

DANE & TRENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year ending 31st August 2023

Introduction

The Trustees of the Dane & Trent Circuit present their annual report together with financial statements for the year ended 31st August 2022.

Mission Statement

As a Circuit we are committed to building up thriving and effective Christian communities which aim to love God, serve Christ and love people - in whatever different ways that demands and takes.

Aims and organisation

The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the Date of Union and are defined in the 1976 Methodist Church Act 1976 (Section 4). They are the advancement of –

- (a) The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church;
- (b) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, District, Circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church;
- (c) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution being a society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church;
- (d) Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church.

It will achieve these aims through –

- The organising and resourcing of regular public acts of worship open to members of the Church and non-members
- The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups
- The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved
- Taking religious assemblies in local schools
- The promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services
- The provision of chaplaincy services where appropriate
- The employment of lay and ordained staff to enable the Circuit and churches to achieve the aims stated above

Public Benefit

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

Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document for the circuit is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976)

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD).

Day to day management of the circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team.

Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the circuit, specifically the leaflet *The Role of a Trustee in The Methodist Church* is available to all new Circuit meeting members as induction to their role as trustees.

Related Parties

The Circuit is part of the Chester & Stoke-on-Trent District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The following Methodist Churches are linked to the circuit:

Biddulph

Bosley

Brookhouse Green

Cloud

Davenport

Goostrey

Hill Top (Biddulph Moor)

Holmes Chapel

Key Green

Lower Withington

Middlewich

Mow Cop

New Road (Biddulph Moor)

Rood Lane (Congleton)

Trinity (Congleton)

Wellspring (Congleton)

The members of the Dane & Trent Methodist Circuit meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches.

Circuit Ministers and officers

Active Circuit Ministers: Rev Yvonne Pearson (Superintendent Minister)

Rev Anne Coates

Rev Nic Langton-Miller

Rev Tim Simms

Rev Margaret Eaton (Part Time)

Circuit Lay Workers: Julia Tomes

Lynn Tindale

Administrators: Rebecca Taylor

Circuit Stewards: Lisa Kennerley (Senior Steward)

Brian Donlon

Rose Goodwin

Mark Owens

Amanda Peters

Kath Salt

Circuit Treasurer John Duley

John Duley Circuit Treasurer acted as the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the circuit during the year.

Independent examiner

Michael John Collier, 59 Ravenscroft, Holmes Chapel, Cheshire

Bankers

Investment Bankers Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
Trustees for Methodist Church purposes

Bankers National Westminster Bank plc

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Circuit leadership Team with professional advice taken as required.

There is a regular review process undertaken and recorded.

Income and Expenditure is being monitored in total and is compared with the approved annual budget on a half yearly basis to detect trends as part of the risk management process to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

- The care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults.
- The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable.
- The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
- We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.
- We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice

Safeguarding

The Dane & Trent Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.

The Dane & Trent Circuit commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

Data Protection (GDPR)

The circuit has undertaken extensive reviews of all documentation held by the circuit and its churches. This has identified all data which would be available to the wider public so that formal agreement could be obtained in respect of the publication of personal information.

There are ongoing reviews to ensure that data is accurately maintained. Details of the required retention periods has been provided along with the means to destroy data which is no longer required.

Equality and Diversity

Ministers and Circuit/Church stewards will be required to undertake the training provide by the Methodist Church.

Brief financial review of the year

The financial outcome of the year in terms of the main expenditure area of salaries, manse utilities, were in line with the budget.

The churches within the circuit have all returned to face to face services following the pandemic however many are still seeing the impact on numbers and income.

Income trends

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment paid by the circuit churches. To support churches recover from the COVID Pandemic assessments were maintained at the previous years levels. Total income from assessments totalled £242618.

Expenditure trends

Stipend expenditure has increased each financial year in line with conference approved ' increases. Likewise Lay Worker salaries were increased in line with the Living Wage. To support ministers following the increased cost of living an addition £1000 payment was made to them and for Lay workers the increase in the Living Wage was implemented from October 2022.

Circa £54k is the Circuit contribution to the District and Connexion, of which a significant part is used to fund the work of the wider Methodist Church.

Fund balances

As at 31 August 2023 the net current assets held within the Bank and CFB accounts of the Circuit were £127k, giving approximately 12 months cover for expenditure.

Plans for 2023/24

Circuit assessments will be increased by a flat rate of 2.5%. There will be a focus on recruiting ministers to replace the Superintendent Minister, who is retiring and the filling of the other ministerial vacancy. Sums of monies have been ring fenced to aid churches with short term financial issue and to support further lay worker employment.

