

Charity registration number 1134265

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

**ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

# 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>Independent examiner</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 Methodists 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

Rev A D Mabbs  
V Choi  
D J Cowans - resigned 31.08.24  
J C Kelsall  
R Lai  
P H Martin  
M Burdon - Appointed 21.05.23  
T F Rogers  
W F Filmer  
A Ilderton  
R E Bourne  
M Harrison - appointed 01.09.23  
E Leung - resigned 15.11.23  
J A Buchan - appointed 01.03.24  
N A Downs - appointed 01.03.24  
P Short - resigned 31.08.24  
J Keltie  
Deacon A Carter - resigned 31.08.24  
Deacon T Hume - resigned 31.08.24  
A Nicholson  
R Taglione  
A Wilkinson  
J Shuen  
J Atherton  
D Lowry  
M S Ball  
R Ward - resigned 31.08.24  
E Fellows - resigned 31.08.24  
Rev A F Moorhouse - resigned 31.08.24  
D Pigeon  
N Pigeon  
K Stewart  
Rev G R Hume - resigned 31.08.24  
Rev P D Cleever-Thorpe  
Revd Professor D A Wilkinson  
Rev J Mooney  
Rev Dr G Wilson - resigned 31.01.24  
Revd A Wilkinson  
R Pickard  
Deacon G I Morgan  
M E Graham  
C L Eke  
K I Gilfillan  
I Leung  
H J Chapman  
L Morley  
J G Patrick  
Rev K M Reader  
S D Richardson  
S Walker  
A Barker  
J Anderson

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# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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D A Stabler  
C Hall  
S Hutchinson

### 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:**

**Margaret Graham (Finance)**

**Carolyn Hall**

**Keith Gilfillan J.P.**

**Audrey Ilderton (Senior Circuit Steward)**

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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 2024**

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The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 itself formed from a merger in the early 1970's of the Brunswick and Central Circuit & the Sandyford Circuit.

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.

The Circuit's Vision Statement, agreed in May 2023, is as follows:

"Our vision is to be a Circuit of welcoming churches who look to reach and serve our communities, foster values of inclusion and acceptance, nurture and equip our preachers, leaders of worship and lay leaders, and who work in partnership with others to make God's love tangible and accessible to all".

We commit to worship, pray together and celebrate our good news stories; to review our local ministry and mission annually; to identify key strengths and challenges; and to form plans not just for future sustainability but also to include strategies for growth.

### OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE

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 Methodist Conference.

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 people to develop themselves and grow in faith.

The Circuit continues 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.

During the year under review, our small team of four Circuit Stewards managed its various tasks and responsibilities, guided as needed by the CPD (The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church): see <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/governance/cpd/>. The Circuit Leadership Team comprises all ministers in the Circuit and the Circuit Stewards. The Superintendent Minister and the Stewards normally meet monthly and the Circuit Leadership Team bi-monthly.

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) meet three times per year.

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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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'.

Our churches have continued to explore and develop new ways of worship, learning and caring, introduced during 2020-2021 due to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, often in an on-line context as well as face-to-face gatherings. Whilst this is difficult for those who are less able to access on-line worship and other activities, churches who have been able to expand their on-line presence have continued to see significant numbers of new people engaging with their church's life. This is very encouraging to witness.

As reported last year, one of our Societies, Coxlodge Methodist Church, 'ceased to meet' in September 2022. From September 2023, we have been able to lease the building to a Community Interest Company, Owl Tree Children's Café (<https://theowltreechildrenscafe.co.uk/>). The arrangement brings in some welcome rental income which is earmarked for mission related activity elsewhere within the Circuit.

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. The Circuit contributes an annual assessment to The United Reformed Church Northern Synod, to cover the stipends and other expenses of URC ministers stationed in the Circuit. As Revd Dr Grant Wilson retired in February 2024, there is now only one URC minister stationed in the Circuit.

The Circuit continues to be blessed with the continuing ministry of our Supernumeraries; thanks go to Revd Malcolm Newman, Revd Derek Aldridge, Revd Susan Richardson, Revd Ann Shepherdson and Revd Marie Attwood. Local Preachers and Worship Leaders continue to serve the Circuit in their calling. There were six preachers in training, at various stages, during the year: two on trial, one of whom is in pre-ordination training for presbyteral ministry; one who has failed to complete his training and has now been removed from the plan; one who had paused her training but is now back on note; and two on note, one of whom is close to moving to on trial.

The Circuit Leadership Team has not led a specific annual review of our Churches and projects, as required by the Annual Conference of The Methodist Church. Growth or end of life plans were still not feasible, as our churches continued to recover from the pandemic restrictions. However, we were able to review our vision at the February 2023's Circuit Meeting, resulting in a revised Vision statement as outlined above.

#### CIRCUIT POLICIES

All policies conform as appropriate with guidance and principles as stipulated by the Methodist Church (<https://www.methodist.org.uk/>) and the CPD.

#### RISK POLICY

Our Risk Policy covers the following areas:

##### **Financial Risk**

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;
- 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.

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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

We have identified the 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 continuing effects of 'Brexit' and the coronavirus pandemic;
- we have a large number of lay employees but no Circuit HR Officer.

Many of these risks are likely to remain equally relevant throughout 2024 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.

### **INVESTMENT POLICY**

Since 2019-2020, the Circuit had built up significant reserves, generated from the sale of West Moor, Allen Memorial, Longbenton and Heaton Methodist Churches and the Burn Terrace flats. The Circuit's unrestricted reserves in August 2023 were £1.4million.

The Circuit Meeting (Trustees) had discussed and considered the notion of investing a significant part of the free reserves, over a couple of meetings. At the May 2022 meeting it was agreed to invest £750,000 in the Central Finance Board (CFB) Managed Mixed Fund which had shown a positive return over a long period. See <https://www.cfbmethodistchurch.org.uk/managedfunds/>.



# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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The decision of the Trustees was based on the following considerations:

1. The Circuit Meeting has a responsibility, as far as is possible, to protect, manage and conserve the capital for future mission and ministry.
2. The Charities Commission has provided guidance to Charities, seeking to invest cash funds. See <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/charities-and-investment-matters-a-guide-for-trustees-cc14>
3. The proposed fund for our investment – The Managed Mixed Fund – is a medium risk investment (that is risk 5 on the scale 0-10).
4. There is much evidence to be confident that the CFB Managed Mixed Fund is both an ethical and a sound medium risk investment. See also the CFB ethics page: <https://www.cfbmethodistchurch.org.uk/ethics/> which indicates their ethical policy regarding investments.
5. The staff at the CFB are all salaried employees and are not paid on commission or performance.
6. If the Circuit Meeting wishes to draw from capital that is held in the CFB Managed Mixed Fund then it is possible to do this with about two weeks notice.
7. Interest received from the investments will be used to fund mission and ministry within the Circuit.
8. This will be an investment for the long term and will be reviewed regularly.

### **PAYMENTS TO STAFF**

#### **Ministers**

Stipends for Methodist Ministers are determined annually by the Methodist Conference. The Circuit, as the employing body, contributes to their pension fund. They are also given an annual computer allowance.

#### **Lay employees**

In 2010 the Methodist Conference agreed that the rates of the Real Living Wage, as published by the [Living Wage Foundation](https://www.livingwagefoundation.org/), should form the minimum basic salary for people employed by a district, circuit or a local church. This policy also includes young people below the age of 18. In addition, a 9-point salary scale is applied to a person specification, which is based on qualifications, experience and responsibilities. The Circuit is scrupulous in following this policy. Guidelines are available on the Methodist Church website. See <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/employees-and-volunteers/lay-employment-resource/>

### **SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

The circuit's safeguarding policy is reviewed annually and is now presented at September's Circuit Meeting. All managing trustees are regularly reminded of their responsibilities. The circuit takes its safeguarding responsibilities very seriously, ensuring every church/project is aware of and adheres to its responsibilities, such as displaying its policy, updating its safeguarding information, reviewing its safeguarding policy on an annual basis, and retaining its records in accordance with proper guidelines. We appoint a Circuit Safeguarding Officer who works closely with the Circuit Superintendent, Circuit Administrator, and Circuit Stewards to ensure that our safeguarding responsibilities are reviewed on a regular basis.

### **VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT**

Regular meetings are held with all Church Safeguarding Officers and the Circuit Stewards, to remind them of the forms/declarations which all volunteers need to sign, depending on their individual roles, together with the training which they need to undertake. DBS checks are required for any volunteer whose work brings them into contact with users of our services and projects, and the general public.

### **COMPLAINTS HANDLING**

It is hoped that any conflict situations will be dealt with sensitively by leaders of our local church groups. However, where this is not possible then the Methodist Complaints process will need to be invoked. This will require contact being made with the Local Complaints Officer who is our Circuit Superintendent Minister, Revd Paul Cleever-Thorpe. The process would then be put into effect with the appropriate support being given by our District Reconciliation group.

### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

To comply with Methodist Church guidance, Trustees are asked at the Circuit Meeting to declare any conflict of interest as soon as they are aware of any possibility that his or her personal or wider interests could influence decision-making within the Circuit. This is a standard agenda item at the beginning of each meeting to allow trustees to declare any actual or potential conflicts of interest.

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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### 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 District 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 were awarded for "the sustenance of Wesleyan Methodist Ministers" - no grants have been awarded for a number of years.
- The Doris Nuttall bequest - funds were to be used at the discretion of the Circuit Meeting, but in practice money is used at and on the former South Gosforth Methodist Church – now known as the Trinity Christian Community Centre - which Doris Nuttall attended. The funds in this Trust were exhausted in 2022-2023, and it was closed.
- 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 were refurbished and were let to people in need, via the charity Oasis Aquila. Due to problems with the maintenance of the flats, it was decided to sell them in 2020. The proceeds of the sale (£110,028) were received in November 2021 and are to be used for mission in the Circuit. The funds have now been expended and the fund is now closed.
- Bequest funds – these are various small funds that may be used at the discretion of the Circuit meeting, for mission.
- The Deacons' Fund - this fund was created by a vote at the Spring Circuit Meeting 2019, by agreeing to bring together 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 the 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.

There is a further fund which is held and used to maintain the manse and other property owned by the Circuit and two manse owned by the United Reformed Church.

### ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The following reports have been submitted by the individual churches or projects within the Circuit.

#### Brunswick Methodist Church

Brunswick Methodist Church continues to be a church worshipping and serving at the heart of Newcastle City Centre. In acting as a 'community hub', our building plays host to a number of user groups. We are thankful to both our paid staff and to all our dedicated volunteers who enable our church to be a safe and hospitable space. Our church building is well maintained and an attractive location for groups to meet within.

Brunswick Methodist Church plays host to two congregations - the traditional Brunswick Methodist Church congregation and the Newcastle Chinese Methodist Church congregation. The latter is a Chinese/Hong Konger congregation which has welcomed, over the past three years, over two hundred new people, the majority of whom have moved from Hong Kong under the government's BNO+1 programme. This has meant a far greater usage of our building, as we now work cross-culturally in areas like baptisms, weddings and church membership. Both Cantonese and Mandarin languages are used within our Chinese congregation, but many are wishing to use and to learn English more as they seek to integrate into UK society.

One significant achievement over this period has been the refurbishment of a suite of rooms which were no longer in use and which we intend to repurpose in an exciting way to host a new expression of church called 'Recovery Church'. This is a community of people, many with a non-church background, who are being supported as they seek to recover from an addiction. 'Recovery Church' aims not only to provide consistent support but also to see people in a holistic way and so offer a spiritual 'step programme' which allows them an opportunity to explore the Christian faith in a caring community.

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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The challenge for a well-used city centre church building always revolves around how it is maintained to a high standard. We currently are budgeting for major anticipated works focusing upon the replacement of our boilers. This will require not only a funding strategy to be put in place for the next church year, but also a longer-term vision which can be embraced by both congregations mentioned above.

#### **Newcastle Chinese Methodist Church.**

Since the launch of the Government's BNO+1 scheme in 2021, three years have passed. Over the past year our church has continued to experience a steady influx of new families, with two to three new families visiting and joining worship services each week. At its peak, the congregation grew to between 200 and 300 people. However, over time, due to various reasons, some have left, and the church now has around 200 people attending. Those who have remained are actively involved in the Chinese church, with some receiving baptism and others becoming new members.

