

**THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT  
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH  
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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<b>Charity number</b>	1134265
<b>Principal address</b>	Brunswick Methodist Church Brunswick Place Newcastle upon Tyne Tyne and Wear NE1 7BJ
<b>Auditor</b>	Robson Laidler Accountants Limited Fernwood House Fernwood Road Jesmond Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 2TJ
<b>Bankers</b>	Lloyds Bank plc 102 Grey Street Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7BJ  Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church 9 Bonhill Street London EC2A 4PE
<b>Solicitors</b>	Sintons LLP The Cube Barrack Road Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 6DB
<b>Surveyors and Valuers</b>	Lambert Smith Hampton 41-51 Grey Street Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 6DB
<b>Custodian Trustees</b>	The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes Central Buildings Oldham Street Manchester M1 5JQ

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# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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### Trustees

Deacon A Carter  
Rev P Holwell – retired 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2021  
Rev P Cleever-Thorpe (Chair)  
Rev J Jackson – retired 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2021  
Rev Alex D Mabbs – appointed 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2022  
Rev J Mooney  
Rev A Moorhouse  
Deacon G Morgan  
Revd K Reader  
Revd Prof D Wilkinson  
Revd A Wilkinson  
Revd Dr G F Wilson  
Revd L Law – retired 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2021  
Revd G Hume  
Deacon T Hume  
Mrs C Carroll – retired 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2021  
A Mason  
Revd M Newman  
Revd J M Thornton  
Mrs J Anderson  
Mrs J Atherton  
L Lawson  
I Moore  
Ms R Taglione (appointed 1.9.20)  
Miss T Hopwood – resigned 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2021  
Ms K Laws – resigned 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2021  
A Nicholson  
R Wylie  
Mrs R Wilkinson  
Mrs A Weightman  
Mrs J Short – Deceased  
Mrs N Pigeon  
D Pigeon  
M Ball  
A Barker  
Mrs J Bell  
Ms Rachel Bourne-Spence – appointed 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2022  
Miss C Brindley  
Mrs K Brindley  
Mrs A Brown – resigned 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021  
Mrs L Bryan –resigned 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2021  
H Chapman  
Ms V Choi (appointed 1.9.20)  
D Cowans  
Mrs C L Eke J. P.  
Mrs B Fellows  
W Filmer  
Miss S Fuller  
K Gilfillan J.P.  
Miss M Goldfinch  
Dr L Graham  
Mrs M E Graham  
Mrs C Hall  
B Hamil  
J E Hawdon – resigned 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021

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# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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### Trustees (continued):

Miss W Ho  
Miss A Ilderton  
Miss J C Kelsall  
Mrs J Keltie  
Miss A Lambert  
S Lau – resigned 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2021  
E Leung  
Ms I Leung  
D Lowry  
P H Martin  
K McKenzie – resigned 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2021  
Mrs L Morley  
Mrs P Newman  
Miss G Patrick  
R Pickard  
S J Richardson  
T F Rogers  
D A Stabler  
K Stewart  
P Stewart – resigned 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021  
Ms J Shuen  
D W Thornton  
T C Yip  
Mrs S H Walker  
M Ward  
A Wilkinson  
Mrs G Wilkinson  
Mr R Ward

### Circuit Stewards

The Circuit Stewards, who are the treasurers of the Circuit fund, who served during the year and until the date of this report, were as follows:-

Mrs Margaret Graham (Finance)  
Mr Ken McKenzie – resigned 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2021  
Mr David Lowry – resigned 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021  
Mr Keith Gilfillan J.P.  
Miss Audrey Ilderton (Senior Circuit Steward)  
Mrs Carolyn Hall – appointed 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2022

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# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

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# **THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2021.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 3 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

### **Preamble**

The Methodist Church is said to have been created after John Wesley's conversion on 24th May, 1738, it is a Free Church. The Newcastle Central and East Circuit came into being on 1st September, 2009 at the merger of the former Newcastle Heaton & Wallsend and Newcastle Brunswick Central Circuits, the latter was, in itself formed from a merger in the early 1970's from the Brunswick and Central & Sandyford Circuits. The calling of The Methodist Church is:

Worship, to increase awareness of God's Presence and celebrate God's love.  
Learning and caring, to help people to grow and learn as Christians.  
Service, to be a good neighbour to people in need and challenge injustice.  
Evangelism we make more followers of Jesus Christ.

### **Objectives and activities**

The Circuit is constituted to advance the effective deployment of the resources of ministry, which include people, property and finance, as they relate to the Methodist Churches in the Circuit, the District and Connexion, to Churches of other denominations and to participation in the communities served by the Circuit and in ecumenical work in the area. The Constitution and Enumeration of Circuits is set out year by year in the Stations appointed by the Conference.

### **Grantmaking policy**

The Circuit meeting is minded to make occasional grants from one of the funds. These grants are discretionary and full details are given in the accounts. The funds are:

- The general fund, for example grants to the District Benevolence fund.
- The Model Trust [formerly the Circuit Advance Fund] is exhausted.
- The City Centre Fund, this is used in the same way as a Model Trust - it is controlled by the Managing Trustees of the District.
- The Susannah Gibson Memorial Fund, grants may be made for "the sustenance of Wesleyan Methodist Ministers" - no grants have been awarded in the year under consideration.
- The Doris Nutall bequest - funds may be used at the discretion of the Circuit Meeting, but in practice money is used at and on the former South Gosforth Methodist Church, which Doris Nutall attended.
- The Elizabeth Ann Burton bequest - money was left to the former Willington Quay Methodist Church, the Circuit subsequently obtained a Charity Commission Order which allows it to control all the assets of the bequest, it should be noted that although Mrs Burton passed away in 1972 it was only in February 2011 that the Circuit became aware that there was a substantial sum of money and two Tyneside flats to be transferred to the Circuit. The flats have been refurbished and have been let to people in need, via the charity Oasis Aquila, but are now being marketed for sale.
- Bequest funds - funds may be used at the discretion of the Circuit meeting, for mission of the church.
- The Deacons' Fund - this fund was created by a vote at the Spring Circuit Meeting 2019, by agreeing to use the three remaining small Model Trusts and the balance of the general fund of the former Allen Memorial Methodist Church. In order to achieve this, a Charity Commission Order has been obtained and in the case of trust 1486 the Methodist Council voted to approve the transfer of the W R Dixon gift to the Deacons' Fund. Trust 1486 is a permanent endowment, Trust 5377 capital and income can be used and Trust 5377B income can be used and capital with restrictions. In practice, it is the intention that a Deacon can use the income only for work in the Wallsend area at their discretion.

# **THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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### **Public benefit**

The public benefit can be clearly demonstrated by the Trustees as they have fulfilled the calling of the Methodist Church in maintaining the witness of the church throughout the area which the Circuit serves in parts of Newcastle and North Tyneside. The grants made have enabled the work to continue and young people to develop themselves and grow in faith.

