



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date
 From Day 01 Month 09 Year 2020 To Day 31 Month 08 Year 2021

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name Stoke-on-Trent North Methodist Circuit

Other names charity is known by None

Registered charity number (if any) 1134240

Charity's principal address 409 Ford Green Road

Norton

Stoke on Trent

Postcode

ST6 8LX

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name (office if any)	Trustee name (office if any)	Trustee name (office if any)
Rev. J Dyer (Chairperson) /	Mr K Turner	Mrs I Pope
Rev. K Kerchal //	Mr JB Claydon	Mr P Plant
Rev. J Smith	Mrs S Bowyer	Mrs J Shaw
	Mrs P Turner	Mr N Holdcroft
Mr P Owen /		
Ms H Snashall	Mr R Blurton	Mrs A Stanyer
Mr I Websell	Mr T Tideswell	Mr G Bennett
Mrs E Scott	Mr D Floyd	Mr K Prosser
Mr H Bowyer	Mr E Hambleton	
Mrs S Cooke	Mrs L Lawton	Mrs L Bould
Mrs C Foster		Miss C Rowe
Mrs J Speed	Mr D Broad	Mr J Tildsley
Mrs L Parker	Mr R Perry	Miss P Baker
Mrs K Roberts	Mrs J Machin	Miss S Ray
Mrs O Brooks		
	Mrs D Williams	Mrs B Whiston
Mrs J Dolan	Miss G Deakin	Mr G Simcock
Mrs D Fenton	Mr P Meredith	Mr J Smith
Mr A Hickerman	Mrs I Sant	Mrs B Wilson
Mr D Wright	Mrs B Barnes	
Mrs A Flavell	Mrs M Rowley	
Mrs D Boulton	Mrs M Joynton	

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser Name Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

--

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document
(eg. trust deed, constitution)

Deed Of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976)

How the charity is constituted
(eg. trust, association, company)

Act of Parliament

Trustee selection methods
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

Appointed by local churches and existing trustees
Ministers are automatically trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Induction/Training

- ◆ Range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion.
- ◆ Leaflet 'The Role of a Trustee in The Methodist Church' given to each trustee.

Structure

- ◆ Part of the Chester and Stoke on Trent District.
- ◆ Accountable to the Methodist Conference.

Risks

- ◆ Considered by the Circuit Leadership Team.
- ◆ Take professional advice as required.
- ◆ Regular review process.
- ◆ Adopted Safeguarding Policy and ensured it is rolled out to the churches

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The purpose of the Methodist Church is 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.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The Circuit began the year with eleven churches (though two of the smaller ones then decided not to reopen after the Covid lockdown). In 'normal times' each of the churches runs weekly services of worship. These are open to all people, without charge. The Circuit also in normal times provides preachers for Sunday services at the Claybourne care home run by Methodist Homes for the Aged. In addition, the ministers of the Circuit undertake baptisms, weddings and funerals (the last of which of course continued throughout the pandemic), both for Methodist members and any others who request them.

In normal times, each of the churches runs or supports various activities, including fellowship and Bible Study groups, children's activities, a youth club, lunch clubs, and a foodbank, and fundraising for a variety of charities including Christian Aid, Action for Children, All We Can (the Methodist Relief and Development charity) and Methodist Homes for the Aged. In addition, the Circuit runs a winter Night Shelter in Burslem, which in normal times accommodates people who would otherwise be sleeping rough. Many church members are involved as volunteers on site, or in cooking and delivering meals.

During 2020-21, some of these activities had to be temporarily paused, while others were able to continue throughout. This will be detailed in Section D. Since Easter 2021, almost all the activities that were paused have been gradually reopening and recovering.