In October 2023, the church appointed a new lay employee to help lead the youth fellowship and children's ministry. This gave important support to the Lay Pastor. At the end of his 12 months contract this worker resigned for personal reasons to pursue his own development. The Chinese church is still considering whether to hire a new worker. We hope to find someone who loves God and the church and who can communicate openly and work well with colleagues.

In January 2024, the church elected a new Church Council and Leadership Team. Each newly elected leader is a mature believer with a good reputation both within and outside the church. They are humbly serving the church, quietly and faithfully carrying out good works. It is our belief that through our united services to God and the church, both the congregation and the leadership team will receive God's approval and blessings.

We continue to work in partnership with our friends in the English-speaking congregation at Brunswick and our Leadership Team meets three times each year with the equivalent group from the English church so that we can agree areas of common working. These include united worship services, outreach activities and serving in the Coffee Shop which runs over four mornings each week in our church building.

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

##### **(Anglican, Methodist and United Reformed Church (URC) Local Ecumenical Partnership)**

We are thrilled to have welcomed a number of new people into church over this last year and, for the first time in about 10 years, held a Confirmation and Reception into Membership Service for two people. Another is planned for 2025 with three more candidates. This is a direct result of our intentional mission and evangelism, forging relationships with people in the community and those in community groups. Closer working with Uniformed Groups has encouraged greater engagement in church worship services, as well as helping us become more eco-friendly as they built bird, insect and hedgehog boxes for our church and vicarage grounds.

Our strategy to mission and evangelism is one that incorporates all ages:

- Little Shepherds Baby and Toddler Group continues to support families in the local community and share the Christian faith. It is wonderful that some of the little ones have been baptised this year. Pastoral and prayer support for the adults is a significant part of this too.
- Kidz Rock engages with primary age school children, as does our commitment to Open the Book school assemblies. We are members of Wallsend Churches Working Together (our minister chairs the group) and we deliver Bible stories every half term to around 3,000 children in nine Wallsend schools. This has resulted in strong relationships with local schools and more requests for church visits.
- The governance of Hot Chocolate Youth Group now lies with the North Tyneside Local Council (who have successfully secured three years' worth of funding for activities and cost of leaders) but the church engagement continues with our minister present as a volunteer leader on most weeks. This engagement helps reduce anti-social behaviour around church as well as incorporating Christian fellowship and Christian teaching with Secondary school pupils.

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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- Our new Honest to God twice monthly drop-in session is aimed at adults wanting to find out more about the Christian faith or ask questions and share faith experience in a safe environment. We have also run Advent and Lent courses in person and online. These are valuable sessions of fellowship and faith. The many social activities – Open Mic, music events, quizzes, Warm Space – are wonderful opportunities to invite people into church. Our fellowship and frequency of visits between church and the local care home has grown significantly as a result. Furthermore, and in partnership with Cedarwood Trust, we opened a Pop-Up Shop from January to April to support our community in these difficult financial times.

As one of the original founders we remain committed to outreach through Rising Sun Neighbours (a small group of churches engaging with people in the Rising Sun Country Park). We told the Christmas story and sang carols in December then held a craft stall at the Summer Festival, distributing over 1,000 church invitation leaflets at these events.

Christmas services were once again well supported with over 200 in the congregation on Christmas Eve. There was also incredible support with toy donations for the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal. Our congregation continue to be generous with several other charities. Walking With North Tyneside is supported every week through our food and money donations, as well as volunteer time. Additionally, the generosity of the congregation (plus the generosity of the Circuit with a grant) enabled us to renew our condemned heating boiler (a huge cost!) and we now have a more efficient, more eco-friendly heating system. We have also paid our financial commitments in full again.

We feel blessed by God as we serve Him and our community as a church family.

#### **Jesmond Methodist Church**

The congregation at Jesmond continues to flourish. Highlights include a new work with youth and developing links with Shieldfield by releasing the Lay Pastor to build links between the two communities.

The new kitchen and doors have had an immediate result in making the Church more accessible. We find people often just come in, something we have hoped would happen. The new configuration of the church has allowed more space downstairs for continued growth, and a baby and toddler area has been welcomed by new parents.

JMC continued its presence at the Jesmond Community Festival hosting a Quiz Night, our usual Taste event and a Try Church Sunday. Following up with last year's climate change discussion, we have developed our eco policy and introduced systems for recycling, and tweaking what we do to move towards a more sustainable pattern of being.

One significant environmental change was to give plants away as a 'student welcome' event instead of printing lots of information for students, wasting paper and resources. This was highly successful with church members growing cuttings for months so we could give away 200 plants.

JMC has faced challenges but has seen growth in new people being drawn into the community. Space remains an issue and different ways of configuring the chairs to ensure we can get everyone in remains a joyful challenge. We flourish with the support of many who serve in voluntary ways in Leadership, Welcome, Hosting, Preaching, Technology, Musicians, running house groups, and leading kids and youth work. Volunteers help us maintain our building and we have regular user groups providing income through bookings. We continue to have good working relationships with Caffé 1901, which leases our main hall.

JMC has changes coming to its staffing from September 2024 and there are new opportunities to fulfil our mission. We continue to look forward with hope.



# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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### **St Andrew's Church, Benton (Methodist and URC LEP)**

We continue to be blessed with a rich and varied worship experience with worship leaders provided by the Methodist and URC churches. We offer free refreshments after Sunday morning service which enhances the fellowship shared by regular worshippers and enables us to offer a warm welcome to visitors. We have worshipped outside the church on special occasions; offered a live stream from St Andrew's for some services; run a monthly midweek worship and fellowship as well as Messy Church, which has also delighted all who attend, both young and old.

In addition to our minister, a team of volunteer pastoral carers keep in touch with people on a regular basis. The pastoral team meet at least twice a year to review pastoral needs and ensure that everyone is included in the care coverage. A group also pray on a weekly basis for people or situations. Volunteers deliver flowers each week to those who are unwell or in need of support and sometimes to celebrate a happy event. We supported an Iranian family seeking asylum in the UK who have been granted refugee status and moved to Sheffield. The family expressed their gratitude in an open letter to the church. Members of the congregation keep in touch and provide support when appropriate, reminding us that distance does not preclude fellowship.