### **Achievements and performance**

Activities during the year and our achievements

The Circuit has continued to fulfil its basic role of providing ministers to be in pastoral charge of the Societies (Local Churches) which make up the Circuit and support the churches in various ways including providing financial help for their work. We provide ministers with manses (two manses are owned by The United Reformed Church, Northern Synod) and see that, through the Methodist Church and United Reformed Church Central Services, they are paid their stipends and allowances. Those manses not immediately required have been let on assured short hold leases as have the two flats in Willington Quay.

During the year under review, we have appointed a new URC Minister to serve in our Circuit with effect from September 2021. There was also a change to our team of Circuit Stewards with the number reducing, resulting in increased workload on the remaining members of this lay leadership group. The Superintendent and Stewards meet regularly, as does the Circuit Leadership Team.

The Circuit Stewards are the Lay Leaders of The Circuit, they are Managing Trustees as are all members of The Circuit Meeting and as Stewards they are responsible for managing the day to day operation of all Circuit affairs in consultation with the Superintendent Minister. The Circuit Meeting (Managing Trustees) met three times in the year.

The life, work, and ministry of the Circuit is underpinned by prayer, public worship and personal commitment to follow Christ. We continue to base our Circuit's mission and our churches growth plans upon the four aspects of 'Our Calling' of The Methodist Church: 'Worship', 'Service', 'Learning & Caring' & 'Evangelism'.

Over the year we have continued to work more flexibly in order to adapt to new stringencies necessary on all churches following the outbreak of Coronavirus. We have continued to explore new ways of worship, learning and caring, often in an on-line context as face-to-face gatherings have been far more limited. Whilst this has been difficult for those who are less able to access on-line worship and other activities, those who have been able to expand their on-line presence have seen significant numbers of new people engaging with their church's life. This has been very encouraging to witness.

Sadly, one of our Societies, Heaton Methodist Church, requested to 'cease to meet' in October 2020. This request was granted and so the closure of the church took place at the end of 2020. Our hope is that Christian worship and witness will continue on the site now that it has been sold and that the Kingdom of God will continue to grow there.

There were a few changes to Circuit office holders, as noted in the minutes of our Circuit Meetings. The Circuit is also served by Ministers of other traditions and the Circuit continues to have full responsibility for paying those employed by The United Reformed Church.

### **CIRCUIT RISK POLICY**

During the year under review the Circuit Stewards and Superintendent once again reviewed the 'Risk policy statement' which covers the following areas:

# **THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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### **Financial**

The Circuit Meeting is faced with the following financial risks:

- dependency on limited income sources (Assessments, investment income and donations);
- managing the capital resources;
- fluctuations in investment income and rental income;
- inability to attract additional donations from the general public and members;
- an unforeseen rise in demand for expenditure (for example on Manses and Chapels);
- an unforeseen increase in the actuarial shortfall on the pension funds for which the Circuit Meeting could be deemed responsible (the Circuit is already contributing to a shortfall);
- an unforeseen increase in the requirement for an additional manse or other property;
- a sustained fall in the value of investments and property held by the Circuit and appearing in the balance sheet.

### **Operation, Reputation and Strategy**

In 2020/2021, we identified the other most significant risks as follows:

- inability to create new Methodist disciples resulting in further decline, ultimately resulting in the Methodist Church ceasing to exist;
- failure to provide adequate resources that enable the Circuit Meeting to discharge its responsibilities;
- the experience of Our Calling fails to be integrated into the mission and ministry pathways of the Circuit;
- sudden change in policy or strategic direction enforced by The Circuit Meeting;
- dependency on limited income sources (Assessments, investment income and donations);
- the impact of economic fluctuations on our assets, liabilities and our ability to raise funds to enable us to continue our work.
- an unforeseen increase in the actuarial shortfall on the pension funds for which the Circuit Meeting could be deemed responsible;
- loss of key personnel;
- the effects of 'Brexit'.

These risks are likely to remain equally relevant throughout 2021 and beyond.

### **Risk management**

The Methodist Church in Great Britain has a risk management policy, which has been set by the Methodist Council for use both by the Trustees and by Circuits. The risk management policy is designed to identify and analyse key strategic and operational risks facing the Methodist Church and, where at unacceptable levels, to take steps to mitigate the risks.

We define key strategic and operational risks as those that, without effective or appropriate mitigation, are highly likely to occur and would have a positive or negative impact on the Church's ability to fulfil its purpose of advancing the Christian faith in accordance with its doctrinal standards. These risks are reported to the Managing Trustees through a risk management process, which allows them both to challenge any assumptions the Circuit Leadership team has made about risks and also to understand the context in which decisions are taken. This helps to ensure that the most serious risks are being managed effectively.

The trustees recognise that it is neither possible nor appropriate to seek to eliminate risk entirely. We recognise that risk-taking is inherent within the task of communicating the Gospel; John Wesley himself took risks in establishing the Methodist communities.

Our task, therefore, is to embrace risks that aim to advance the Church's purposes while ensuring that we avoid or minimise those risks that might have a negative impact. Effective risk management processes will help to increase the likelihood of the Church fulfilling its mission. The risk management report is reviewed and revised annually. The Circuit continues to be blessed with the continuing ministry of our Supernumeraries; thanks go to Rev'd Ian T White, Rev'd Joan M. Thornton and Rev'd Malcolm A. Newman. We are also grateful to Rev. Derek A. Aldridge, a supernumerary in the Newcastle West Circuit, who came to reside in our circuit in early 2021 and kindly takes appointments in our circuit too.



# **THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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### **Risk management - continued**

The Local Preachers and Worship Leaders continue to serve the Circuit in their calling. There were five preachers' in training, at various stages, during the year.

During the year – because of the coronavirus restrictions - it became impossible for the Superintendent and Circuit Leadership Team to continue the programme of review of all Churches and projects as required by the Annual Conference of The Methodist Church. Whilst growth or end of life plans were not feasible, our churches have still achieved much. It is hoped that over the next year or so, it will be possible to continue the programme of review commenced in 2018/2019. The Local Preachers and Worship Leaders continue to serve the Circuit in their calling.

### **Brunswick Methodist Church**

Brunswick Methodist Church has been very fortunate to have been able to mitigate the financial impacts of Covid. At the start of this financial year we began to see a steady uptake in room bookings which continued through the whole year. This was in addition to our main tenant, a Christian charity called 'Junction 42', having not only continued to use our premises throughout all of the lockdowns but also expanding their use of rooms. So, this has had a huge impact upon our continuing financial viability.

It is important to note that our church has actively functioned even when face-to-face gatherings may not have been possible in our building. This has been possible due to our online 'real time' worship services and our online prayers run 'live' three times per week. We have also kept in regular contact with those not able to access church online during lockdowns by circulating worship material for every Sunday.