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

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You may choose to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

The Circuit Model Trust Fund had a balance at the year end of August 2021 of £329,698.01. This fund derives from sales of chapels and manses. In addition, a sum of £460,890.04 from legacies was also held on the Model Trusts. Model Trust funds are restricted by the Conference. This restriction is an internal regulation though the fund can be used for a variety of purposes. £288,080.78 was held on permanent endowments, mainly in one large endowment for the relief of poverty. The income from this fund is used for the support of the Night Shelter and foodbank, and other local charitable causes.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

In September 2020, the previous Superintendent, Rev Christopher Ambler, moved on, and a new Superintendent, Rev Jennifer Dyer, came into post. At the time, the country was gradually emerging from the first Covid-19 lockdown, and most of our churches restarted worship in September 2020. They were obliged to stop worship again during November, and then again from January to March 2021. All the churches reopened for worship on Easter Sunday 4th April 2021 and have continued open since.

A weekly service of worship and a Bible Study group moved onto Zoom while they were not possible 'in-person', and the Bible Study group has remained on Zoom. Some activities were able to continue throughout the pandemic: for instance support and volunteering for the foodbank, and for the Night Shelter. The Night Shelter was not able to provide its usual dormitory-style accommodation, but changed its modus operandi to providing takeaway meals, and supporting with food those accommodated by the local authority in hotels. Literally thousands of meals were supplied in this way on Wednesday and Saturday evenings over the course of the year.

Other activities, such as lunchclubs and children's groups, were obliged to close for an extended period during the pandemic, but have been gradually reopening and recovering since Easter 2021.

Sadly, two of our (numerically) smaller churches decided not to reopen after lockdown. The first was Longport Methodist Church. The members dispersed to other churches, and the building was put on the market and sold in June 2021. The second was Ball Green Methodist Church. Since the building there is relatively new and in good condition, we are hoping to sell or lease it to another worshipping congregation or community group.

Shortly after the start of the year, we received an approach from the Stoke-on-Trent (South) Circuit to consider a merger. This had been discussed before but not brought to a conclusion. We held a number of meetings to discuss the financial and mission implications of a merger, and then on 6th July 2021 our Circuit Meeting voted unanimously for the merger, which will take place from September 2022.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

In the light of the pandemic, the Stoke on Trent North Circuit has reviewed its Reserves Policy and now seeks to hold a sum equivalent to at least 6 months' average expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on manses and / or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of the closure of a large church or an inability to raise the full Circuit Assessment from churches.

The Circuit is aware that it holds more in Model Trust Funds than is

necessary. However, decisions have been taken gradually to reduce these funds, by subsidising the Circuit Assessment, by seeking to employ a Children and Families Worker, and by offering grants to churches to install technology.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

There are none.

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Our chief source of funds is the assessment paid by the churches, deriving from giving from our church members.

Our chief expenditure is on the stipends of the ministers and salary of the Circuit Administrator, all engaged in meeting our key objectives.

Funds not needed for day to day activities are invested with Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or the Central Finance Board, under the oversight of the Joint Advisory Committee on the Ethics of Investment.

Section F


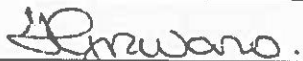
Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Revd Jennifer Margaret Dyer	Francesca Gravano
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair (Superintendent Minister)	Circuit

Date

9/3/22

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2021

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2020-21 £
Income							
1 Donations and legacies		30					30
2 Income from monetary investments		62	7,878				7,940
3 Income from investment properties		5,596					5,596
4 Assessments on Churches		123,843					123,843
5 Capital Receipts			136,253				136,253
6 Grants received		0					0
7 Other charitable income		20,535	1,173				21,708
8 Total income		150,066	145,304	0	0	0	295,370
Expenditure							
9 Grants and donations							0
10 Salaries and associated costs		133,681					133,681
11 Property maintenance		11,807					11,807
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy			34,288				34,288
13 District Assessment & Levy		35,072	10,241				45,313
14 Depreciation		121					121
15 Office expenses		4,242					4,242
16 Other outgoings		11,992	23,006				34,998
17 Total charitable expenditure		196,915	67,535	0	0	0	264,450
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments							0
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties			44,615				44,615
20 Net income/(expenditure)		-46,849	122,384	0	0		75,535
21 Transfers between funds							0
22 Other gains/(losses)							
23 Net movement in funds		-46,849	122,384	0	0		75,535
24 Total funds brought forward		696,413	1,025,944				1,722,357
25 Total funds carried forward		649,564	1,148,328	0	0		1,797,892