Junior Church has been led by two dedicated church volunteers with the regular assistance of one enthusiastic church member and the occasional support of parents. The number of children attending Junior Church continues to fluctuate and there is a wide age range. In recent months the Junior Church has returned to join the rest of the congregation at the end of services and join when communion is shared.

Currently we have 8 families who have children on the cradle roll with whom we keep in touch. They all receive the church magazine and the children receive birthday, Easter, and Christmas cards. During the year our minister officiated at two infant baptisms and two infant blessing/thanksgiving services. Our cradle roll secretary encourages the families and children to attend relevant church services or events that will help them on their Christian journey.

The 4th Newcastle Girls' Brigade meets in the church each week, is growing in number and is run by trained volunteer leaders. Each age group follows their own appropriate themed programme materials. All girls and young women work towards badges to reward and celebrate their achievements. The group has taken part in a Sunday service which included leading the singing and sharing a video podcast of what being brave means to them as women.

At the end of the year the membership numbers were calculated to be 107. Whilst some of our members are now unable to attend church services, we do enjoy welcoming other regular churchgoers or visitors each week. We are normally blessed to have a full congregation of over 70 attenders at Sunday morning services.

We have a dedicated editor who puts together a church magazine – Tidings - on 10 occasions each year covering the whole year. The magazine has been a part of church life for many decades and is appreciated by many inside and outside the church far and wide. The magazine content features a message from the minister, a diary of church activities, church news and looking forward or back at church related events.

Many from the church participated in the Christmas knitted angels outreach project. Over 1000 angels were distributed by the churches in our area, providing blessing and encouragement to recipients.

The premises are also well used by many external groups, and some have been carrying out their activities in the church for many years and are well known in the local communities.

We support the connexional funds of the Methodist and United Reform Churches in Britain. The church regularly supports several UK charities that operate locally or globally. This year money was sent to support local causes through the Cedarwood Trust, the Newcastle West End Foodbank and Walking With. Appeals for the Middle East crisis; Gaza; the Libya floods and the Morocco earthquake were also supported. Church donations are made from the church CARE Fund, which represents 2% of all offerings and related Gift Aid, or by special collections during the year. In total we donated £8,305 this year.

As well as routine maintenance on the building, the church is seeking to make the building more energy efficient, with an initial focus on renewing older windows with double glazed units.

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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### **St Cuthbert's Church, Heaton (Methodist and URC LEP)**

After a time of uncertainty following the retirement of our minister, Revd Grant Wilson, in January 2024, we were advised that Revd Paul Cleever-Thorpe had been appointed as our minister, sharing his time with Brunswick and the Chinese church. We look forward to welcoming Paul at his first service on 1<sup>st</sup> September, hopefully with a lunch where he can meet the congregation informally. We are looking forward to working with Paul.

Our Wives & Friends Group continues to meet on alternate Tuesday afternoons which means that the ladies (most of whom are older) are able to enjoy mixing with others and then go home before dark. There are around 20 ladies most afternoons. Sadly, the Girl's Brigade closed in July. Their numbers had been dropping over the years and after many years the decision was taken to close. We wished the Team leader and others connected best wishes and our thanks for their loyal service over the years.

The building is still being used by Newcastle Christian Tabernacle on two evenings each week and on Sunday afternoons. St Cuthbert's are still part of Heaton Churches Together and take part on events which are shared by the churches of Heaton and High Heaton.

The church gardens at the side of the church which are maintained by two of our congregation are still appreciated by the local community who, it seems, still think of St Cuthbert's as "their church" even though not many of them attend church services.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the church agreed to undertake the necessary repairs to the building as highlighted in the 2019 quinquennial survey. Although the church had to utilise an extensive amount of its reserves to cover the cost of the repairs, we were grateful to be awarded funds from various grant making bodies. The quinquennial reports of 2014 and 2019 highlighted problems with the roof/chimneys etc - and this work was completed in the summer of 2023. However, there was a further URC Synod quinquennial survey undertaken in March 2024 which highlighted major problems with the exterior wall on the premises. This is now being dealt with as a matter of urgency.

### **Church of St John the Evangelist, Kingston Park (Anglican, Methodist, Baptist and URC LEP)**

This has been a year of steady progress. Recorded membership has increased slightly, and attendance at services has grown throughout the year, with over 100 people regularly attending services. We continue our initiative to encourage new attendees to become members and, just as importantly, to volunteer in supporting our work. Our Bible study groups have expanded both online via Zoom and in person, and this has been positively received with increased attendance.

We have continued to offer a range of outreach events to the community, including a successful Easter egg hunt and Harvest activities, combined with Messy Church sessions, with each event attracting over 50 children. The major event of the year was our Party in the Park fun family day, which featured fairground rides, local community groups, stalls, and faith-based music. It was a great success. We held our carol singing events at Marks & Spencer and Tesco to raise funds for West End refugees and Action for Children. Members have been very active in the collection of shoeboxes from across Northumberland and North Durham.

Our bookings have improved throughout the year. We are blessed to have accommodated new groups, whose activities have placed St John's at the centre of our community.

We are in the throes of fundraising for the renewal of our heating boilers. To date, we have been blessed to receive grants from the following: Wesley Orphan House Trust (£2,000), Benefact Trust (£1,750), Northumbria Historic Trust (£3,000), and Garfield Weston Foundation (£3,500). We hope to complete the installation in the new year.

Our Methodist minister, Adele Moorhouse, retires in August 2024. She will be greatly missed, but we are delighted that the Methodist Church has arranged for Deacon Jill Henderson to join us on a part-time basis from 1st September. We are hopeful that our longstanding Anglican vacancy will be filled in early 2025.

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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### **Trinity Church, Gosforth (Methodist and URC LEP)**

Trinity Church is a Local Ecumenical Partnership of the Methodist and United Reformed Churches.

"The purpose of the charity is to advance the Christian faith in the area of benefit in accordance with the principles and practices of the participating churches."

