



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date			Period end date		
Day	Month	Year	Day	Month	Year
From 01	09	2021	To 31	08	2022

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

Charity's principal address

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 R Blurton	Mrs A Stanyer
Rev. K Kerchal	Mr T Tideswell	Mr K Prosser
Rev. J Smith	Mr D Floyd	
	Mr E Hambleton	Mrs L Bould
Mr P Owen	Mrs L Lawton	Miss C Rowe
Mr Carl Farnell		Mr J Tildsley
Mrs Jill Bennett	Mr D Broad	Miss P Baker
Mrs E Scott	Mr R Perry	Miss S Ray
Mr H Bowyer	Mrs J Machin	
Mrs S Cooke	Ms H Snashall	Mr J Smith
Mrs C Foster		Mrs B Wilson
Mrs K Roberts	Mrs B Barnes	Mrs M Smith
Mrs O Brooks	Mr S Gloyne	Mrs J Cope
	Mrs M Joynson	
Mrs J Dolan		
Mrs D Clowry	Mrs Y Farnell	
Mr A Hickerman	Mr P Plant	
	Mrs J Shaw	
Mrs S Bowyer	Mr N Holdcroft	
Mrs P Turner		

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)

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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 had throughout this year nine churches, which run weekly services of worship (or in one case, twice-monthly). These are open to all people, without charge. The Circuit also 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, both for Methodist members and members of the public who request them.

Each of the churches runs or supports various activities, including fellowship and Bible Study groups, children's and youth activities, 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 project in Burslem supporting people experiencing homelessness. Meals are served every Wednesday and Saturday evening, and church members and others are involved as volunteers, either cooking the meals at home, or being present in the centre to serve the meals and provide conversation and support.

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 2022 of £314,200.47. This fund derives from sales of chapels and manse. In addition, a sum of £321,488.56 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. £264,260.45 was held in a permanent endowment fund 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

All our churches had re-opened for worship on Easter Sunday 2021 following the lockdowns of the Covid pandemic. A weekly Bible Study group that started on Zoom while it was not possible to meet 'in-person' is still continuing on Zoom. Other groups and activities that had to cease during Covid were still restarting and recovering in September 2021, and have continued to do so.

One of our former churches which had decided not to re-open after Covid – Ball Green Methodist Church – was put on the market. Since it had been built less than 25 years before with money from the Coalfields Regeneration Trust, their consent to the sale had to be obtained. It was given subject to the money being used for the employment of a Children and Families Worker. Towards the end of the year a sale was agreed to the Redeemed Christian Church of God, and the post of Children and Families Worker was advertised.

A decision was taken at the 2021 Methodist Conference to allow churches to register for same-sex marriages and as a result conversations were held in each of our Church Councils to decide whether to do so. In the event, a number of churches decided to register for such marriages and others not to, and some to delay the decision to a later date. In some churches these were difficult conversations, and a number of church members decided to leave the Methodist Church and worship in other more socially conservative churches.

During the previous year our Circuit had taken the decision to merge with Stoke-on-Trent (South) Circuit from September 2022. The year 2021-2022 was therefore the final year of the Stoke-on-Trent North Circuit. Many of our circuit-level meetings were held jointly during the year, as we got to know the staff and officers of the south circuit and laid plans for the merger. We look forward from September 2022 to being a circuit of 17 churches, covering most parts of Stoke-on-Trent and some of the villages beyond its boundary, and to working with a larger Circuit Leadership Team.

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 and by offering grants to churches for property and employment projects. It is anticipated that once we have merged with Stoke-on-Trent (South) Circuit, there may be further calls on this money as we seek to support Longton Central Hall in ambitious property proposals that are currently being explored.

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.

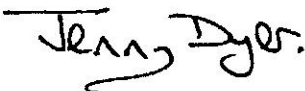
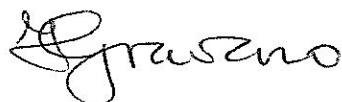
Our chief expenditure is on the stipends of the ministers and salary of the Circuit Administrator, all engaged in meeting our key objectives.

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 Meeting Secretary

Date 17/7/23

Name of Circuit

STOKE NORTH

Circuit No

11/15

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2022

	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2021-22 £	Total 2020-21 £
Income							
1 Donations and legacies						0	30
2 Income from monetary investments	10,840	10,665				21,505	7,940
3 Income from investment properties	6,015					6,015	5,596
4 Assessments on Churches	123,097					123,097	123,843
5 Capital Receipts						0	136,253
6 Grants received						0	0
7 Other charitable income	29,936					29,936	21,708
8 Total income	169,888	10,665	0	0	0	180,553	295,370
Expenditure							
9 Grants and donations	700	110,500				111,200	0
10 Salaries and associated costs	129,123					129,123	133,681
11 Property maintenance	15,558					15,558	11,807
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy						0	34,288
13 District Assessment & Levy	35,648	15,977				51,625	45,313
14 Depreciation	121					121	121
15 Office expenses	7,043					7,043	4,242
16 Other outgoings	2,391	50,939				53,330	34,998
17 Total charitable expenditure	190,584	177,416	0	0	0	368,000	264,450
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments						0	0
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties		-2,391			-23,821	-26,212	44,615
20 Net income/(expenditure)	-20,696	-169,142	0	0	-23,821	-213,659	75,535
21 Transfers between funds						0	0
22 Other gains/(losses)							
23 Net movement in funds	-20,696	-169,142	0	0	-23,821	-213,659	75,535
24 Total funds brought forward	649,564	860,247			288,081	1,797,892	1,722,357
25 Total funds carried forward	628,868	691,105	0	0	264,260	1,584,233	1,797,892

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2022

General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2021/22	Totals 2020/21
£	£	£	£	£	£	£

Fixed Assets

Circuit Manses & Equipment	543,913				543,913	544,034
Investment properties	0				0	0
Investments	0				0	0
Total fixed assets	543,913	0	0	0	543,913	544,034

Current Assets

Debtors	5,405				5,405	17,820
Loans by the Circuit					0	0
Investments with TMCP		691,105		264,260	955,365	1,148,328
Central Finance Board Deposits	23,346				23,346	48,092
Cash at Bank and in hand	71,668				71,668	41,400
Total current assets	100,419	691,105	0	264,260	1,055,784	1,255,640

Current liabilities

Creditors (due in under 1 year)	15,464				15,464	1,782
Grants payable within 2020-21					0	0
Total current liabilities	15,464	0	0	0	15,464	1,782
Net current assets/liabilities	84,955	691,105	0	264,260	1,040,320	1,253,858

Total assets less current liabilities	628,868	691,105	0	264,260	1,584,233	1,797,892
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Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)						
Grants payable after 2020-21					0	0
Loans to the Circuit					0	0
Net assets	628,868	691,105	0	264,260	1,584,233	1,797,892

Funds of the Circuit

General Fund (Unrestricted)	628,868				628,868	649,564
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)		691,105			691,105	860,247
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)			0		0	0
Total Unrestricted Funds					1,319,973	1,509,811
Restricted Funds			0		0	0
Endowment Funds				264,260	264,260	288,081
Total Funds	628,868	691,105	0	264,260	1,584,233	1,797,892



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

STOKE NORTH METHODIST CIRCUIT

On accounts for the year
ended

31st AUGUST 2022

Charity no
(if any)

1134240

Set out on pages

6 AND 7

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31st August 2022.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity'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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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

The charity'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 gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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:

Date:

28/2/23

Name:

GLENN GERALD PARKES MBE

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

Address: THE MANSE, TEMPLE STREET
FENTON, STOKE-ON-TRENT
ST4 4NW

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.