

Charity registration number 1134265 (England and Wales)

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

**ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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Charity number	1134265
Principal address	Brunswick Methodist Church Brunswick Place Newcastle upon Tyne Tyne and Wear NE1 7BJ
Independent examiner	Robson Laidler Accountants Limited Fernwood House Fernwood Road Jesmond Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 2TJ
Bankers	Lloyds Bank plc 102 Grey Street Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7BJ  Central Finance Board of the Methodists Church 9 Bonhill Street London EC2A 4PE
Solicitors	Sintons LLP The Cube Barrack Road Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 6DB
Surveyors and Valuers	Lambert Smith Hampton 41-51 Grey Street Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 6DB
Custodian Trustees	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 - deceased 01.06.25  
V Choi - resigned 01.09.25  
J C Kelsall  
R Lai - resigned 01.03.25  
P H Martin  
T F Rogers  
W F Filmer  
A Ilderton  
J Keltie - resigned 01.06.25  
A Nicholson  
R Taglione  
A Wilkinson  
J Shuen  
J Atherton  
D Lowry  
M S Ball  
D Pigeon - resigned 01.09.25  
N Pigeon - resigned 01.09.25  
K Stewart  
Rev P D Cleever-Thorpe  
Rev Professor D A Wilkinson  
Rev J Mooney  
Rev A Wilkinson  
R Pickard  
Deacon G I Morgan - resigned 01.07.25  
M E Graham  
C L Eke  
K I Gilfillan  
I Leung  
H J Chapman  
L Morley - resigned 01.09.25  
J G Patrick - resigned 01.09.25  
Rev K M Reader  
S Walker  
A Barker  
J Anderson  
D A Stabler  
C Hall  
S Hutchinson - resigned 01.04.25  
M Harrison  
J A Buchan  
N A Downs - resigned 01.06.25  
M Burdon - appointed 01.09.25  
Deacon J Henderson - appointed 01.09.24  
Rev H White - appointed 01.09.24  
K Jones - appointed 01.09.24  
H Nelson - appointed 01.09.24  
TC Kwok - appointed 01.09.24  
J Simpson - appointed 01.09.24  
P Cheung - appointed 01.03.25  
P Newman - appointed 11.05.25  
S Johnson - appointed 01.01.26

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## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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Deacon W Topping - appointed 01.09.25  
F Li - appointed 04.01.26  
K Poon - appointed 01/01.206  
C Carroll - appointed 09.09.25  
Rev M Newman - appointed 01.09.25  
Rev M Attwood - appointed 01.09.25  
B Spence appointed 19.10.25

### **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 2025**

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The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2025. 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 Methodist Church is called to be a growing, inclusive, evangelistic and justice-seeking Church**

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 (one manse is 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. Manses that are not immediately required are 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 Superintendent Minister and the Stewards normally meet bi-monthly. The Circuit Leadership Team, which also meets bi-monthly, comprises all ministers in the Circuit and the Circuit Stewards.

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 life, work, and ministry of the Circuit is underpinned by prayer, public worship and personal commitment to follow Christ. We base our Circuit's mission and our churches plans upon the four aspects of The Calling of The Methodist Church: 'Growing, Inclusive, Evangelistic' & 'Justice seeking'.

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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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.

Sadly, one of our Local Ecumenical Partnerships - United Reformed Church (URC) and Methodist - St Cuthbert's Church, Heaton, requested to close or 'cease to meet' in early 2025. This request was granted and the final service of the Church was held at the end of August. Members of the church have moved to other local churches in Heaton or elsewhere in the Circuit. The building is owned by the URC and, at this time, we do not know if Christian worship and witness will continue on the site or whether the building will be sold.

The Circuit is 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. There has been one URC minister stationed within the Circuit. Revd Alex Mabbs became seriously ill in September 2024 and, sadly, died in June 2025. A replacement URC minister will be sought in the next year.

The Circuit is 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: one in pre-ordination training for presbyterial ministry; one who moved from on note to on trial; one who has paused her training; and three on note.

#### 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 2025

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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 the Methodist Church's 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;
- 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 2025 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, as well as the sale of surplus manse. The Circuit's free reserves in August 2025 were £216,562.

In 2022, the Circuit Meeting (Trustees) had discussed and considered the notion of investing a significant part of the free reserves, 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/managed-funds/>



# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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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 a few 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 Alison Wilkinson. 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 2025**

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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] which is now exhausted.
- The District City Centre Fund, which 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 in this Trust were exhausted in 2022-2023, and it was closed.
- The Elizabeth Ann Burton bequest - the funds have now been expended and the fund 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.
- Coxlodge Mission Fund – the Circuit Meeting set up this fund in March 2025 from the rental income of the Owl Tree Children's Café (following the closure of Coxlodge Methodist Church). The fund is designated for mission work within the circuit.

### ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

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

#### Brunswick Methodist Church

Brunswick Methodist Church plays host to two congregations, the traditional Brunswick Methodist Church and the Newcastle Chinese Methodist Church. There is now a third group which gathers for the purpose of mutual support, spiritual growth and ongoing discipleship. This group is called 'Recovery Church', an inclusive community for those seeking recovery from all addictions and led by people who are, themselves, in recovery. The Newcastle expression of 'Recovery Church' is offering a blueprint for similar communities which are beginning across the UK. This group is growing in numbers which has been very encouraging to see and our new Diaconal Minister, who is to be stationed to our Circuit in September 2025, will offer time in support of this work.

Over the past year a major fundraising initiative has been overseen by our Church Treasurer, Property Secretary and Finance Committee. This was in support of the installation of new boilers, replacing the six fitted in 1980 with three eco-friendly boilers which can be converted to hydrogen. The cost came in on budget at £66,845 and was funded by donations from Brunswick and Chinese members of £11,352 and five generous grants: William Leech Charity £10,000; Catherine Cookson Foundation £3,500; Benefact Trust £19,400; Northumbria Historic Churches Trust £5,000; and the Circuit Meeting £18,593. There was also support offered by the Methodist District and TMCP. This project came on the back of alterations and associated fundraising to alter the former Listening Post rooms to create the Recovery Hub costing circa £30,000.

As Brunswick is very much a multi-cultural and international church, we have given time over this year to looking at new areas of cross-cultural ministry headed up by our part-time Lay Worker. These areas will include bilingual bible studies, the continuation of our united acts of worship with Newcastle Chinese Methodist Church and a sharing of vision on the part of those in leadership across our two congregations. This vision will, we trust, underpin how Brunswick grows and thrives over the next five to ten years.

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

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

NCMC was established in 2003 and became a member of the Methodist Church in Great Britain in 2012. NCMC provides Cantonese and Mandarin worship services, as well as community care services. In the past year, 30 British Nationals from Overseas (BNO's) have been baptised in our church or have become church members.

#### **Opportunities.**

The number of attendees at Sunday service has increased from an average of 130 in 2023-24 to 150 in 2024-25. Although the influx of BNO immigrants has levelled off since 2022, NCMC continues to provide both pastoral care and support services to the newcomers. These include:

- establishing relationships with these families;
- assisting in solving their emigration problems to settle down in Newcastle;
- helping their youth and young children assimilate into the UK education and cultural system;
- providing caring support to their families and elderly parents to adapt to life in UK.

#### **Challenges.**

NCMC has limited pastoral manpower resources. Before November 2023, there was only one full-time pastoral worker under the supervision of the Circuit Superintendent Rev. Paul Cleever-Thorpe. To alleviate the workload of the only pastoral worker, NCMC conducted a fundraising exercise in the congregation in 2023 to enable the appointment of an additional pastoral worker. This post was on a one-year contract basis and was not renewed in November 2023.

Our intention is to seek a new pastoral worker who will take up the following responsibilities:

- the pastoral care and development of children and youth work programs within the church;
- helping young people to explore the Christian faith in a creative and dynamic way;
- recruiting, motivating and training volunteer youth workers;
- nurturing young disciples to become youth leaders and future church leaders.

We understand that the Church is facing a lot of challenges. However, we have faith in our mighty God. With His guidance, we will fulfil his mission to serve and offer evangelist work to the Chinese community in Newcastle.

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

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

We are delighted that more new people have engaged with us this past year. We have had seven Baptisms and a Confirmation and Reception into Membership Service for another three people. This is a result of our continued intentional mission and evangelism; forming relationships with people in the community and other community groups.

Our closer connections with uniformed organisations has resulted in their greater involvement in Church Worship Services as well as helping us become more eco-friendly.

Our strategy for Mission encompasses all:

- Our Little Shepherds, Baby and Toddler Group remains a flourishing effort and we have a waiting list for more places. Our ministry is not just to the children but also to the parents and carers who enjoy meeting and sharing with us and each other. Kidz Rock and Open the Book are means by which we successfully engage with primary school children, both in meetings in the church and in the local schools. We have been pleased to welcome school groups for visits into our church and for their Christmas Services.
- Outreach to teenagers is through the Hot Chocolate Youth Group, now under the governance of North Tyneside Local Council. Our minister is one of the volunteer leaders. This enterprise helps reduce anti-social behaviour and enables Christian fellowship and teaching at secondary school level. Other topics explored have touched upon wider community issues including safety, Mental Health Awareness, First Aid and Fire Safety sessions.
- Honest to God is our twice monthly drop-in meeting for adults wishing to share their Christian experience and learn more about faith. We also run Advent and Lent courses in person and online. These are valuable and less formal opportunities to encourage and welcome others into our church to meet and talk. We regularly visit our local care home, meeting residents and carers.

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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- We continue our commitment to local outreach through the Rising Sun Neighbours which is a small group of churches engaging with people at the Country Park. We sang carols and told the Nativity Story at Christmas, held a craft stall at the Summer Festival and distributed leaflets about our church with invitations to visit us. We are proud to be one of the original founders of this group.
- Sew and Socialise is what the title suggests. The thriving group meets weekly, celebrating birthdays and other events. This past year knitted blankets were donated to Charlton Court and to another care home. The RVI Dementia Team asked if "Twiddle Muffs" and blankets could be knitted and donated to them which S&S happily did. A good year!