Overall, whilst this has been an incredibly challenging and uncertain year, we ended it in a strong place in terms of the use of our building, the continuing employment of our paid staff, and the growth in numbers to our church community, connecting with new people not only in our city of Newcastle but right across the world!

### **Newcastle Chinese Methodist Church**

Since March 2020, due to the Covid 19 lockdown, all of our church service and activities could only be held online. The number of members and the offering to the church were also reduced in 2020. In May 2021, we resumed our live Sunday Service on a bi-weekly basis and, since December 2021, our Sunday service has resumed as normal.

Since the beginning of 2021, a large number of Hong Kong BNO migrants have moved to Newcastle. Many of them have come to our Chinese church on their own initiative and most of them are young families. They have children studying in primary or secondary schools. Therefore, the number of children in our church has increased in a short period of time. We have to provide them with a Sunday school service and Youth fellowship and we have to provide pastoral care to these families. Our church has limited manpower - only one full-time and one part-time Pastoral worker whose workload has greatly increased suddenly. In addition, Rev. Lawrence Law retired in August 2021 and this will mean that the Pastoral workers will have to take on a lot of administrative work and participate in various meetings in the coming year.

New families are coming to our church every week. We need more manpower to run our Sunday school and other activities. Although we are facing a lot of challenges, we are sure that God will lead us and He gives us strength to serve Him. We hope that we can fulfil the mission that God has given us.

### **The Church of the Good Shepherd, Battle Hill**

Church of the Good Shepherd, Battle Hill (COGS) live streamed morning worship services and occasional evening services from the beginning of the pandemic. The services were led by the clergy of the Willington Team, mainly from their Vicarages and, through continued relationship building, a number of people who were new to our church began worshipping regularly. We realised the valuable outreach of streaming, especially to people who were vulnerable or unable to come to the church building.

# **THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021***

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### **The Church of the Good Shepherd, Battle Hill (continued)**

As a result we installed I.T. equipment and broadband access in the church building and have live streamed worship services since. We were very thankful for the grant we received to enable us to purchase the equipment. There has been a good attendance online and gradually the number of people worshipping in church has increased. The safety measures in place and the impact of Covid makes worship feel different. There is still a sense of loss and frustration for what has gone before and there is the challenge to work through this. Increased pastoral care by the Minister has been much appreciated, as has the work to engage with the wider community.

We obtained Holiday Action Fund money and ran a Summer Activity Day for families in the local area. This included indoor and outdoor sports and games as well as lunch – all free to participants. The feedback from families was extremely positive.

Hot Chocolate youth group continued on a detached basis for young people aged 13-18 years.

Online songs and Christian stories were produced for our Little Shepherds baby and Toddler Group until the group were able to meet in person from September 2021. This has been an effective way to engage with those families. As a result, two of the grandparents have now become volunteers at this group.

The Lunch Club twice made and delivered afternoon teas to the members which was much appreciated. The intentional increased use of Facebook and social media has helped reach the community and brought comfort and hope. During this whole period the financial generosity of the church members has been exceptional with commitments to all three denominations met.

### **Coxlodge Methodist Church**

Coxlodge has a small, mainly elderly congregation and serves the communities of Coxlodge, Fawdon, Kenton and the west of Gosforth. Undoubtedly the months between September 2020 and August 2021 were a difficult time for everyone. The experience since the beginning of the pandemic had made those of us at Coxlodge look closely at what we do, and why and how we could deliver the things that mattered most in new ways.

We realised early on that, though we had always known the church was not about the building, we were now focused on the church i.e. the people. It was particularly important to care for those who have given so many years of faithful witness and service and who were now isolated. We ensured everyone had regular weekly phone calls and offers of help, and occasional chatty letters and inspirational articles were posted out. Everyone benefitted from the online services provided by our minister, Gavin, whether by watching them on YouTube or receiving them as DVDs so that weekly worship could still continue. Whilst we began to have in person worship in the summer, the videos continue to be accessed by those unable to attend and are a real blessing.

We were keen to continue to communicate with the families who attended Messy Church. Parents were very grateful for, not only monthly packs of activities delivered to their doors, but the brief opportunity this afforded to share their news and worries, knowing that we would pray for them. Each month the message of the themed crafts could be watched online linking them together with a story, song and prayer.

We kept in touch with groups that hired our hall, assuring them that we were thinking of them. This was particularly important for the 'Caddyshacks' who usually met one day per week and whose members, adults with learning disabilities, struggled to understand why they could not come to their 'favourite club' or indeed go anywhere!

We are very grateful for the donations from individuals within the Connexion and for a Covid Recovery grant from Newcastle City Council which enabled us to survive when there was no income from rentals. This also helped us to swiftly put in place 'Covid safe' measures so groups (especially Caddyshacks) could recommence. We have since welcomed two new community groups ('Bloom Baby' classes and the Three C's social group) and have been able to offer a space to meet to a local Brownie Pack. Church members and friends were able to get together to plan the collection of food for the People's Kitchen (to be completed by October).

# **THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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### **Jesmond Methodist Church**

For most of the year, due to Covid restrictions, JMC has functioned online, with our Sunday services being streamed on Facebook. We have had people join us, and say they are watching, and we have joined in small groups, again mainly online, and as restrictions have eased we have also had church picnics, meetings of small groups outside, and the monthly women's brunch has met in person when able, and online the rest of the time. JMC has taken a financial hit, as many churches have, but mostly because we made the decision to support the café in our building with a combination of rent holidays and reduced rent, to enable them to function with reduced capacity when able to open or solely as a takeaway service.

We tried to be inventive and creative at building connection and community in different ways. We have shared communion, by delivering reserved sacrament, blessed by our minister, to take whilst watching the recording of the blessing of the sacrament they had delivered. A number who ran the great North Run this year, met at the end and shared communion together. We have held a wedding with only 15 people, but captured the joy and delight even with limited numbers.

We have tried to be inventive in the use of our closed building – during advent we have a scene that has changed daily depicting the Christmas story - this was floodlit and a spectacular endeavour. We had weekly advent give aways, with chocolate, tree ornaments and small gifts to communicate the love of Christmas. Over all 200+ gifts were taken, 50 children's nativity story books, 15 gospels, and 100 tracts.

Like many churches we have seen new opportunities open up, but also grieve the loss of many events and opportunities to worship God, celebrate His goodness and be a physical community. We will continue to stream services and, thanks to a legacy gift, we will be fitting equipment to do this in the autumn, and we will continue to seek to be a community of faith that orientates itself on the worship of God and the working out of sharing that love within the place we find ourselves to be.