We have continued to benefit from our prominent location on Gosforth High Street. Every Sunday there are newcomers in worship, and we aim to provide a hospitable welcome and spiritual support to all. We have taken steps to make our worship more accessible, e.g. providing large-print hymn books for people who have difficulty reading words from the screens, along with sermon notes. We continue to stream our services on YouTube, with between 50 and 100 weekly views. Additionally, a printed service is posted out every week to about 25 housebound members without internet access. In-person attendance at Sunday morning worship averages 100.

Christmas 2023 was successful with well attended carol service, children's crib service, and Christmas Day celebrations, including many visitors. Easter was similarly celebrated with well attended Good Friday & Easter Day services.

Our ministry with children and young people continues to thrive, facilitated by our part-time Children and Families Worker. We have enjoyed welcoming class visits from nearby schools. Our popular Toddler Group always has a waiting list. Our Sunday evening youth group is still meeting. Several of our families went to the Cedarwood Festival in July, supported by a grant from Northern Synod & help from Trinity.

Our various groups and activities for adults are also doing well. Our Warm Welcome Space on Friday mornings continues, most of the people who come relate to the Church, but there are often others who come in for a warm drink and some company. This provision will continue through the coming winter. We have opened our Church on Tuesdays & Fridays for private prayer & reflection, with visitors attending. A Men's Shed continues to operate weekly & is attended by non-church people who appreciate it. This year we have conducted several child baptism/dedications & an adult baptismal service.

Our Community Centres are important hubs for the local community. We enjoy a good relationship with our hirers, most of whom are community-based groups or businesses, and we view the hospitality we give in our well-appointed and serviced rooms as an expression of our faith and mission. Caffé 1901 provides a welcoming introduction to the Centre. Both Centres are open 7 days a week. About 2,500 people come into Trinity in a typical week, and another 250 at Trinity Christian Community Centre in South Gosforth.

Trinity, both Church and Centres, values the participation of dozens of volunteers, who give a huge amount of their time and skills in a variety of ways, including Young Church, music, welcoming, catering, leading Bible-study groups, pastoral care, buildings maintenance, finance and much more.

Church finances are always challenging, but our members continue to give generously. We covered all payments in the year, including £4,100 to local charities, agreed by Church Council. Also, from specified members' giving we raised £9500 for the Walker & District Foodbank. Property maintenance has been in the region of £21,000 which has been managed well.

It has been another good year for Trinity. We don't take this for granted but continually look to God to lead and equip us to fulfil His purpose in the coming years. We look forward to welcoming our new Deacon in September, who will no doubt take us forward.

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

The congregation on Sunday's is fairly constant with an average of 20 – 25. We have welcomed into our church community someone who comes with their carer. His carer says they feel so welcomed and part of the church family. We continue to record worship which goes out on the YouTube channel and continues to enable people to feel connected in all parts of the world.

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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Our church hall continues to be used by Scouts, Bloom Babies, Line Dancing and the Circuit's project, Hand in Hand. There is an appreciation of the facilities on offer. We have an active Girls Brigade Group which has grown considerably in the last twelve months. This is in part a result of our involvement and building of relationships in a local school.

The Youth Club regularly has about 30 young people each week. This has been held at Trinity on a Friday evening for decades. There is nowhere for young people to go in Wallsend, so this is a much-needed service. These groups rely on volunteers, and we are pleased that we have people not connected with church to enable these groups to function. We have a team who continue to go into schools offering Open the Book, this has resulted in visits to the Church by Year 1 and a deepening of relationships.

We held a harvest meal which was welcomed and well received by 60 people mainly from the community. We have a new Fellowship Group that meets once a month. We share lunch and have a varied conversation. In response to Warm Space initiative, we opened on a Saturday morning. People from the community, usually around 25, were welcomed and offered hospitality. Following the ending of the Warm Space initiative, we have introduced a coffee morning as part of our mission. We regularly welcome 25 – 30 people and relationships are forming.

For a small church, Trinity is a hub for the community and welcomes all into its midst.

#### **The Wesley Orphan House Trust (WOHT)**

The WOHT derives its income from ground rent from the site of the former 'Orphan House' on Northumberland Street in Newcastle upon Tyne. The trust also receives a small sum from investments.

The trust budgets to have approximately £25,000 available annually for grants and favours work with children, the vulnerable, education purposes and property works.

In 2023/2024, thirteen grants were made totalling £34,175. These grants were a numeric and financial increase to those made in 2022/2023 whereby we were able to exceed our budget.

Rolling grants were maintained over three or five years to Action for Children (Newcastle) and The Wesley Study Centre (Durham).

Individual grants were made to: St John's Kingston Park, Church of the Good Shepherd, Battle Hill, Lanchester Boys Brigade, Newcastle West End Refugees Service, Shieldfield Art Works @ The Holy Biscuit, FOCUS at Easington Methodist Church, Ponteland Methodist Church, Trinity Christian Community Centre at South Gosforth Methodist Church, Brunswick Methodist Church, SEARCH West End Project and Houghton le Spring Methodist Church.

Further information about the trust and grant application forms are available via our website which is linked to the Newcastle Central and East Circuit website, see [Wesley Orphan House Trust - Newcastle Central and East Methodist Circuit \(newcastlecentralmethodist.org.uk\)](https://www.wesleyorphanhousetrust.org.uk)

#### **Hand in Hand**

There are two Hand in Hand Clubs in the circuit.

#### **Wallsend**

Hand in Hand meets weekly on a Tuesday in Trinity Methodist Church. The aim is to reduce and prevent loneliness and social isolation in older people. We have had some new members join and there is an average of 18 attending weekly.

Each week our members are welcomed with a cup of tea and then enjoy a two-course home cooked traditional lunch. This is followed by a wide range of activities including reminiscing, quizzes, slide shows, games, chair exercises and crafts.



# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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The kitchen team (both volunteers) provide good quality food every week. The menu is varied and nutritious, and the feedback from our members always enthusiastic. For those who come it is something to look forward to during the week, a reason to get dressed and go out. It is an opportunity to meet up with friends and make new friendships. It is a time to relax and have fun, to laugh with friends and forget everyday fears and worries. It's a community whose members care for and support one another.

All this couldn't be done without the dedicated help of our five volunteers and one paid circuit lay worker, the Co – Ordinator.

With the cost of living rising all the time we know we cannot raise what members pay each week, and therefore we rely on grants. The circuit agreed to give us a grant of £5,000 towards the salary for the year 2023 – 2024. This generous act, along with our own fund raising, enables us to continue to offer a much-needed service.