Our Christmas events generate interest outside our walls bringing in more people to enjoy the celebrations. Our Carol Service saw a congregation of 58 and our Christingle had 185 adults and 35 children in attendance. We also held a Christmas Morning service which was well attended. Carol singing at the local shops involved a collection of 40 singers and an equal number of people joined us at Charlton Court. Our Christmas Fair is very popular with our local community, bringing them into our premises to enjoy fellowship.

We have fulfilled our financial commitments and feel very blessed by God in serving Him, each other and our wider community.

#### Jesmond Methodist Church

The congregation at JMC continues to grow and flourish. Formal membership has just topped 50, for the first time in many years, and we have many other friends and adherents, both in person and on-line. Two people have been baptised in the past year with plans for a third in later 2025. It's always a thrill to use the District's adult baptismal pool within our worship. We are blessed that everyone in our congregation delights in using their talents to support Church activities, internally and for outreach.

In September 2024, as part of the Shieldfield Project grant from the Circuit and the District Advance Fund, we welcomed two new staff members: Josh, our Student & Young Adult Worker, and Krystal, our Creative Communications lead. They have helped support our outreach to students and expanded our online presence through Instagram and Facebook. The grant has also released our JMC Lay Pastor and Student Worker to continue development of our New Places for New People project in Shieldfield, now called *Sanctuary*: a partnership between JMC and Shieldfield Art Works and those belonging to *Sanctuary*. There are now a fortnightly Shieldfield house group and a monthly evening worship service. Two of the best *Sanctuary* moments of the year were at Christmas and Easter. At Christmas, our relationship with local families and the school meant that 40 people of all ages gathered in the SAW garden to put on a Scratch Nativity and sing carols. At Easter, we partnered with the exhibition at SAW, 'Jagged Edges', which is a collection of art prints, poetry and music taking you through the stations of the cross. This work is created by artists who have first-hand experience of church-related abuse and it helps tell their stories through the story of Jesus' final days.

While there has been work and time put into the New Places for New People initiative, we are also seeing growth at Jesmond, with new people regularly walking through our doors and finding a home. We are not just growing numerically but also are growing spiritually, as we spend each day working out how to be better followers of Jesus. New outreach highlights include our weekly Create Space craft and jigsaw morning, which is beginning to attract people from the local community, and the successful running of an Alpha course (10 weekly sessions and an away day), with over 20 attending the first session. In an effort to continue to highlight climate change, as part of the Jesmond Community Festival, we organised a pop-up clothes swap, with over 250 local people coming to participate. Other events hosted for the Festival included a Paint and Pizza evening and The Big Jesmond Quiz, both of which attracted Church members and local residents.

We are delighted that we now have sufficient young people to be able to form a Youth Group, which meets twice a month. The young people have also participated in District youth activities, Jesmond Methodist Kids and the Youth Group contribute regularly to our Sunday worship. Easter was a particular moment for celebration and involvement as we struggled for enough chairs to fit everyone in!

Challenges include the upkeep of an old Edwardian building, which celebrates its 125th birthday in 2026. We are enormously grateful that God has provided funds to keep the bricks and mortar in good order, so that the building can continue as a safe place for our community.



# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025*

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

The church welcomed its new minister, Revd Helen White, in September 2024 and she has quickly settled in. We are blessed with a rich and varied worship experience with worship leaders provided by the Methodist and United Reformed Churches. We organised two services designated as 'Own Arrangement' which involved our own members sharing their unique journeys of faith and leading our prayers. All-age worship takes place on the first Sunday of each month; Communion services take place on the third Sunday of each month. There is a monthly midweek worship and fellowship service, and we run Messy Church on a quarterly basis. Refreshments after the Sunday morning service enhances the fellowship shared by regular worshippers and enables us to offer a warm welcome to visitors.

Apart from the ongoing work of our minister, the church has a team of eleven volunteer pastoral carers who each take responsibility to help and keep in touch with several of our people on a regular basis. The pastoral carers, Cradle Roll secretary and a Sunday School representative meet with the minister, vestry steward and the pastoral secretary as a committee at least twice a year to review the pastoral needs and ensure that the close families of all church members, frequent worshippers (adherents) and children in recent contact with the church are included in the care coverage.

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 fluctuates and there is a wide age range. The children engage in craft activities and games linked to the Old and New Testaments. At Pentecost everyone enjoyed blowing bubbles, making paper aeroplanes and flying a miniature kite to demonstrate the Holy Spirit moving as the breath of God.

Church Membership stands at 93. Some of our elderly members are now unable to attend church services, but we are normally blessed to have a congregation of 60-70 attendees at Sunday morning services.

Currently we keep in touch with four families who have children on the Cradle Roll and three families whose children have had infant thanksgiving and blessing services. They all receive the church magazine, and the Cradle Roll secretary visits each home with a card for the child's birthday and a general invitation to Messy Church or weekly Junior Church.