### **St. Andrew's Church, Benton (Methodist and United Reformed LEP)**

The church continues serving the communities of Benton and Forest Hall with regular public worship of a variety of styles to meet the needs of different people. Learning and Caring is expressed through Discipleship Groups and the Pastoral Team, as well as through groups and activities that serve the community. The church offers service to the community through raising money for many causes through and contributions from the CARE fund (a percentage of our church giving), providing practical help to those in need, and hosting many community groups and activities. The church has been seeking to reach out to the community through things such as community activities at particular times of year - especially Easter and Christmas – through gifts, acts of kindness, prayers, and building relationships with those who use our building.

While many activities have been put on hold, or moved online, during Covid, the members have done all they can to continue worshipping, caring and serving their community in these difficult times. The church also continues to be a visible expression of Christian unity, with Methodist and URC traditions working in harmony.

### **St. Cuthbert's Church, Heaton (Methodist and United Reformed LEP)**

This has been a very strange year for everyone at St Cuthbert's as we remained closed until the beginning of October, only having a couple of meetings of the Church Leaders.

During that time we had a poster on the notice board thanking the NHS and key workers, which was remarked on by several people who passed or worked in the local shops. At Christmas last year we put decorations up – we weren't there physically but the place was not deserted. Two of our members kept the garden tidy and looked after and this was definitely appreciated by the local community. One lady in particular stopped one of our members to say how lovely it looked and how much the local community appreciated it. At Easter we put up our cross in the garden but it was not decorated with daffodils as usual. The young couple who have recently taken over the café opposite the church came over and put daffodils in hoping we wouldn't mind.

# **THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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### **St. Cuthbert's Church, Heaton (continued)**

We have had several requests about hiring of the premises and regular hirers are starting to come back. The Girl's Brigade have returned with vigour and as we had the church professionally cleaned before we came back the girls have been even more tidy and caring of the premises than usual.

During the time we have been closed we have tried to keep in touch with everyone via e-mail, telephone and carefully arranged visits. One of our members has produced a regular newsletter to everyone with contributions from the minister and secretary also. This has been distributed in various ways including by post and hand delivery. This regular contact has been remarked upon by more than just the congregation. It's lovely to be back and see everyone in person and start to get back to "normal".

### **Church of St. John the Evangelist, Kingston Park (LEP)**

We are thankful for the dedication of so many people who continue to work to make sure St John's continues not only to survive, but to thrive during these challenging times. Rather than sitting back and hibernating during recent months, people have continued to care for one another, to pray, to do practical tasks and to support the church financially. Whilst we are once again able to meet in the church building we are looking to find ways to continue our online presence as that is reaching so many people, and currently exploring the most helpful ways of dovetailing this with worship and learning that takes place in the building.

Exciting things have been happening in recent months - these include the following:

- Attendance at Sunday and Wednesday services in the building has been slowly rising and we are encouraged to see new faces amongst us.
- A second online Alpha course has just finished and a number of those involved have expressed interest in continuing to meet via zoom to explore the Bible. These sessions will begin in January for anyone who would like to join.
- Tinytots baby and toddler group has re-opened with a new leader and many local families attending.
- Weekly coffee morning 'The Beacon' has re-started with good attendance so far, and the opportunity to offer a place of welcome and friendship to those in the community around us, including asylum seekers staying in the nearby Novotel.
- Community events: In the summer St John's hosted an 'Out of lockdown party' for the community. This was held outdoors and included live music, fairground rides, food trucks, art and crafts, face painting, games, 'holiday club' style activities for children, and a prayer tent. At the beginning of December a Community Carol sing was held with the help of Newcastle Choral society and Kingston Park primary school and this took place in the car park of our local Tesco store. It is hoped that such community events will continue to be part of the life of St John's with perhaps three or four events each year.
- In September an Eco Team was set up with the aim of establishing and pursuing an Environmental Plan for St John's. This includes efforts to reduce our energy use and carbon footprint, to reduce water use and waste and to care for wildlife and ecology in the church grounds. It also involves promoting local, organic, animal-friendly and fairtrade produce and reaching out to our community in order to raise awareness more widely and to encourage recycling and re-use.

We are so thankful for the many people who contribute countless hours, often behind the scenes, to ensuring that St John's continues to be alive, active and effective in sharing the gospel.

### **Trinity Church, Gosforth (LEP)**

Orprie: The Organisation Prix d'Encouragement (ORPRIE) is a not-for-profit organisation working in quality Education in Haiti. ORPRIE was launched in 2015 in Vialet, Haiti to assist the best, and most needy elementary and secondary students and children to realise their full potential. As a result of coming to know one of Orprie's fundraisers Trinity agreed to sponsor 9 Haitian students per year for three years @ £200 pa each.

Foodbank: Due to the difficulties of collecting goods in the Trinity Centre, Church Council agreed instead to appeal for money which could be spent by the Foodbank according to the needs of the community. Members have generously given £8,000 this year.

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## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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### **Trinity Church, Gosforth (LEP) continued**

**Social Justice Lasses:** This local group supports women and refugees who are leaving hostels with toiletries, cleaning materials and necessities. This is not yet registered as a charity but members fully support the aims and have given £3500 as a result of newsletter appeals. Several members are also closely involved with the organisation.

**Men's Shed:** Registered with the Men's Shed Association, it is based at South Gosforth Christian Community Centre (TCCC) and meets Monday evenings for dads and sons and Thursday morning for men only. The Circuit allocated £3.8k

**Achievements:** The Church opened in May for Sunday worship and has remained open alongside streaming the service on YouTube. We are looking into developing hybrid worship by upgrading our digital equipment.

**Pastoral Work** – this has increased substantially since the beginning of the pandemic.

**Appeals** – Trinity has donated to the following: Haiti (following the earthquake), Afghanistan and Sierra Leone - £2.5k

A gift service was held on Sunday 28th November so we could support families struggling financially - the gifts donated for teenage children are to be distributed via Social Services through one of our members.

#### **Trinity Centre**

To help the owners of Café 1901, we reduced the monthly rent to a nominal £1 per month while the Centre was closed and gradually increased it back to the full amount – the relationship with the café is very important to the Centre and church.

Since the Centre reopened, 38 hirers have returned.

#### **Grants**

£30k Heritage Lottery Grant

£9k Local Authority grant, two identical, one for Centre & one for TCCC.

### **Trinity Methodist Church, Wallsend**

For a small congregation, during this very difficult year, Trinity have had some wonderful achievements where relationships have deepened.

The pastoral visitors have telephoned their class members very regularly and visited when able. Also there have been regular conversations on an informal basis. The church family were deeply saddened when one of our younger members died suddenly last December and especially when Covid restrictions allowed so few to be at the crematorium. They have rallied round the widower giving constant support.

With the church building being closed we were blessed to have one of our stewards with the IT expertise to record services. We began recording a short service each week which went out on YouTube. The response was enormous, so much so that when we returned to worship in the building, we made the decision to continue recording, enabling those who still feel that they cannot return, to continue worshipping. We also sent paper copies out to those without access to watch the service.