### **Heaton**

Hand in Hand meets in St George's URC, High Heaton, and is run by two retired Salvation Army officers who work hard to create a welcoming atmosphere.

Since moving to St George's, they have had new members join and the number attending averages 15. They enjoy quizzes, talks and photograph afternoons. Once a month they have a hot lunch.

St George's see the Club as part of their mission and did not want any rent. The Club gives them a donation towards heating and lighting every term. We are grateful for their generosity, which means the Club is financially viable.

### **Methodist Women in Britain (MWIB)**

The twice a year retreats at Minsteracres continue to be highlights of the Newcastle District's MWiB calendar.

The MWiB always feel warmly welcomed and the staff there say that 'the place comes alive' when they visit as the singing nearly lifts the roof off!

A well-attended Away Day in September 2023 was a good time of fellowship, incorporating a service and craft activity. On 25th November 2023 at Brunswick Methodist Church the MWiB held their annual service to dedicate their President Designate, Rosemary Gray, and recommission all their other officers. As in previous years, Rev. Stephen Lindridge was the preacher.

For World Church Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2024 the MWiB enjoyed a talk by Sheila Holland, former Mission Partner in Nepal and Togo, at Wylam Methodist Church, followed by a shared lunch. A bring and share District dinner was held at Prudhoe Methodist Church on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2024 and included a quiz and musical entertainment.

During the year £9,000 was raised for the President's projects, All We Can and Médecins sans Frontières and was equally allocated.

A new email newsletter is being circulated three times a year which keeps everybody up to date with any events taking place.

### **Presence Project, Walker**

Heather Farrow continued to work from Treetops village, providing support to the residents and community users in this space, and working in partnership with the other community projects in the area. However, lack of support has taken its toll on her and in early summer 2024 she became ill and was on sick leave for some time. Eventually, she decided to resign with immediate effect in September. This was discussed at Circuit level and a decision was made to end the project. We did wish Heather well in the future and she has maintained contact at District Level.

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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### Shieldfield Art Works (SAW) @ The Holy Biscuit

**Shieldfield Grows:** This year we have had 98 individuals engage in total, 30 weekly growing sessions, 7 local families without their own garden space adopted a growing plot within the SAW Garden, 6 workshops with professionals, 5 trips to local community gardens, 3 community festivals, bringing people together in celebration, 3 'Little Growers' children's sessions and 8 'Lettuce Eat' bring & share lunches.

*"I love the Shieldfield grows group helping to create the garden, planting apple trees and learning so much about growing and eating your own produce is such a joy!"*

**SAW Reflects:** An informal discussion event at SAW where we gather to reflect on how an art work or occasion relates to ourselves, our world and our beliefs. In our 2023-24 programme: 109 individuals took part across 8 events, considering 5 different art exhibitions at SAW and 3 wider themes. We formed a 'SAW Reflectors' focus group to provide insight and feedback about SAW Reflects events.

*"I felt really connected and inspired by the discussions happening around me, and SAW provide a great space for being with open hearted people".*

**Craft Action Collective:** This year, we've thought about: hope and how to find it; river and ocean pollution (to tie in with *Oceans of Kindness*); climate change and eco-friendly materials. Crafts have included: drypoint printing, mobile making, making stamps with cork, letterpress printing and paper marbling. There is a committed group of regular attendees whose confidence continues to grow.

*"Craft action collective has helped my self-confidence. I have met some lovely people which has helped with loneliness. Doing whichever craft activity we are doing makes me feel more positive and happier."*

**Painting for Fun:** This year we have increased our classes from two sessions to three sessions a week! With a focus on painting as a way to relax, the group provides a weekly safe haven to chat, be creative and be with other people in a no-pressure environment.

*"I suffer from anxiety and depression and having somewhere calming to come to and be creative has a positive uplifting effect"*

### Exhibitions

SAW's programme of exhibitions and events is expansive, and always goes beyond simply displaying artworks. This year we had 6 exhibitions looking at historical and current tendencies toward victim blaming, an experimental approach to film-making to collaboratively identify and articulate the stories of Shieldfield, the cumulative power of words, creativity and kindness (engaging 55 local school children), and wellbeing.

*"There may be no steeple, or rows of pews to sit on. No stained glass windows. However the love that wraps around this building just continues to grow."*

*"The exhibition provided real food for thought."*

*"The film was very thought-provoking and made me think about my own connection to the community, and my role in shaping it. I really enjoyed different people's stories and perspectives, it made me laugh."*

*"I hadn't picked up a paint brush since O Level art, nearly 50 years ago. It was a scary prospect. However, I have produced two paintings for the SAW exhibition."*

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

### Financial position

Income for the year ended 31 August 2024 totaled £795,979 (2023: £818,704) resulting in a surplus for the year of £330,454 (2023: £150,383). Funds totaled £2,308,156 at the year end, of which £14,849 are restricted funds, which are held for special purpose of The Holy Biscuit, and £2,393 are endowment funds. Unrestricted reserves total £656,230 which includes those held for special purpose of £70,882 The Holy Biscuit, £4,776 Hand in hand and £320 Methodist Women in Britain. Designated funds at the end of the year amounted to £1,634,684.

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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### **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 £67,992.

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.

### **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 Funds are the lay Circuit Stewards. Of the Managing Trustees listed previously, all are lay people excepting the fourteen ministerial staff, two of whom are retired; one is Principal of St John's College Durham, one is chaplain at Pilgrims Court Methodist Homes Jesmond. 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 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 may be 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 Circuit Stewards, acting as Treasurers, are responsible for the detailed examination of the Financial Statements and for recommending their adoption by the Circuit Meeting. One of their number is designated 'Treasurer' and her main role is to manage the finances of the Circuit, assisted by the Circuit Accounts Administrator.

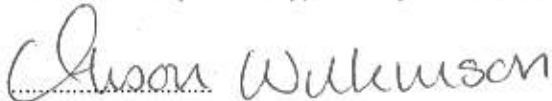
The Circuit is one of 12 of the Newcastle District and has 9 Local Churches [12 premises], of which 5 are Local Ecumenical Partnerships. They are contactable via the principal address of the Circuit. Funds are transferred to the Circuit on a regular basis to meet the commitments to the District and the upkeep of the Circuit.