The 4th Newcastle Girls' Brigade meets in the church each week, run by trained volunteer leaders. Numbers are growing. Activities include sleepovers, outings, special church services, award nights and camps.

Our dedicated editor puts together our church magazine – Tidings – ten times a year. The content features a message from the minister, a diary of church activities, church news and looking forward or back at church-related events in the neighbourhood and worldwide. It also covers current events at home or abroad that may be of interest from a Christian or community perspective.

Many from the church participated in the Christmas knitted angels outreach project. After a request from staff and residents, services have been held in the local care home once a month. These services are well supported by members of the church family who sit among the residents, getting to know them and encouraging them to take part in the singing.

The premises are also well used by 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 Reformed 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 Foundation Futures; Walking With and the Cullercoats RNLI. Appeals for the Gaza crisis and other international charity appeals 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 £3,935 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, as funds permit.

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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

The church welcomed our new Minister, Revd. Paul Cleever-Thorpe, in September 2024. Worship continued to be held on Sunday mornings for our own members and friends. Our Wives & Friends Group have met on alternate Tuesday afternoons at which about 20 ladies have attended.

The building has continued to be used by Newcastle Christian Tabernacle on two weekday evenings and on a Sunday afternoon. St Cuthbert's continued to support the local Heaton Churches Together group, hosting a Lent lunch and supporting events which are shared by the churches across Heaton and High Heaton.

In January 2025 an important church 'vision afternoon' was held. At this gathering, our Minister invited us to consider our church's recent past in terms of missional activities held, to assess our present circumstances and to pray about our future. Whilst there was affirmation concerning those efforts which the church had made, we also understood the realities of what we were now facing, and we recommended that the Lay Leaders should meet together and bring a recommendation to our next Church Meeting.

The recommendation was that the church should close later in the year at a date to be agreed. This recommendation was passed. Subsequently, from February onwards there has been a huge effort to begin to clear the church building and to pull together important church records for placing in the archives. The Lay Leaders deserve enormous credit not only for spearheading this work but also for doing it in a united and gracious way.

The final thanksgiving services for St. Cuthbert's LEP took place over the weekend of 30th/31st August and were attended by many people with past connections to the church and by those from both partner denominations giving their support to church members at an emotional time for them. At these final services, thanksgiving was expressed to God for all his many blessings and for all the ways in which St. Cuthbert's, and the original Heaton Presbyterian church, had reached out into the local community and been a spiritual home to so many.

Church records have been archived with the URC Northern Synod which has taken over Trusteeship of the church building with the intention of it being sold following valuation.

#### **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 are delighted to be welcoming an increasingly diverse range of members. 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. To assist some new arrivals to the UK, two members established a Bible study group for Cantonese speakers.

In September 2024 we welcomed our new Methodist minister, Deacon Jill Henderson, and in June 2025 Rev Shena Moray-Evans filled our longstanding Anglican vacancy. The arrival of both has served to enliven our worship and outreach activities.

We 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. We held our carol singing events at Marks & Spencer and Tesco to raise funds for West End Refugees and Action for Children, though we will be reviewing whether they serve their purpose adequately in time for Christmas 2025. Members have been very active in the collection of shoeboxes from across Northumberland and North Durham.

A new initiative has been re-invigorating our relationship with Kingston Park Primary school using the 'Open the Book' material. This has been very well received by the school. We are fortunate to have received a grant of £500 from the circuit to purchase props and costumes.

Sadly, our bookings and usage by community groups have not been as good in the year as previously, which has impacted our finances.

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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In January we completed the renewal of our heating boilers. This was largely funded by grants received from the following: Wesley Orphan House Trust (£5,500), Benefact Trust (£1,750), Northumbria Historic Trust (£3,000), Garfield Weston Foundation (£3,500), Congregational & General Charitable Trust (£5,100), and the Newcastle Central & East Methodist Circuit (£10,000). We are deeply grateful to all the grant providers for their support. In addition, the Lord spoke to our members who responded and provided the balance of the cost of renewal.

Throughout the year we have completed a programme of draught proofing and completed a long-term project to convert all our lighting to LEDs. The works were largely covered by a grant of £2,350 from the Diocese of Newcastle as part of its 'Quick Wins for Net Zero' initiative.

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

2024-2025 has been a very challenging year for Trinity Gosforth. Our minister, Revd Alex Mabbs, was taken ill at the beginning of September and later diagnosed with a terminal brain tumour. Sadly, he passed away in June. The church has supported his family and mourned the loss of a dear friend and minister.

The loss of a full-time minister has impacted our achievements; however, we were joined by a half time minister, Deacon Jill Henderson, in September 2024 who has supported us and has been a blessing. Faithful church members have worked hard to ensure the life of the church continues. We have received great support from the Methodist Circuit and visiting preachers.

Despite the challenges, we have welcomed four new members by transfer, conducted ten infant baptisms and three believers' baptisms by full immersion. We are becoming a more diverse church welcoming new people of different ages, nationalities and backgrounds. With this in mind, we are planning an Alpha course in the New Year.