We have always had a newsletter but, during this year, we made it much fuller to enable folk to stay connected. We decided that paying the postage cost was worth it.

Like everyone, our finances have been affected so we were pleased to slowly be able to welcome community groups back into the church hall and the blessing of a new regular group for mums with babies, and a new Scout group.

### **West Moor Methodist Church**

With a congregation mostly in the 'vulnerable' category, and many not online, the past couple of years have been a challenge, and the frailty of the elderly congregation became even more apparent in restarting worship and other activities after Covid shutdowns. Due to a variety of reasons, chiefly the lack of people to take on roles required to fulfil responsibilities as managing trustees, the sad decision was made to close in the summer of 2020, with the final act of worship taking place on 7th November 2021.

# **THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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### **The Wesley Orphan House Trust**

The WOHT derives most of its income from rent of the site of the former 'Orphan House' on Northumberland Street, plus a limited sum from investments. Annually, the trust budgets to have approximately £25,000 available for grants and favours work with children, the vulnerable, education and occasionally for property improvements where the outcome is mission based.

Despite this being a difficult year for applicants and trustee meetings, a total of sixteen grants were made. This was a welcome increase on the previous year's total of seven.

Three were rolling grants over a five year period: a. "Together Mission NE", b. The South Shields Bede Circuit mission outreach shop, c. The Wesley Study Centre.

The other grants were: d. Marie Curie, e. Action for children, f. High Southwick Methodist Church, g. Calvert Trust, Northumberland, h. Strathmore Road Methodist Church, i. Balliol Youth Project, j. Trinity Gosforth, Men's Shed, k. MCF Fund for Human Need, l. Daniel Gibson, for Yorkshire Camp training and leading, m. Walker Foodbank, n. Cornerstone, o. Disha Mercy Mithra, short-term student accommodation costs.

These grants totalled £17,000.

An application form and written guidance are available from the Secretary.

### **"Presence" In Walker**

This has been another year when we have felt the impact of Covid 19. There have been fewer face to face meetings and support sessions. However, we have maintained our work and our contact with the most vulnerable. Food parcels have been provided to families and to vulnerable individuals on a weekly basis.

We were able to plan and deliver family activity days during the school summer holidays. These included free craft activities, face painting and a variety of entertainment.

Debt advice work has continued to be undertaken remotely – with some face to face meetings as lockdown restrictions ended.

We have stayed connected with members of various groups through phone calls, emails, texts and cards.

Importantly, people know that we're still here and not planning to go anywhere.

### **Hand In Hand project**

Hand in Hand has two clubs, one in Heaton and one in Wallsend.

#### **Wallsend**

The club closed in March 2020 and reopened in August 2021 for a short time offering refreshments and cake. The members were so thankful to be able to meet people and have a chat. During this time the 2 staff and 3 volunteers have rung every member each Tuesday - the usual day for the club - to have a conversation. This was a lifeline for everyone and was gratefully received. Sadly, some members have died during the year but the letters of thanks that have been received has been truly wonderful and such a blessing for the team.

#### **Heaton**

Like Wallsend the club closed in March 2020. Hand in Hand in Heaton had its home in Heaton Methodist Church which ceased to meet in October 2020, effectively making them 'homeless.' However, the volunteer club co-ordinators faithfully rang every member each Tuesday to have a conversation which, as at Wallsend, was gratefully received. Sadly, two members have died and others are no longer able to attend. The club coordinators are retired Salvation Army officers and were privileged to lead both the funeral services. They also continue to pastorally care for those who cannot attend. In the summer they were able to meet together in their garden which was wonderful for everyone. The club have found a new home and it continues to be a blessing for everyone.

# **THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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### **Shieldfield Art Works @ The Holy Biscuit**

Between September 2020-August 2021 we have achieved much at SAW. As part of Shieldfield Wheatfield we were able to harvest, thresh and mill our own grain which we used to bake 10 community loaves to share at our Grounded Harvest Festival. This urban-food growing project explored food sustainability and how this can bring people together to address social isolation and self-interest. During Christmas we gave out over 150 arts packs to our communities. They encompassed two themes: light & dark and the characters in the Christmas story and we are currently receiving messages to say people are using them again this year. We held Take Over on our online gallery and in a letterbox-friendly exhibition zine - supporting two emerging artists. We ran a programme called Un/Seen exploring how our inability to see art properly, in the flesh, affects our understanding and experience of it and how this idea of physical experience relates to our faith. We used a playful take on a childhood game, forming a chain of whispers which moved between audio and visual description. Ten artists collectively produced an exhibition by creating pieces in sequence. We developed and ran Shieldfield Grows, a programme of activity that seeks to promote sustainable food production, fair land usage and community flourishing. Local residents learnt together with us how to grow their own vegetables in the SAW garden, which we shared within the community. We also wrote regular blog posts for our Mixing Bowl communities and we held online Zoom lessons each week for our Painting for Fun class until we could meet safely inside again, which is currently the case. Finally, we have also been able to appoint a new Director from within the team to aid the continual development of SAW. We think that the variety, extent and ambition of the work we have completed is an astounding success and has continued to flourish Shieldfield, deepen relationships, provide a space of hospitality, challenge injustices and allow for the presence of a Christian voice within the arts and our local communities.

We have been successful in receiving funding from SHED, Sir James Knott Trust, All Churches Trust and SpaceHive, as well as receiving some anonymous one-off donations and achieving a good increase in our personal givers. We have also been able to have our long term bookings (like Potters Church) return to our building after lockdown and we have had many individual bookings from externals. This all aids our financial security and sustainability. God has provided in incredibly generous ways, through individuals, small grants and bigger funders.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **Financial position**

Income for the year ended 31 August 2021 totalled £1,808,740 (2020: £849,477) resulting in a surplus for the year of £1,168,337 (2020: £19,319). Funds totalled £1,931,037 at the year end, of which £1,466,674 are restricted funds and £2,475 are endowment funds. Unrestricted reserves total £461,888 which includes those held for special purpose of £52,198 The Holy Biscuit, £7,020 Hand in hand and £531 Methodist Women in Britain.

### **Reserves policy - general funds**

The definition of reserves is: "income which becomes available to the charity and is to be expended at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the charity's objects, but which is not yet spent, committed or designated." The free reserves of the charity therefore exclude endowments, restricted funds, designated funds and funds already invested in fixed assets. Free reserves of the charity at the year end amounted to £80,641.