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alison Wilkinson". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

Rev A Wilkinson - Trustee

Dated: 20-11-2024

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

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

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Newcastle Central and East Circuit of the Methodist Church (the charity) for the year ended 31 August 2024.

#### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

#### Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ACCA, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



Nicholas Cunningham FCCA  
Robson Laidler Accountants Limited  
Fernwood House  
Fernwood Road  
Jesmond  
Newcastle Upon Tyne  
Tyne and Wear  
NE2 1TJ

Dated: 5th June 2025

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### Current financial year

		Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Endowment funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
	Notes					
<b><u>Income from:</u></b>						
Donations and legacies	2	649,307	3,317	-	652,624	717,462
Other trading activities	3	6,475	-	-	6,475	6,224
Investments	4	136,817	-	63	136,880	95,018
<b>Total income and endowments</b>		<b>792,599</b>	<b>3,317</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>795,979</b>	<b>818,704</b>
<b><u>Expenditure on:</u></b>						
Raising funds		15	-	6	21	21
Charitable activities	5	727,256	509	-	727,765	636,095
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<b>727,271</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>727,786</b>	<b>636,116</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments		262,074	-	187	262,261	(32,205)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>327,402</b>	<b>2,808</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>330,454</b>	<b>150,383</b>
Fund balances at 1 September 2023		1,963,512	12,041	2,149	1,977,702	1,827,319
<b>Fund balances at 31 August 2024</b>		<b>2,290,914</b>	<b>14,849</b>	<b>2,393</b>	<b>2,308,156</b>	<b>1,977,702</b>

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

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 2024

### Prior financial year

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Endowment funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	2	476,758	240,704	-	717,462
Other trading activities	3	6,224	-	-	6,224
Investments	4	28,322	66,632	64	95,018
<b>Total income and endowments</b>		<b>511,304</b>	<b>307,336</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>818,704</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds		15	-	6	21
Charitable activities	5	599,235	36,860	-	636,095
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<b>599,250</b>	<b>36,860</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>636,116</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments		(217)	(31,929)	(59)	(32,205)
<b>Net incoming resources before transfers</b>		<b>(88,163)</b>	<b>238,547</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>150,383</b>
Gross transfers between funds		1,598,303	(1,598,179)	(124)	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>1,510,140</b>	<b>(1,359,632)</b>	<b>(125)</b>	<b>150,383</b>
Fund balances at 1 September 2022		453,372	1,371,673	2,274	1,827,319
<b>Fund balances at 31 August 2023</b>		<b>1,963,512</b>	<b>12,041</b>	<b>2,149</b>	<b>1,977,702</b>

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

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

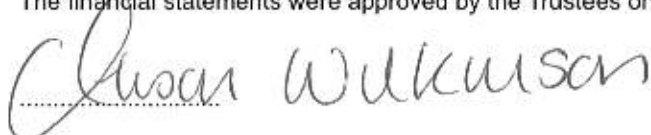
# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	12	272,260		309,585	
Investment properties	11	240,000		-	
			512,260		309,585
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	13	9,539		17,063	
Investments	14	783,503		727,234	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,056,185		929,594	
			1,849,227		1,673,891
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	15	(53,331)		(5,774)	
Net current assets			1,795,896		1,668,117
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			2,308,156		1,977,702
<b>Capital funds</b>					
Endowment funds - general	20		2,393		2,149
<b>Income funds</b>					
Restricted funds	18		14,849		12,041
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds	19	1,634,684		1,522,391	
General unrestricted funds		656,230		441,121	
			2,290,914		1,963,512
			2,308,156		1,977,702

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 20-3-2025.



Rev A Wilkinson - Trustee



# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	26		(10,281)		100,446
<b>Investing activities</b>					
Proceeds from disposal of investments		(8)		5	
Investment income received		136,880		95,018	
<b>Net cash generated from investing activities</b>			136,872		95,023
<b>Financing activities</b>					
Payment of finance leases obligations		-		(3,297)	
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>			-		(3,297)
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>			126,591		192,172
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			929,594		737,422
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>			1,056,185		929,594

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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### 1 Accounting policies

#### Charity information

The Newcastle Central and East Circuit of the Methodist Church is a unincorporated charity (charity number 1134265).

#### 1.1 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.

#### 1.2 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.

#### 1.3 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 or grantors 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.

#### 1.4 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.

#### 1.5 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 2024

---

### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 1.6 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 the statement of financial activities.

#### 1.7 Investment properties

Investment property, which is property held to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation, is initially recognised at cost, which includes the purchase cost and any directly attributable expenditure. Subsequently it is measured at fair value at the reporting end date. The surplus or deficit on revaluation is recognised in profit or loss.

#### 1.8 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).

#### 1.9 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.

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### 2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	155	-	155	-	-	-
Assessments	358,255	-	358,255	363,123	-	363,123
Grants receivable	-	-	-	10,000	2,815	12,815
Administration	79,402	3,317	82,719	84,454	15,980	100,434
Other	211,495	-	211,495	19,181	221,909	241,090
	<u>649,307</u>	<u>3,317</u>	<u>652,624</u>	<u>476,758</u>	<u>240,704</u>	<u>717,462</u>

#### Other

Included in other income is a £182,000 in relation to a refund of a previous contribution towards the pension fund deficit.