This year we celebrated 25 years since the coming together of three churches - Gosforth URC, Woodbine Rd & West Avenue Methodist Churches. At our July coffee morning there were children's activities outside, and a BBQ. In the church, a slideshow of the amazing transformation of the building and subsequent celebrations was shown on a loop during the morning, drawing many people to sit and watch.

We held a prayer and Vision Day and published a Trinity Times 25th Celebration Edition. At the end of September, our celebrations culminated with a service of worship led by Rev. Jona Sewell, Chair of District, and lunch.

We strive to make services more accessible, with larger print hymns and copies of the sermon. Service at home sheets are sent out to 12 members and the service is live streamed on YouTube, with approximately 70 contacts a week. Young Church is thriving, with Sunday Nights Over Tens meeting in homes on Sunday evenings. The toddler groups give fun, fellowship and support to many families during the week. Life groups meet for fellowship and Bible study, and there have been opportunities to share further study with St Johns's LEP in Kingston Park. About 40 men gather monthly for breakfast, fellowship and a speaker. Women's Fellowship meet monthly, and our weekly Friday morning (a designated warm space) and monthly Saturday coffee mornings are very well attended and are an opportunity for us to build bridges with the community.

Men's Shed continues to make a huge impact on men's lives, particularly for those recently bereaved, the lonely or those with mental health issues. While sharing skills and producing some wonderful products, the men are able to talk to each other, as well as having a great deal of fun. Amongst other things, they have made holding crosses that have been given to people in hospital, care homes and to the terminally ill, which have been greatly appreciated.

Trinity Centre is well used by the community, with many hirers as well as our own church groups. 2,500 people a week use our building, providing us with the opportunity to build relations with our community.

Our finances remain strong, with £9540 being donated to the Walker and District Food Bank, over and above our normal church and charity commitments.

We are now in the process of seeking a new full-time URC minister and continue to look to God for his leadership through the Holy Spirit in the months to come.

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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#### Trinity Methodist Church, Wallsend

During the past Methodist year, we have continued to hold our Warm Space Coffee Morning every Saturday. In the summer, the welcome remains warm but hopefully the space is pleasantly cool. We always have 20 plus people, mostly from the local community. Some are regulars whilst others are occasional visitors or new people. The Council donate their left-over food on a Friday – particularly sandwiches and scones. It's great that they continue to do this. Sometimes there's a lot, and other times not much, but it goes down well with those who attend.

We continue to video all our Sunday services and put them on YouTube. This enables those who can't attend to still take part in the worship.

Our Youth Group, Girls Brigade and Tea Dance, all run by members of the church, continue to do well. The Girls' Brigade has gained an extra leader, much loved by the youngest girls, and we have some new girls. We also have a Toddler Group, Scouts, Line Dancing, and *Forward in Faith* Church, that use our premises. So, our premises are well used.

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

The WOHT receives 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 allocates an annual budget of approximately £25,000 for grants, prioritising work that supports children, vulnerable individuals, property repairs, and a lot more. In 2024/2025, the Trust has granted 14 individual grants totalling £23,400 to: Recovery Church; Scots Gap Methodist Church; Brunswick Methodist Church; St. John's LEP Kingston Park; Martha and Mary's Community Café; Lindisfarne Methodist Church; Junction 42; West End Women and Girls Centre; Calvert Kielder; Cornerstone, Benwell; Chester-le-Street Methodist Church; Cornerstones; Shieldfield Art Works; and Her Circle.

Over the past year, the Trust has appointed a new Secretary and has increased its number of Trustees. The design of a new application form will be discussed at upcoming meetings. Applicants will be able to access and complete the grant application form online and then submit it to [bmchurcht25@gmail.com](mailto:bmchurcht25@gmail.com)

We have also updated the payment process by moving to online banking, instead of using cheques, which is a lot more efficient.

Further information about the Trust can be found on the Circuit's website: <http://newcastlecentralmethodist.org.uk/woht.php>

#### Hand in Hand

Hand in Hand meets weekly, on a Tuesday, in Trinity Methodist Church, Wallsend. The aim is to reduce and prevent loneliness and social isolation in older people. 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 kitchen team, both volunteers, provide good quality food every week and work on a rota basis which works really well. We continue to have good feedback from the members who enjoy the tasty, nutritious meals.

We have had six new members this year. One member enjoyed it so much that she brought her three friends the following week. Of those who came on their own, strong friendships seem to have formed and they now meet up outside the club. The members really do care for and support one another.

There is certainly a lot of fun and laughter at the club each week but this wouldn't be possible without the team of dedicated volunteers who, along with the Coordinator, enable the club to run smoothly every week.



# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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#### Methodist Women in Britain (MWIB)

The twice a year retreats at Minsteracres continue to be highlights of the Newcastle District's MWIB calendar as the members always feel warmly welcomed there.

An Away Day in September 2024 at Houghton-le-Spring Methodist Church was entitled 'A Taste of Porto' and incorporated Bible Study, a service with Holy Communion, Crafting, and a Prayer Walk/Liturgical Dance.