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2021

Notes to the
Accounts

General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2020/21	Totals 2019/20
£	£	£	£	£	£	£

Fixed Assets

Circuit Manses & Equipment	544,034				544,034	544,155
Investment properties					0	
Investments					0	
Total fixed assets	544,034	0	0	0	544,034	544,155

Current Assets

Debtors	17,820				17,820	11,143
Loans by the Circuit					0	
Investments with TMCP		860,247		288,081	1,148,328	1,025,944
Central Finance Board Deposits	48,092				48,092	59,226
Cash at Bank and in hand	41,400				41,400	83,237
Total current assets	107,312	860,247	0	0	288,081	1,255,640

Current liabilities

Creditors (due in under 1 year)	1,782				1,782	1,348
Grants payable within 2020-21					0	
Total current liabilities	1,782	0	0	0	1,782	1,348
Net current assets/liabilities	105,530	860,247	0	0	288,081	1,178,202

Total assets less current liabilities	649,564	860,247	0	0	288,081	1,797,892
--	----------------	----------------	----------	----------	----------------	------------------

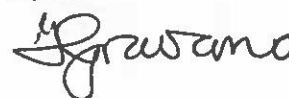
Long term liabilities

(due after more than one year)						
Grants payable after 2020-21					0	
Loans to the Circuit					0	
					0	
Net assets	649,564	860,247	0	0	288,081	1,797,892

Funds of the Circuit

General Fund (Unrestricted)	649,564				649,564	696,413
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)		1,148,328			1,148,328	1,025,944
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)			0		0	
Total Unrestricted Funds					1,797,892	1,722,357
Restricted Funds				0	0	
Endowment Funds					0	
Total Funds	649,564	1,148,328	0	0	1,797,892	1,722,357

Signed



Circuit Treasurer

Notes to the Accounts

1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have 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 FRS102 – the Charities SORP (FRS102) and taking note of the Update Bulletin 1 issued in 2016.

2 Funds

The funds held constitute: General Funds held for any purpose of the Circuit which are Unrestricted. The Circuit Model Trust Fund has wide purposes defined in Standing Orders and is categorised as unrestricted. Restricted funds which are held for a narrower purpose. There are no Endowment funds. Details of each material fund are disclosed in the final note to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

3 Accounting policies

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 Circuit's financial position and activities.

Incoming Resources

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Circuit becomes entitled to the resources, and the trustees are reasonably certain they will receive the resources; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Resources Expended

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 Circuit to pay out resources.

Grants

Grants made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment.

VAT

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

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Circuit

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £500.

The freehold property is shown in the accounts at 2015 deemed values, of which the land component is deemed to be £350,000. 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.

Investment Properties

Investment properties - no property is currently deemed to not be held for the long term purposes of the charity.

Investments

Investments are valued in the balance sheet at market value at the year end. Investment income is included in the accounts when receivable and any gains or losses on revaluation at the year end are shown in the SOFA.

Debtors and Prepayments

The prepayment included in the accounts is in respect of registration fees for the 3 Generate youth event in November 2016.

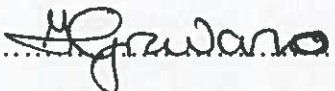
Creditors

Creditors include both sundry expenses and specifically the 1st quarter assessment received in August.

Name of Circuit ...STOKE NORTH..... No...11/15.....

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 Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit meeting.


Signature of treasurer  Date... 1/3/22

Name and address of treasurer 838 High Lane

..... Stoke on Trent Post Code... ST6 6HG

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 were presented to the Circuit meeting held on 9th March 2022

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting REV. JENNY DYER Date 14/7/22

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Stoke North Methodist Circuit

Charity Number 11/15

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Stoke North Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2021 set out on pages ... to 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.

Name of Circuit STOKE NORTH..... No ...11/15.....

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination 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; or
- 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.
- the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts.

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

I have 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: Glenn Gerald Parkes

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner: ACPA

Name of firm: Glenn Parkes & Co Ltd

Address: The Manse, Temple Street, Fenton, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 4NW.

Date 8/3/22