The reserves policy for the general and manse funds of the Circuit agreed by the trustees is to hold the equivalent of the relevant annual expenditure, plus an estimate of any known fluctuations. These reserves are held in the Central Finance Board deposit account. The unrestricted funds are currently below the policy, the Circuit Managing Trustees are concerned about this and mindful to address the situation as soon as possible. There are plans to balance the budget over the following two or three years and then start to re-build reserves. Should there be a funding crisis then the Managing Trustees would make an appeal to the Local Churches.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

# **THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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### **Structure, governance and management**

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity. The charity's treasurers of the Circuit Fund are the lay Circuit Stewards, of the Managing Trustees listed previously all are lay people excepting the seventeen ministerial staff, four of whom are retired (Rev'd A Glynn Lister passed away on 7th April 2020, Rev'd John F Cook on 17th January 2020 and Rev'd Brian Dann, on 3rd June 2020 and they were promoted to glory) and one is Principal of St John's College Durham, one is chaplain at Pilgrims Court Methodist Homes Jesmond, and fourteen Lay workers all of whom are, or were, employed either by The Methodist Church, The United Reformed Church or The Church of England. Circuit meetings are generally held three times a year and include representatives of all the Societies (local churches) and projects in the Circuit. The Superintendent Minister (who supervises the work of the other Ministers in the Circuit) reports to this meeting as do the Circuit Stewards.

The governing body of the Circuit is the annual conference of The Methodist Church. The Methodist Church Act 1976 gives the authority under which The Methodist Church acts. The constitution practice and discipline of The Methodist Church (2019 edition) together with The Deed of Union (Act of 1929 adopted 1932) govern the activities of the Circuit.

In general, The Methodist Church is excepted from the need to register as a charity by the combined effects of Section 46(4) (A) of the Charities Act 1993 and Paragraph 4(2) (C) of the Charities (exception from registration) Regulations 1996 as amended by Statutory Instrument 2014 No 242. The Circuit, however, is a separate Registered Charity, number 1134265, in England and Wales.

The Trustees who have served during the year and since the year-end are set out on the legal and administration pages. The treasurers (Circuit Stewards) are appointed annually by the Circuit Meeting annually and the Managing Trustees are appointed either by: (a) the Societies of which they are members; (b) the Preachers' Meeting; or (c) by being ex-officio (Ministers in good standing or holding a District or Connexional Office or duly appointed Lay Workers). In practice, up to seven Circuit Stewards are appointed who serve, generally, for a minimum of 3 years and a maximum of 6.

The principal address of the Circuit's auditors, bankers, solicitors and other advisors are given as part of the reference and administrative details.

The Treasurers are responsible for the detailed examination of the Financial Statements and for recommending their adoption by the Circuit Meeting, they do this in consultation with the Circuit Treasurers Meeting, in practice they have appointed a Circuit Services Manager to handle the day to day financial and property matters, he must refer for guidance and instruction to the Circuit Stewards and Superintendent Minister. The Circuit Services Manager gave notice, in April 2019, of his intention to retire at the end of October 2020 and the Circuit Stewards have prepared a succession plan having identified one person who will become the Treasurer.

The Circuit is one of 12 of the Newcastle District and has 12 Local Churches [14 premises], of which 5 are Local Ecumenical Partnerships, the Circuit also has one other preaching place and one other set of premises that are used for 'fresh expressions of Church' - Shieldfield Art Works @ The Holy Biscuit, and has a 'presence' in Walker at The Pottery Bank Community Centre. They are contactable via the principal address of the Circuit. Funds are transferred to the Circuit on a quarterly basis to meet the commitments to the District and the upkeep of the Circuit.



# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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### **Statement of trustees' responsibilities**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

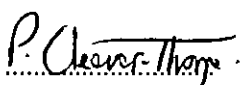
The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



**Rev P Cleever-Thorpe (Chair) – Trustee**

Dated: 25.5.22

# **THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

### **TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

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#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The Newcastle Central and East Circuit (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 August 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

#### **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

#### **Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

# **THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)**

### **TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

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#### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

#### **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

The risk of material misstatement due to error or fraud is deemed to be low within the entity as the charity operates strong internal controls to mitigate any such risk. These controls are reviewed as part of the audit by performing systems walkthroughs to ensure they are operating effectively. Other substantive testing is also performed on all material balances and therefore any instances of non-compliance should be identified or considered as insignificant. Manual journal entries are scrutinised by data analytics software used as part of the audit.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

#### **Other matters**

The comparative year figures were not subject to an audit.

**THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST  
CHURCH**  
**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)**

**TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE  
METHODIST CHURCH**

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Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

This has been done in order for the financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with current Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

*M Moran*

**Michael T Moran BA FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)**  
for and on behalf of

*10 June 2022*  
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**Chartered Accountants**  
**Statutory Auditor**

is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

**THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

**Current financial year**

		Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Endowment funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
	Notes					
<b>Income from:</b>						
Donations and legacies	4	521,838	1,224,197	-	1,746,035	792,019
Other trading activities	5	14,539	5,000	-	19,539	13,374
Investments	6	23,461	19,664	41	43,166	44,084
<b>Total income and endowments</b>		<b>559,838</b>	<b>1,248,861</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>1,808,740</b>	<b>849,477</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Charitable activities	7	618,386	23,249	-	641,635	829,997
Other		-	-	4	4	4
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<b>618,386</b>	<b>23,249</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>641,639</b>	<b>830,001</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments		845	-	391	1,236	(157)
<b>Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers</b>		<b>(57,703)</b>	<b>1,225,612</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>1,168,337</b>	<b>19,319</b>
Gross transfers between funds		47,984	(47,984)	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(9,719)</b>	<b>1,177,628</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>1,168,337</b>	<b>19,319</b>
Fund balances at 1 September 2020		471,607	289,046	2,047	762,700	743,381
<b>Fund balances at 31 August 2021</b>		<b>461,888</b>	<b>1,466,674</b>	<b>2,475</b>	<b>1,931,037</b>	<b>762,700</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Prior financial year

		Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Endowment funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
	Notes				
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	4	792,019	-	-	792,019
Other trading activities	5	10,874	2,500	-	13,374
Investments	6	26,893	17,148	43	44,084
<b>Total income and endowments</b>		<b>829,786</b>	<b>19,648</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>849,477</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable activities	7	819,402	10,595	-	829,997
Other		-	-	4	4
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<b>819,402</b>	<b>10,595</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>830,001</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments		(83)	-	(74)	(157)
<b>Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers</b>		<b>10,301</b>	<b>9,053</b>	<b>(35)</b>	<b>19,319</b>
Gross transfers between funds		20,020	(20,020)	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>30,321</b>	<b>(10,967)</b>	<b>(35)</b>	<b>19,319</b>
Fund balances at 1 September 2019		441,286	300,013	2,082	743,381
<b>Fund balances at 31 August 2020</b>		<b>471,607</b>	<b>289,046</b>	<b>2,047</b>	<b>762,700</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

**THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST  
CHURCH  
BALANCE SHEET**

**AS AT 31 AUGUST 2021**

	Notes	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	11		321,497		328,202
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	12	33,470		27,049	
Investments	13	12,122		19,588	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,584,599		404,714	
		1,630,191		451,351	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	14	(17,354)		(12,143)	
Net current assets			1,612,837		439,208
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			1,934,334		767,410
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>	15		(3,297)		(4,710)
<b>Net assets</b>			1,931,037		762,700
<b>Capital funds</b>					
Endowment funds - general	17		2,475		2,047
<b>Income funds</b>					
Restricted funds	18		1,466,674		289,046
Unrestricted funds			461,888		471,607
			1,931,037		762,700

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 25/05/2022

P. Cleever-Thorpe

Rev P Cleever-Thorpe (Chair) – Trustee

**THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST  
CHURCH**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

	Notes	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	1		1,129,167		(58,277)
<b>Investing activities</b>					
Proceeds on disposal of investments		8,702		(209)	
Investment income received		43,166		44,084	
<b>Net cash generated from investing activities</b>			51,868		43,875
<b>Financing activities</b>					
Payment of obligations under finance leases		(1,150)		(1,140)	
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>			(1,150)		(1,140)
<b>Net Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>			1,179,885		(15,542)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			404,714		420,256
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>			1,584,599		404,714



**THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

1	Cash generated from operations	2021 £	2020 £	
	Surplus for the year	1,168,337	19,319	
	Adjustments for:			
	Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(43,166)	(44,084)	
	Fair value gains and losses on investments	(1,236)	157	
	Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	6,705	6,362	
	Movements in working capital:			
	(Increase) in debtors	(6,421)	(5,546)	
	Increase/(decrease) in creditors	4,948	(34,485)	
	Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	1,129,167	(58,277)	
2	Analysis of changes in net funds			
		At 1 September 2020 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2021 £
	Cash at bank and in hand	404,714	1,179,885	1,584,599
	Obligations under finance leases	(5,860)	1,150	(4,710)
		398,854	1,181,035	1,579,889

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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### **3 Accounting policies**

#### **Charity information**

The Newcastle Central and East Circuit is a unincorporated charity (charity number (1134265).

#### **3.1 Accounting convention**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

#### **3.2 Going concern**

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

#### **3.3 Charitable funds**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

#### **3.4 Income**

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

#### **3.5 Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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### **3 Accounting policies**

#### **3.6 Tangible fixed assets**

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings	straight line over 100 years
Computers	straight line over 3 years

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

#### **3.7 Impairment of fixed assets**

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

#### **3.8 Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

#### **3.9 Leases**

Leases are classified as finance leases whenever the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to the lessees. All other leases are classified as operating leases.

Assets held under finance leases are recognised as assets at the lower of the assets fair value at the date of inception and the present value of the minimum lease payments. The related liability is included in the balance sheet as a finance lease obligation. Lease payments are treated as consisting of capital and interest elements. The interest is charged to net income/(expenditure) for the year so as to produce a constant periodic rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability.

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

### 4 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds
	2021	2021	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	1,840	1,224,197	1,226,037	103
Assessments	428,397	-	428,397	506,625
Grants receivable	32,959	-	32,959	14,828
Administration	53,302	-	53,302	250,914
Other	5,340	-	5,340	19,549
	<u>521,838</u>	<u>1,224,197</u>	<u>1,746,035</u>	<u>792,019</u>
<b>Grants receivable for core activities</b>				
MINE	3,900	-	3,900	-
United Reformed Church	10,000	-	10,000	10,000
Job Retention Scheme grant	19,059	-	19,059	4,828
	<u>32,959</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>32,959</u>	<u>14,828</u>

### 5 Other trading activities

	Other trading activities	Other trading activities
	2021	2020
	£	£
Books & telephone income	5,756	6,053
Sundry income	13,783	7,321
	<u>19,539</u>	<u>13,374</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>		
Unrestricted funds	14,539	10,874
Restricted funds	5,000	2,500
	<u>19,539</u>	<u>13,374</u>

**THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

**6 Investments**

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds general	Total	Total
	2021	2021	2021	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Rental income	23,368	18,710	-	42,078	40,771
Interest receivable	93	954	41	1,088	3,313
	<u>23,461</u>	<u>19,664</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>43,166</u>	<u>44,084</u>

**7 Charitable activities**

	Charitable activities 2021	Charitable activities 2020
	£	£
Staff costs	366,235	529,519
Depreciation and impairment	6,705	6,362
Gifts and donations	14,683	10,680
Assessments	98,159	97,675
Travel	4,863	9,688
Repairs and property costs	43,262	58,150
Connexional funds	-	13,483
Pulpit supply	111	1,331
The Holy Biscuit costs	65,509	68,000
Hand in Hand costs	1,878	7,250
Methodist Women in Britain costs	-	512
	<u>601,405</u>	<u>802,650</u>
Share of support costs (see note 8)	28,160	23,447
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	12,070	3,900
	<u>641,635</u>	<u>829,997</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>		
Unrestricted funds	618,386	819,402
Restricted funds	23,249	10,595
	<u>641,635</u>	<u>829,997</u>

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

### 8 Support costs

	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2021 Support costs £	Governance costs £	2020 £
Telephone	14,039	-	14,039	13,355	13,355
Postage & stationery	3,951	-	3,951	4,924	4,924
Sundries	10,170	-	10,170	5,168	5,168
Audit fees	-	6,300	6,300	-	-
Independent examiner's fees	-	-	-	3,900	3,900
Professional fees	-	5,770	5,770	-	-
	<u>28,160</u>	<u>12,070</u>	<u>40,230</u>	<u>23,447</u>	<u>27,347</u>
Analysed between Charitable activities	<u>28,160</u>	<u>12,070</u>	<u>40,230</u>	<u>23,447</u>	<u>27,347</u>

### 9 Trustees

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 August 2021 nor for the year ended 31 August 2020.

#### Trustees expenses

The aggregate amount of travelling and subsistence expenses reimbursed to the trustees during the year was £5,168 (2020: £13,760). The number of persons reimbursed was 12 (2020: 12). During the year trustees' indemnity insurance was provided of £245 (2020: £245).

### 10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
Direct charitable expenditure	12	14
Management and admin of the charity	2	2
Total	<u>14</u>	<u>16</u>
<b>Employment costs</b>	<b>2021 £</b>	<b>2020 £</b>
Wages and salaries	287,966	454,311
Social security costs	21,091	21,743
Other pension costs	57,178	53,465
	<u>366,235</u>	<u>529,519</u>

**THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

**10 Employees**

The key management personnel of the charity include the circuit stewards, the superintendent, other ministers and the circuit services manager who are all managing trustees. Total employee benefits of the key management personnel for the year were £34,798 (2020: £62,957).