In November 2024, at Ponteland Methodist Church, the MWIB held their annual service to induct Mrs Rosemary Gray as District President and recommission all their other officers. Cheques were presented to the outgoing President's Projects. A new project was introduced, Rev. Jona Sewell, Chair of the Newcastle District, was the preacher.

A Bring and Share District dinner was held at Ponteland Methodist Church in July 2025 and included entertainment.

World Church Day was celebrated in June 2025 at St Andrew's and St Mark's at Newbiggin by the Sea where MWIB members enjoyed a talk by Isabel Hindle on 'Reaching the Unreached in India', followed by a Bring and Share lunch.

Through her own fundraising and through the fundraising of the MWIB Newcastle District combined, the President raised the sum of £1092 for her chosen project, Tynedale Hospice at Home.

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

There were six exhibitions during the year:

- **September-October 2024 // Playing Out**

An interactive exhibition made in response to community conversations, exploring our connections with place and space as our own playing fields. Visitors were invited to respond by adding to the gallery walls using the paint provided. It grew up into a riot of colour and celebration of play.

- **November-December 2024 // Craft Action Collective Exhibition**

A gathering and celebration of work produced by Craft Action Collective, a group exploring activism and issues in the news through the medium of craft and printmaking. From January 2024 we started documenting artworks and encouraging the group to write labels articulating why they made a piece of art. This has the purpose of encouraging creative articulation both visually, through speech and now writing. It also builds towards an exhibition of the group's work, giving time and space to revisit ideas for further reflection in a world where new ideas are so often rapidly consumed.

- **February-March 2025 // Take Over 2025**

Take Over is SAW's annual programme showcasing emerging artists, as part of our commitment to support up and coming talent. This year's three exhibitions looked at uncomfortable experiences as a young woman in Newcastle, everyday challenges of living on a remote farm and the identities of artist and mother.

- **April 2025 // Jagged Edges**

Jagged Edges was an exhibition of printmaking, poetry, and music created by and for survivors of church-related abuse. The artists drew links between their own experiences and the story of Jesus as he approached his crucifixion.

- **May-June 2025 // Sowing Creative Fallow**

An interactive exhibition considering work, rest and leisure. Can rest be a form of resistance in a productivity-obsessed and consumerist world? Who in society is and isn't free to rest well?

- **August 2025 // Painting for Fun**

A vibrant exhibition, bringing together an eclectic group of artists united by their love of painting. With subject matter ranging from landscapes, portraits, local scenes and botanical studies, there was something for everyone.

#### **Workshops and Events**

- **Songs of Solidarity and Strength Part 1**

Community song writing workshops with songwriters Gareth Davies-Jones and Bronwen Davies-Jones, residents and a group from the local primary school to share their experience of life in Shieldfield.

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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- **National Garden Scheme**

SAW participated for the first time in the Scheme which gives visitors unique access to over 3,300 exceptional private gardens and raises impressive amounts of money for nursing and health charities through admissions.

Other workshops included Wreath-Making, Highland Cow Painting and Portrait.

SAW received specific funding to take a group of people within our different communities to visit the Auckland Project in Bishop Auckland.

SAW regular groups include the Painting for Fun oil painting class, Craft Action Collective, and Shieldfield Grows (a regular community gardening group).

For further information about SAW and its activities, please see the web site: <https://saw-newcastle.org/>

#### **Financial position**

Income for the year ended 31 August 2025 totalled £790,303 (2024: £795,979 resulting in a surplus for the year of £28,524 (2024: £330,454). Funds totalled £2,336,680 at the year end, of which £19,351 are restricted funds, which are held for special purpose of The Holy Biscuit, and £2,350 are endowment funds. Unrestricted reserves total £2,314,979 which includes those held for special purpose of £32,206 The Holy Biscuit, £6,195 Hand in hand and £82 Methodist Women in Britain. Designated funds at the end of the year amounted to £1,599,005.

#### **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 £216,562.

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 eleven ministerial staff. 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.

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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 [10 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.

#### Statement of trustees' responsibilities

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

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

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

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

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

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

..... Susan Wilkinson

Rev A Wilkinson - Trustee

Dated: ..... 25/2/26

# 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

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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 2025.

#### **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.

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

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000, the independent examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. 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 Charities Act 2011,
- 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 financial statements set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the financial statements 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: 2-7-2026

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### Current financial year

		Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Endowment funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
	Notes					
<b><u>Income and endowments from:</u></b>						
Donations and legacies	2	422,814	64,253	-	487,067	652,624
Other trading activities	3	6,097	-	-	6,097	6,475
Investments	4	112,940	-	52	112,992	136,880
Other income	5	184,147	-	-	184,147	-
<b>Total income and endowments</b>		<b>725,998</b>	<b>64,253</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>790,303</b>	<b>795,979</b>
<b><u>Expenditure on:</u></b>						
Raising funds		18	-	113	131	21
Charitable activities	6	703,356	59,751	-	763,107	727,765
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<b>703,374</b>	<b>59,751</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>763,238</b>	<b>727,786</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments		1,441	-	18	1,459	262,261
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>24,065</b>	<b>4,502</b>	<b>(43)</b>	<b>28,524</b>	<b>330,454</b>
Fund balances at 1 September 2024		2,290,914	14,849	2,393	2,308,156	1,977,702
<b>Fund balances at 31 August 2025</b>		<b>2,314,979</b>	<b>19,351</b>	<b>2,350</b>	<b>2,336,680</b>	<b>2,308,156</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 2025

