Newlove

.....(signed)

Rev David Newlove Superintendent Minister

.....(signed)

George Denholm Circuit Treasurer

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

North Cumbria	Circuit
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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2023**

Cumbria	District	Circuit no	09/01
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1134232

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

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

Ministers:

Rev David Newlove
Rev Philip Jackson
Rev Tokunbo Asogbon
Dcn Mark Attwood

Circuit Stewards:

Mr Alan Fearon
Mr Selby Harrison
Mrs Rita Yeowart

Treasurer:

Mr George Denholm

20ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 August 2023

North Cumbria

Circuit

SECTION A			Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
a1	RECEIPTS	Note	£	£	£	£	£
a2	Assessment/Share		177,248			177,248	180,550
a3	Capital receipts						74,614
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		1,990	6,506		8,496	1,736
a5	Grants		33,792			33,792	38,000
a6	Other receipts		21,810		3,359	25,169	141,963
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS		234,840	6,506	3,359	244,705 (a8)	436,862

SECTION B							
b1	PAYMENTS						
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs		170,279		1,178	171,456	166,798
b3	Manse Costs		25,015			25,015	23,055
b4	Administration etc		23,587	736		24,323	31,204
b5	District Assessment		50,027	15,784		65,811	57,092
b6	Grants & donations						1,799
b7	Property Levy						10,923
b8	Other payments		31,357	4,724		36,081	36,953
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS		300,265	21,245	1,178	322,687 (b9)	327,824

SECTION C							
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a7-b9)	(65,425)	(14,739)	2,181	(77,982)	109,037
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		74,645	234,233	920	309,798 (c6)	200,761
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	9,220	219,494	3,101	231,816	309,798
c4	Transfers and adjustments		50,000	(50,000)		(c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	59,220	234,233	3,101	231,816 (c8)	309,798 (c6)

SECTION D					
d	FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (these amounts should not be included in total receipts/payments above)				
d1	Balance brought forward from last year			1,626	
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations			3,913	1,626
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations			1,626	
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)			3,913	1,626

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

Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Circuit Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross receipts and payments totals of the Circuit. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold of £250,000, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the Circuit and connected Circuit Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1						
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds				(e11)	(e12)
e9	Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)					
	244,705 (a8)	322,687 (b9)	(77,982)	(c7)	309,798 (c6)	231,816 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT					
	244,705	322,687	(77,982)		309,798 (x)	231,816 (y)
	TOTAL RECEIPTS		TOTAL PAYMENTS			

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

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

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1		
f2	15,598	2,851
f3	541	
f4	26,410	59,470
f5	234,233	169,494
f6	33,016	
f7	309,798 (c6)	231,815 (c8)
f8	(e11)	(e12)
f9	309,798 (x)	231,815 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2022	At 31 August 2023
g1	24,023	30,292
g2	1,482,844	2,386,133
g3		
g4		
g5		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board


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

g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trust accounts this is inserted in line f5)

Name of Circuit North Cumbria

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2023 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit meeting.

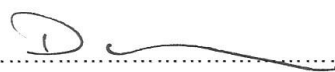
Signature of treasurer  Date..... 18/9/23

Name and address of treasurer GEORGE DENHOLM

..... 142 KIRKLAND FOLD, WIGTON Post Code..... CA7 9LL

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

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

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting DAVID NEWLOVE Date 6 December 2023

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

North Cumbria

Charity Number .. 1134232

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the NORTH CUMBRIA Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2023 set out on pages 2 to 5. As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Circuit ... North Cumbria

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

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

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

Signature of independent examiner

Name of independent examiner MALCOLM UPPARD

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner F.C.A.

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 1 GREEN LANE, HOUGHTON

..... CARLISLE Post Code CA3 0NT

Date 5TH DEC 2023

* delete or circle as appropriate

Form reviewed

May-23

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

North Cumbria	Circuit
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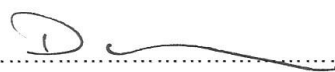
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Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting DAVID NEWLOVE Date 6 December 2023

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

North Cumbria

Charity Number .. 1134232

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the NORTH CUMBRIA Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2023 set out on pages 2 to 5. As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Circuit ... North Cumbria

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

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

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

Signature of independent examiner

Name of independent examiner

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address

.....

Post Code

Date

* delete or circle as appropriate

Form reviewed

May-23