

DANE & TRENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year ending 31st August 2025

Introduction

The Trustees of the Dane & Trent Circuit present their annual report together with financial statements for the year ended 31st August 2025.

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 Andrew Webb (Superintendent Minister)

Rev Nic Langton-Miller

Rev Yanyan Case

Rev Anna Carrington

Rev Margaret Eaton (Part Time)

Circuit Lay Workers: Julia Tomes
Lynn Tindale
Hanna Bartlet

Administrators: Rebecca Taylor

Circuit Stewards: Brian Donlon (Senior Steward)

Brian Donlon

Terry Emerson

Margaret Lindley

Amanda Peters

Kath Salt

Lisa Kennerley

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

Sandie Young. 20 Beechwood Drive, Eaton, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 2NQ

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 (Continued)

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.

Income trends

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment paid by the circuit churches. Assessments were increased by 4% based on an agreed formula of a fixed rate increase and ability to pay, overall income was £272222.

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 Real Living Wage.

Circa £61k 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.

There was an increase in expenditure on Manse repairs necessary to prepare two manses for incoming ministers in the last church year but this has now returned to more normal levels.

Fund balances

As at 31 August 2025 the net current assets held within the Bank and CFB accounts of the Circuit were £167k, giving approximately 12 months cover for expenditure.

Plans for 2025/26

Circuit assessments will be increased by 4% based on the formula used last year. This is to provide some protection for the smaller churches and give time for others to reassess their income streams. Sums of monies would be available to aid churches with short term financial issue and to support further lay worker employment.


It is planned to purchase a new Manse in Congleton to replace the current Hulton Close Manse.

We now have a full ministerial team.

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 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

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2025							
	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024-25
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
1 Donations and legacies							0
2 Income from monetary investments		4,246	11,666		3,449		19,360
3 Income from investment properties							0
4 Assessments on Churches		272,222					272,222
5 Capital Receipts							0
6 Grants received		10,821					10,821
7 Other charitable income		17,077					
8 Total income		304,366	11,666	-	3,449	-	319,480
Expenditure							
9 Grants and donations		7,456			1,500		8,956
10 Salaries and associated costs		244,023					244,023
11 Property maintenance		5,906					5,906
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy			11,247		235		11,482
13 District Assessment & Levy		60,979					60,979
14 Depreciation							0
15 Office expenses		6,326					6,326
16 Other outgoings		12,592					12,592
17 Total charitable expenditure		337,282	11,247	0	1,735	0	350,264
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments							0
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties							
20 Net income/(expenditure)		-32,916	419	0	1,714	0	-30,783
21 Transfers between funds		40,000	- 40,000				0
22 Other gains/(losses)							
23 Net movement in funds		7,084	-39,581	0	1,714	0	-30,783
24 Total funds brought forward		159,445	255,546	1,052	72,388		488,431
25 Total funds carried forward		166,529	215,965	1,052	74,102	-	457,648

Name of Circuit	Dane and Trent						Circuit No	11/05
Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2025								
	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2024/25	Totals 2023/24
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets								
Circuit Manses & Equipment							1,664,669	1,664,669
Investment properties							0	
Investments							0	
Total fixed assets		0	0	0	0	0	0	1,664,669
Current Assets								
Debtors		25,002					25,002	27,660
Loans by the Circuit							0	
Investments with TMCP			215,965		74,102		290,067	327,934
Central Finance Board Deposits		76,280					76,280	102,159
Cash at Bank and in hand		90,277		1,052			91,329	59,391
Total current assets		191,559	215,965	1,052	74,102	0	482,678	517,144
Current liabilities								
Creditors (due in under 1 year)		1,740					1,740	67
Grants payable within one year							0	
Total current liabilities		1,740	0	0	0	0	1,740	67
Net current assets/liabilities		189,819	215,965	1,052	74,102	0	480,938	517,077
Total assets less current liabilities		189,819	215,965	1,052	74,102	0	480,938	2,181,746
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)								
Grants payable after one year							0	
Loans to the Circuit							0	
							0	
Net assets		189,819	215,965	1,052	74,102	0	480,938	2,181,746
Funds of the Circuit								
General Fund (Unrestricted)		189,819					189,819	1,852,760
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			215,965				215,965	255,546
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)				1,052			1,052	1,052
Total Unrestricted Funds							406,836	2,109,358
Restricted Funds					74,102		74,102	72,388
Endowment Funds						0	0	
Total Funds		189,819	215,965	1,052	74,102	0	480,938	2,181,746
Signed								
								
Circuit Treasurer								

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. The salaries paid to ministers was £138967; National Insurance £18032, Pension Contributions £26823. Lay Worker salary costs were £41912. We were charged an Apprentice Levy of £1387.
2. The water bills paid for our four manses totalled £11397; Local Authority rates were £10487. Other manse expenditure this year totalled £5906.
3. Other outgoings included £4612 for telephone calls/provision; £3150 for supernumerary preaching fees, travel expenses of £7780.
4. We continue to fund regular maintenance of the Lask Edge graveyard.
5. 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

6. The Debtors figure of £25002 represents church assessments paid in advance prior to the new financial year along with other accounts paid in advance.
7. The £1052 in the designated funds is Circuit Weekend monies that are now in the Circuit accounts and was transferred from the General Fund on the balance sheet this year.
8. Restricted Funds Richard Hickson Bequest
The bequest was the sum of £68529.30
Interest for the year was £3449. Under the terms of the Bequest this income is to be used in the Middlewich area and £3000 of this will be transferred to Middlewich

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 £2,552

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 and Trent

No: 11/05

Independent Examiner's Statement

The Circuit's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination

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 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination *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 Sandie Young

Name of independent examiner: Sandie Young

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner: ACCA

Name of firm (where appropriate):

Address: 20 Beechwood Drive, Eaton Congleton

Cheshire Post Code: CW12 2NQ

Date: 13th November 2025

* delete or circle as appropriate