Prior financial year		Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Endowment funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
	Notes				
<b><u>Income and endowments from:</u></b>					
Donations and legacies	2	649,307	3,317	-	652,624
Other trading activities	3	6,475	-	-	6,475
Investments	4	136,817	-	63	136,880
<b>Total income and endowments</b>		<b>792,599</b>	<b>3,317</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>795,979</b>
<b><u>Expenditure on:</u></b>					
Raising funds		15	-	6	21
Charitable activities	6	727,256	509	-	727,765
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<b>727,271</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>727,786</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments		262,074	-	187	262,261
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers</b>		<b>327,402</b>	<b>2,808</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>330,454</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>327,402</b>	<b>2,808</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>330,454</b>
Fund balances at 1 September 2023		1,963,512	12,041	2,149	1,977,702
<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>

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 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	13		263,412		272,260
Investment properties	12		240,000		240,000
			<u>503,412</u>		<u>512,260</u>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	14	5,120		9,539	
Investments	15	784,767		783,503	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,097,629		1,056,185	
		<u>1,887,516</u>		<u>1,849,227</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	16	(54,248)		(53,331)	
Net current assets			<u>1,833,268</u>		<u>1,795,896</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>2,336,680</u>		<u>2,308,156</u>
<b>Capital funds</b>					
Endowment funds - general	21		2,350		2,393
<b>Income funds</b>					
Restricted funds	19		19,351		14,849
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds	20	-,1595,005		1,634,684	
General unrestricted funds		<u>719,974</u>		<u>656,230</u>	
			<u>2,314,979</u>		<u>2,290,914</u>
			<u>2,336,680</u>		<u>2,308,156</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on .....

*Clara Wilkinson*

Rev A Wilkinson - Trustee

25/2/26



# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Cash absorbed by operations	24		(261,479)		(10,281)
<b>Investing activities</b>					
Proceeds from disposal of tangible fixed assets		189,736		-	
Proceeds from disposal of investments		195		(8)	
Investment income received		112,992		136,880	
<b>Net cash generated from investing activities</b>			302,923		136,872
<b>Net cash generated from financing activities</b>			-		-
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>			41,444		126,591
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			1,056,185		929,594
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>			1,097,629		1,056,185



# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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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 2025

### 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 2025

### 2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2025	2025	2025	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	494	-	494	155	-	155
Assessments	350,204	-	350,204	358,255	-	358,255
Grants receivable	-	64,253	64,253	-	-	-
Administration	55,442	-	55,442	79,402	3,317	82,719
Other	16,674	-	16,674	211,495	-	211,495
	<u>422,814</u>	<u>64,253</u>	<u>487,067</u>	<u>649,307</u>	<u>3,317</u>	<u>652,624</u>

### 3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2025	2024
	£	£
<b>Other trading activities</b>		
Books & telephone income	6,047	6,375
Sundry income	50	100
	<u>6,097</u>	<u>6,475</u>

### 4 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Endowment funds	Total	Total
	2025	2025	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Rental income	49,580	-	49,580	56,844
Income from unlisted investments	16,365	-	16,365	21,749
Interest receivable	46,995	52	47,047	58,287
	<u>112,940</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>112,992</u>	<u>136,880</u>

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 5 Other income

	Unrestricted funds	Total
	2025	2024
	£	£
Net gain on disposal of tangible fixed assets	184,147	-

### 6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Charitable activities 2025	Charitable activities 2024
	£	£
<b>Direct costs</b>		
Staff costs	341,424	329,979
Depreciation and impairment	3,259	3,325
Gifts and donations	1,745	1,230
Assessments	118,815	109,065
Travel	11,472	12,405
Repairs and property costs	70,533	88,377
Pulpit supply	1,341	2,004
The Holy Biscuit costs	124,678	109,097
Hand in Hand costs	7,234	7,625
	680,501	663,107
Grant funding of activities (see note 7)	41,093	24,781
<b>Share of support and governance costs (see note 8)</b>		
Support	21,536	21,700
Governance	19,977	18,177
	763,107	727,765
<b>Analysis by fund</b>		
Unrestricted funds	703,356	727,256
Restricted funds	59,751	509
	763,107	727,765

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 7 Grants payable

	Charitable activities 2025 £	Charitable activities 2024 £
Grants to institutions:		
MINE	-	5,375
Newcastle Chinese Methodist Church	-	4,939
Brunswick Methodist Church	23,593	7,467
Shieldfield Artworks	-	7,000
St. John's LEP	10,500	-
Cross Cultural Ministry	7,000	-
	<u>41,093</u>	<u>24,781</u>

### 8 Support costs allocated to activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Telephone	8,643	9,399
Postage & stationery	7,092	6,802
Sundries	5,801	5,499
Governance costs	19,977	18,177
	<u>41,513</u>	<u>39,877</u>
<b>Analysed between:</b>		
Charitable activities	<u>41,513</u>	<u>39,877</u>

	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Governance costs comprise:</b>		
Independent examiner's fee	4,896	4,663
Professional services	15,081	13,514
	<u>19,977</u>	<u>18,177</u>

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

#### 9 Trustees

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 August 2025 nor for the year ended 31 August 2024.