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 2015 as applicable to the Financial Reporting Standard(FRS) 102

Name of Circuit: DANE & TRENT						Circuit No	11/05
Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2023							
	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022-23
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
1 Donations and legacies							0
2 Income from monetary investments		2,284	10,944		2,210		15,438
3 Income from investment properties							0
4 Assessments on Churches		247,065					247,065
5 Capital Receipts							0
6 Grants received		11,857					11,857
7 Other charitable income		2,679		25			2,703
8 Total income		263,885	10,944	25	2,210	-	277,063
Expenditure							
9 Grants and donations							0
10 Salaries and associated costs		203,581					203,581
11 Property maintenance		11,834					11,834
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy			23,025		196		23,221
13 District Assessment & Levy		54,112					54,112
14 Depreciation							0
15 Office expenses		5,310					5,310
16 Other outgoings		13,482					13,482
17 Total charitable expenditure		288,320	23,025	0	196	0	311,541
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments							0
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties							
20 Net income/(expenditure)		-24,435	-12,081	25	2,013	0	-34,478
21 Transfers between funds		50,000	- 50,000				0
22 Other gains/(losses)							
23 Net movement in funds		25,565	-62,081	25	2,013	0	-34,478
24 Total funds brought forward		100,106	408,156	1,027	68,839		578,128
25 Total funds carried forward		125,671	346,075	1,052	70,852	-	543,650

Name of Circuit: DANE & TRENT									Circuit No
Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023									
	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2022/23	Totals 2021/22	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Fixed Assets									
Circuit Manses & Equipment		1,664,669					1,664,669	1,664,669	
Investment properties							0		
Investments							0		
Total fixed assets		1,664,669	0	0	0	0	1,664,669	1,664,669	
Current Assets									
Debtors		26,056					26,056	24,964	
Loans by the Circuit							0		
Investments with TMCP			346,075		70,852		416,927	476,995	
Central Finance Board Deposits		60,078					60,078	20,928	
Cash at Bank and in hand		67,785					67,785	80,205	
Total current assets		153,919	346,075	0	70,852	0	570,846	603,092	
Current liabilities									
Creditors (due in under 1 year)		113					113	4,114	
Grants payable within 2022-23							0		
Total current liabilities		113	0	0	0	0	113	4,114	
Net current assets/liabilities		153,806	346,075	0	70,852	0	570,733	598,978	
Total assets less current liabilities		1,818,475	346,075	0	70,852	0	2,235,402	2,263,647	
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)									
Grants payable after 2022-23							0		
Loans to the Circuit							0		
							0		
Net assets		1,818,475	346,075	0	70,852	0	2,235,402	2,263,647	
Funds of the Circuit									
General Fund (Unrestricted)		1,818,475					1,818,475	1,785,625	
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			346,075				346,075	408,156	
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)				0			0	1,027	
Total Unrestricted Funds							2,164,550	2,194,808	
Restricted Funds					70,852		70,852	68,839	
Endowment Funds						0	0		
Total Funds		1,818,475	346,075	0	70,852	0	2,235,402	2,263,647	
					Signed				
					Circuit Treasurer				

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. The salaries paid to ministers was £117059; National Insurance £10865, Pension Contributions £30499. Lay Worker salary costs were £29811. We were charged an Apprentice Levy of £724. Pay costs increased this year following the appointment of an additional minister.
2. The water bills paid for our four manses totalled £2104; Local Authority rates were £10135. Other manse expenditure this year totalled £11834.
3. Other outgoings included £3920 for telephone calls/provision; £2475 for supernumerary preaching fees, travel expenses of £7015. Following the sale of Bradshaw Brook there were some further recharges during the year giving a positive balance of £1834 from closed churches. We continue to fund regular maintenance of the Lask Edge graveyard.
4. Fixed Assets – Where the actual cost of manses is known these have been used. In other cases the deemed costs established at 1st September 2015 have been used

Actual purchase cost of one manse in 2019, £317,500

Deemed Cost based on 1st September 2015, three manses £1,347,169
a total of £1,664,669

5. The Debtors figure of £26056 represents church assessments paid in advance prior to the new financial year along with two accounts paid in advance.
6. The £1052 in the designated funds is Circuit Weekend monies that are now in the Circuit accounts
7. Restricted Funds Richard Hickson Bequest
The bequest was the sum of £68529.30
Interest for the year was £2013. Under the terms of the Bequest this income is to be used in the Middlewich area.

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy for the Circuit is to hold a minimum sum of £70,000 equivalent to 3 months' average expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure or of any inability to raise the full Circuit Assessment from churches.

A further £50000 is to be held in reserve for support to churches with short term cash flow issues

£106000 is set aside for the employment of new Lay Workers (these to be approved by the Circuit Meeting)

A benevolent fund is held with a current balance of £2,320

Following a donation a sum of money is set aside for outreach activities especially with young people with an available balance of £654

Name of Circuit DANE & TRENT No: 11/05.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2006 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 *Delete if not applicable i.e. all R&P accounts*
- the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts *Delete if not applicable i.e. all R&P accounts.*

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

I have/~~have not~~* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner

Name of independent examiner: MICHAEL COLLIER

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner: BANK OFFICIAL (ACTING)

Name of firm (where appropriate): N/A

Address: 59 RAVENSCROFT, HOLMES CHAPEL CHESHIRE

Post Code: CW4 7HJ

Date: 4 | 10 | 23

* delete or circle as appropriate

May 2009