### 3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2024	2023
	£	£
<b>Other trading activities</b>		
Books & telephone income	6,375	5,996
Sundry income	100	228
	<u>6,475</u>	<u>6,224</u>

### 4 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Endowment funds general	Total	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Rental income	56,844	-	56,844	45,333
Income from unlisted investments	21,749	-	21,749	22,178
Interest receivable	58,224	63	58,287	27,507
	<u>136,817</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>136,880</u>	<u>95,018</u>

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### 5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Charitable activities 2024 £	Charitable activities 2023 £
<b>Direct costs</b>		
Staff costs	329,979	326,260
Depreciation and impairment	3,325	3,665
Gifts and donations	1,230	628
Assessments	109,065	98,290
Travel	12,405	13,786
Repairs and property costs	88,377	66,761
Connexional funds	-	376
Pulput supply	2,004	2,025
The Holy Biscuit costs	109,097	82,426
Hand in Hand costs	7,625	8,639
	<u>663,107</u>	<u>602,856</u>
Grant funding of activities (see note 6)	24,781	12,652
<b>Share of support and governance costs (see note 7)</b>		
Support	21,700	15,662
Governance	18,177	4,925
	<u>727,765</u>	<u>636,095</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>		
Unrestricted funds	727,256	599,235
Restricted funds	509	36,860
	<u>727,765</u>	<u>636,095</u>

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### 6 Grants payable

	Charitable activities 2024 £	Charitable activities 2023 £
Grants to institutions:		
Trinity Christian Community Centre	-	375
MINE	5,375	7,143
Newcastle Chinese Methodist Church	4,939	-
Brunswick Methodist Church	7,467	4,934
Jesmond Methodist Church	7,000	200
	<u>24,781</u>	<u>12,652</u>

### 7 Support costs allocated to activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Telephone	9,399	8,663
Postage & stationery	6,802	4,666
Sundries	5,499	2,333
Governance costs	18,177	4,925
	<u>39,877</u>	<u>20,587</u>
<b>Analysed between:</b>		
Charitable activities	<u>39,877</u>	<u>20,587</u>
	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Governance costs comprise:</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Independent examiner's fee	4,663	4,452
Professional services	13,514	473
	<u>18,177</u>	<u>4,925</u>

### 8 Trustees

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 August 2024 nor for the year ended 31 August 2023.

#### Trustees expenses

The aggregate amount of travelling and subsistence expenses reimbursed to the trustees during the year was £15,685 (2023: £13,596). The number of persons reimbursed was 13 (2023: 9).

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### 9 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Direct charitable expenditure	9	9
Management and admin of the charity	2	2
Total	11	11

### Employment costs

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	255,085	250,987
Social security costs	20,942	20,744
Other pension costs	53,952	54,529
	329,979	326,260

The key management personnel of the charity include the circuit stewards, the superintendent and other ministers who are all managing trustees. Total employee benefits of the key management personnel for the year were £37,584 (2023: £34,788).

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

### 10 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

### 11 Investment property

	2024 £
<b>Fair value</b>	
At 1 September 2023	-
Transfers from owner-occupied property	34,000
Net gains or losses through fair value adjustments	206,000
At 31 August 2024	240,000

The investment properties were revalued by trustees on 31 August 2024. The valuation was made on an open market basis by reference to market evidence of transaction prices for similar properties, which the trustees believe represents fair value.

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### 11 Investment property

(Continued)

	2024 £	2023 £
Freehold	240,000	-

### 12 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Computers £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 September 2023	366,467	10,827	377,294
Transfer to investment property	(34,000)	-	(34,000)
At 31 August 2024	332,467	10,827	343,294
<b>Depreciation and impairment</b>			
At 1 September 2023	56,882	10,827	67,709
Depreciation charged in the year	3,325	-	3,325
At 31 August 2024	60,207	10,827	71,034
<b>Carrying amount</b>			
At 31 August 2024	272,260	-	272,260
At 31 August 2023	309,585	-	309,585

### 13 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Other debtors	3,800	7,593
Prepayments and accrued income	5,739	9,470
	9,539	17,063

### 14 Current asset investments

	2024 £	2023 £
Unlisted investments	783,503	727,234



# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### 15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Accruals and deferred income	53,331	5,774

### 16 Retirement benefit schemes

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Defined contribution schemes</b>		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	53,952	54,529

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

### 17 Operating lease commitments

#### Lessee

Amounts recognised in profit or loss as an expense during the period in respect of operating lease arrangements are as follows:

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Within one year	3,593	3,593
Between two and five years	8,983	12,576
	12,576	16,169

### 18 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 September 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	At 31 August 2024 £
Shieldfield Arftworks	12,041	3,317	(509)	-	-	14,849

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### 18 Restricted funds

(Continued)

Previous year:	At 1 September 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 August 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Dorris Nuttal bequest	5	-	-	(5)	-	-
Property Fund	1,360,468	288,541	(18,906)	(1,598,174)	(31,929)	-
Shieldfield Arftworks	11,200	18,795	(17,954)	-	-	12,041
	<u>1,371,673</u>	<u>307,336</u>	<u>36,860</u>	<u>(1,598,179)</u>	<u>(31,929)</u>	<u>12,041</u>

### 19 Designated funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	Balance at 1 September 2023	Transfers	Balance at 31 August 2024
	£	£	£
Property Fund	1,522,391	112,293	1,634,684
	<u>1,522,391</u>	<u>112,293</u>	<u>1,634,684</u>

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

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### 20 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 2023	Incoming resources	Movement in funds			Balance at 31 August 2024
	£	£	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	£
<b>Permanent endowments</b>						
The Susannah Gibson memorial fund	518	12	(2)	-	64	592
WR Dixon gift	1,631	51	(4)	-	123	1,801
	<u>2,149</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>(6)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>187</u>	<u>2,393</u>

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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### 21 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 2024

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### 22 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.

##### 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, some of which are restricted, 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.

#### **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.

### 23 Transfers

Transfers between restricted and unrestricted reserves relate to restrictions no longer applied to the Property Fund. The balance on this fund has been transferred to a designated fund for use within the Newcastle area.

### 24 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2023 - none).

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### 25 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Endowment funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:					
Tangible assets	272,260	-	-	272,260	309,585
Investment properties	240,000	-	-	240,000	-
Current assets/(liabilities)	1,778,654	14,849	2,393	1,795,896	1,668,117
	<u>2,290,914</u>	<u>14,849</u>	<u>2,393</u>	<u>2,308,156</u>	<u>1,977,702</u>

### 26 Cash generated from operations

	2024 £	2023 £
Surplus for the year	330,454	150,383
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(136,880)	(95,018)
Fair value gains and losses on investment properties	(206,000)	-
Fair value gains and losses on investments	(56,261)	32,205
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	3,325	3,665
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease in debtors	7,524	8,575
Increase in creditors	47,557	636
<b>Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations</b>	<u>(10,281)</u>	<u>100,446</u>

### 27 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no material debt during the year.