#### Trustees expenses

The aggregate amount of travelling and subsistence expenses reimbursed to the trustees in relation to their lay worker and ministerial roles within the charity during the year was £14,089 (2024: £15,685). The number of persons reimbursed was 12 (2024: 13).

During the year the following trustees were paid salaries and stipends for their ministerial or lay worker roles within the Circuit:

	2025	2024
	£	£
S Hutchinson	7,501	10,151
S Walker	18,199	16,842
P Cleever- Thorpe	40,950	42,907
A Wilkinson	44,494	40,142
W Topping	3,535	-
G Morgan	37,416	39,848
H White	32,622	2,662
J Henderson	40,951	3,354

#### 10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Direct charitable expenditure	10	9
Management and admin of the charity	2	2
Total	12	11

Employment costs	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	270,762	255,085
Social security costs	26,520	20,942
Other pension costs	44,142	53,952
	341,424	329,979

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 £41,032 (2024: £37,584).

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

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 11 Taxation

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

### 12 Investment property

	2025 £
<b>Fair value</b>	
At 1 September 2024 and 31 August 2025	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.

		2025 £	2024 £
Freehold		240,000	240,000
13 Tangible fixed assets			
	Freehold land and buildings	Computers	Total
Cost	£	£	£
At 1 September 2024			
Disposals	332,467 (6,575)	10,827 -	343,294 (6,575)
At 31 August 2025	325,892	10,827	336,719
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 September 2024			
Depreciation charged in the year	60,207	10,827	71,034
Eliminated in respect of disposals	3,259 (986)	- -	3,259 (986)
At 31 August 2025	62,480	10,827	73,307
Carrying amount			
At 31 August 2025	263,412	-	263,412
At 31 August 2024	272,260	-	272,260

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

<b>14 Debtors</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Other debtors	-	3,800
Prepayments and accrued income	5,120	5,739
	<u>5,120</u>	<u>9,539</u>
<b>15 Current asset investments</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Unlisted investments	<u>784,767</u>	<u>783,503</u>
<b>16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Accruals and deferred income	<u>54,248</u>	<u>53,331</u>
<b>17 Retirement benefit schemes</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Defined contribution schemes</b>		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	<u>44,142</u>	<u>53,952</u>

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.

### 18 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:

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Within one year	3,593	3,593
Between two and five years	5,390	8,983
	<u>8,983</u>	<u>12,576</u>



# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 19 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 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 August 2025 £
Shieldfield Artworks	14,849	64,253	(59,751)	19,351
<b>Previous year:</b>	<b>At 1 September 2023 £</b>	<b>Incoming resources £</b>	<b>Resources expended £</b>	<b>At 31 August 2024 £</b>
Shieldfield Artworks	12,041	3,317	(509)	14,849

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

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 20 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 1 September 2024	Movement in funds			Balance at 31 August 2025
				Incoming resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Property Fund	1,522,391	112,293	1,634,684	318,834	(359,949)	1,436	1,595,005
General unrestricted funds	-	-	656,230	407,164	(343,425)	5	719,974
	<u>1,522,391</u>	<u>112,293</u>	<u>2,290,914</u>	<u>725,998</u>	<u>(703,374)</u>	<u>1,441</u>	<u>2,314,979</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.

### 21 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 2024	Incoming resources	Movement in funds			Balance at 31 August 2025
			Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Permanent endowments</b>						
The Susannah Gibson memorial fund	592	11	(2)	-	15	616
WR Dixon gift	1,801	41	(111)	-	3	1,734
	<u>2,393</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>(113)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>2,350</u>

#### 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.

# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 22 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2024 - none).

### 23 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Endowment funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Fund balances at 31 August 2025 are represented by:					
Tangible assets	263,412	-	-	263,412	272,260
Investment properties	240,000	-	-	240,000	240,000
Current assets/(liabilities)	1,811,567	19,351	2,350	1,833,268	1,795,896
	<u>2,314,979</u>	<u>19,351</u>	<u>2,350</u>	<u>2,336,680</u>	<u>2,308,156</u>

### 24 Cash absorbed by operations

	2025 £	2024 £
Surplus for the year	28,524	330,454
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(112,992)	(136,880)
Gain on disposal of tangible fixed assets	(184,147)	-
Fair value gains and losses on investment properties	-	(206,000)
Fair value gains and losses on investments	(1,459)	(56,261)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	3,259	3,325
<b>Movements in working capital:</b>		
Decrease in debtors	4,419	7,524
Increase in creditors	917	47,557
<b>Cash absorbed by operations</b>	<u>(261,479)</u>	<u>(10,281)</u>

### 25 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no material debt during the year.