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

**11 Tangible fixed assets**

	Freehold land and buildings £	Computers £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 September 2020	368,717	17,827	386,544
At 31 August 2021	368,717	17,827	386,544
<b>Depreciation and Impairment</b>			
At 1 September 2020	45,865	12,477	58,342
Depreciation charged in the year	3,687	3,018	6,705
At 31 August 2021	49,552	15,495	65,047
<b>Carrying amount</b>			
At 31 August 2021	319,165	2,332	321,497
At 31 August 2020	322,852	5,350	328,202

**12 Debtors**

	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Other debtors	4,307	5,200
Prepayments and accrued income	29,163	21,849
	<u>33,470</u>	<u>27,049</u>

**13 Current asset investments**

	2021 £	2020 £
Unlisted investments	<u>12,122</u>	<u>19,588</u>

**THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

**14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Obligations under finance leases		1,413	1,150
Accruals and deferred income		15,941	10,993
		<u>17,354</u>	<u>12,143</u>

**15 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year**

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Obligations under finance leases		<u>3,297</u>	<u>4,710</u>

**16 Related party transactions**

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2020 - none).

**17 Endowment funds**

Endowment funds represent assets which must be held permanently by the charity. Income arising on the endowment funds can be used in accordance with the objects of the charity and is included as unrestricted income. Any capital gains or losses arising on the assets form part of the fund.

	Balance at 1 September 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Movement in funds Resources expended £	Transfers £	Revaluations gains and losses £	Balance at 31 August 2021 £
<b>Permanent endowments</b>						
The Susannah Gibson memorial fund	495	13	(1)	-	117	624
WR Dixon gift	1,552	28	(3)	-	274	1,851
	<u>2,047</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>(4)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>391</u>	<u>2,475</u>



**THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

**18 Restricted funds**

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds				
	Balance at 1 September 2020	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 August 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Dorris Nuttal bequest	4,072	37	(25)	-	4,084
Property Fund	274,000	1,248,824	(23,224)	(37,010)	1,462,590
Elizabeth Burton bequest	2,315	-	-	(2,315)	-
Dorothy Burns bequest	8,659	-	-	(8,659)	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	289,046	1,248,861	(23,249)	(47,984)	1,466,674

**19 Analysis of net assets between funds**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2021 £</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2021 £</b>	<b>Endowment funds 2021 £</b>	<b>Total 2021 £</b>	<b>Total 2020 £</b>
Fund balances at 31 August 2021 are represented by:					
Tangible assets	321,497	-	-	321,497	328,202
Current assets/(liabilities)	143,688	1,466,674	2,475	1,612,837	439,208
Long term liabilities	(3,297)	-	-	(3,297)	(4,710)
	<u>461,888</u>	<u>1,466,674</u>	<u>2,475</u>	<u>1,931,037</u>	<u>762,700</u>

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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### **20 Unrestricted funds**

#### **General Funds**

These are funds that are available to be spent for any purpose by the charity.

#### **Methodist Women in Britain**

The Methodist Women in Britain, previously known as The Network Group and sometimes referred to as the Circuit Network, is a fellowship aimed at women of all ages within the church, who support each other and raise funds each year for 'the Easter offering', a Connexionally designated charity of the year. There are pastoral groups, fellowships and social activities. A small amount of the group's income is used for administrative costs, but most money is handed on to support the wider church.

#### **Hand in Hand**

A project was founded more than ten years ago by the former Heaton and Wallsend Circuit, based at Trinity Church Wallsend, serving the elderly and isolated in Wallsend. As time passed, the project expanded and provided lunch clubs, reminiscence and activity clubs as well as a befriending and visiting in homes service in Wallsend, Heaton, Longbenton and other places in North Tyneside. About seven years ago the project grew rapidly because of Lottery grant funding. Sadly when the grant finished in 2017, the management committee was unable to find a follow on funder and the project shrank significantly and now only operates from Trinity and Heaton Methodist Churches. Consequently, Hand in Hand has returned to be completely controlled by the Circuit with a small management group chaired by Rev'd Gavin Hume and legacy funds are being used to ensure that there are high quality lunch and activity clubs.

#### **Shieldfield Art Works At The Holy Biscuit**

Shieldfield Methodist Church closed as Local Church or Society, and in about 2006 the premises were rented to various organisations including a local radio station. By 2009 there was a proposal to sell the site but Rev'd Rob Hawkins in consultation with local businessman Ramy Zac, proposed a radical suggestion to develop and arts expression of Church, a form of Fresh Expressions of Church, using the premises. Mr Zac said that he would carry out, at his expense, a major refurbishment and Rob would set up the organisation of what quickly became known as The Holy Biscuit - it being opposite the Biscuit Factory art gallery. Until recently it has operated as a separate fund, but it is now felt that it should be an internal organisation of the Circuit, which 'owns' it.

The project has grown and now receives significant grants from the Methodist Connexional grants committee and is seen as an integral part of the arts scene in Newcastle. There are links to both universities in Newcastle and the one in Sunderland as well as the Ouseburn arts community. The Holy Biscuit is now reaching out to the local community, schools and other churches in Shieldfield. As well as providing gallery space, the premises are well used, for example, painting for fun (working with those who have health problems), schools work and church with a difference mid-week services.

#### **The Walker Benevolent Fund**

This fund represents funds that have been set aside for use at the discretion of the Deacon and had been exhausted during the year.

#### **The Deacon Fund**

This fund represents Model Trust funds transferred from the former Allen Memorial Methodist Church, the capital and income from which can be used at the discretion of the Deacon.

#### **The Dixon bequests**

This fund represents Model Trust funds transferred from the former Allen Memorial Methodist Church, the income from which can be used at the discretion of the Deacon and capital may be used with certain restrictions.

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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### **21 Restricted and endowment funds**

#### **Restricted Funds**

The Doris Nuttal bequest

This fund represents funds donated to the Circuit, in practice used to provide for the repair and refurbishment of the Trinity Christian Community Centre. The fund is held in cash.

#### **The Property Fund**

This fund represents funds relating to the sale, letting or other disposition of land which is Circuit property. The authority to sanction schemes for the application of capital money in the fund rests with the Circuit meeting, subject to approval by the Synod. The fund is represented by investments and or cash.

#### **The Elizabeth Burton bequest**

This fund represents part of the fund bequeathed to Willington Quay (Wesleyan) Central Methodist Church, the funds to be used for general use and support of the cause. Funds are held in cash and property. The cash has been exhausted during the year and the property was being marketed for sale.

#### **The Dorothy Burns bequest**

This fund represents funds donated to the Belmont Methodist Church, upon the sale of which, were allocated to the Newcastle (Central & East) Circuit. The funds are to be used for general use and support of the cause. Funds are held in cash, which exhausted during the year.

#### **Endowment Funds**

The Susannah Gibson Memorial Fund

This fund represents monies left to the church in 1880 by the late Susannah Gibson, the income from which can be used 'for the sustenance of Wesleyan Ministers'.

#### **The WR Dixon Gift**

This fund represents Model Trust funds transferred from the former Allen Memorial Methodist Church and is used at the discretion of the Deacon.

