

**Farnworth & Worsley Methodist Circuit
(Registered Charity No. 1135135)**

ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

Introduction by the Superintendent Minister, the Rev. Darren Garfield

I warmly invite you to read our Annual Report for 2023-24. Within these pages you'll find a snapshot of our life together – things that reflect the values of *Our Calling* and the Priorities of the Methodist Church: worship, learning and caring, service and evangelism.

This year's report comes at a moment of reflection and transition. We were pleased to welcome Revd Stuart Smith to our circuit team in September 2024, bringing new insights, energy, and ministry to our shared work. And for myself, after many years of service in this circuit, I will be moving on in August 2025. It has been a privilege to journey alongside so many faithful people, through changing seasons and changing faces. Over the years I have seen colleagues come and go, churches adapt and evolve, and our shared ministry continually renewed by the Spirit at work among us.

Together, we have navigated some profoundly challenging times—not least the lockdowns and disconnection of the COVID-19 pandemic, which required great creativity and care from all of us. And we certainly stepped up! Our congregations are smaller now in many places, and resources often stretched, but what remains undiminished is our calling to be a people of hope, of presence, of love.

One significant shift has been the formation of the new North West England District, bringing together five former districts into a new entity, bringing new possibilities. This restructuring has brought its own share of meetings, governance processes, and administrative demands. At times, it can feel like our calendar is dominated by systems and structures. But even in the busyness of circuit life, we must never lose sight of our deeper vocation: to worship God, to care for one another, to serve our communities, and to share the good news of Christ.

We remain committed to seeking fresh expressions of Church, to being shaped by God, and to listening closely to what the Spirit is saying to the Church today. We are not just a collection of buildings or committees, but a travelling community of faith. We are thankful for everyone in our circuit, for all the dedicated lay people—stewards, preachers, officers, Sunday school teachers, and more—whose gifts and generosity sustain the life of our churches.

In all that we do, may we continue to make space for God and for one another. May we never forget the joy of the journey we share.

“So every day we're on our way, for we're a travelling, wandering race called the people of God.”

Take care,

Revd Darren Garfield

(June 2025)

Aims and Organisation

The charity objective is to act as a resource provider within the Farnworth & Worsley area for the Methodist Church.

The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the Date of Union (1932) the advancement of:

- a) The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and 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 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

The organisation and resourcing of regular public acts of worship open to members of the church and non-members alike.

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.

Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services.

Activities

The Circuit produces a quarterly preaching plan to ensure regular acts of worship take place at each of the eight churches in the Circuit's geographical area. These were led by the Circuit's ordained ministers, including a supernumerary presbyter, local preachers or visiting ministers from other Circuits and denominations.

All the Circuit's ministers are involved in community work, including community cohesion and inter-faith groups and Churches Together groups relevant to the Circuit's various geographical areas.

Ministers are involved in schools work, including leading assemblies and being governors/chaplains. There are two Methodist primary schools located in the Circuit with which the Circuit has close links.

We employ a part-time Circuit Administrator who manages the Circuit's administration, including the website and electronic newsletters as well as keeping minutes of meetings.

In September 2023 members of the Circuit Leadership Team arranged an “away-day” facilitated by the Methodist Church Learning Network to reflect on the Circuit’s priorities for the coming months.

Planning took place during the first months of the year for the Superintendent minister’s three-month sabbatical in March-June 2024.

Whilst the Superintendent continued his work at Bolton Mission and the Bolton & Rochdale District on two days per week, the Supernumerary presbyter resident in our Circuit took pastoral charge of three churches in the Circuit from mid-September 2023 for the remainder of the Connexional year.

Rev. Sarah Knebel was to leave the Circuit at the end of the year, and so we entered into the stationing process with a view to seeking a replacement minister to come into the Circuit from September 2024. We were successfully matched, and the Rev. Stuart Smith was appointed by Methodist Conference in June 2024 to serve in the Circuit for two years.

Members of all the churches in the Circuit took part in a visioning day in July 2024 with the theme of *Our lives together in times of change*.

Public Benefit

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

Financial

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment paid by the Circuit churches, totalling £160012 out of a total income of £187918. £13201 of the total came in the form of additional funding from the Methodist Connexion channelled through the Bolton & Rochdale District. This was to compensate the Circuit for time spent by the Superintendent as Deputy Chair of the District and superintendent of the Bolton Mission (two days per week in total). This money was used to fund a part-time role for a Supernumerary minister (1/3 time) and additional hours for our Circuit administrator. The balance was carried forward into 2024/25 to fund additional administrative support.

Proposed assessments figures are prepared in consultation with the treasurers of the Circuit churches prior to approval by the Circuit Meeting.

Expenditure comprised principally stipends and expenses for the Circuit staff (two Presbyters) and their accommodation and running costs, together with the salary and expenses of the part-time administrator.

£39366 (22%) of the total expenditure of £179966 was the Circuit’s contribution to the District and Connexion, which helps fund the work of the wider Methodist Church.

Expenditure on stipends increases annually in line with changes approved by the Methodist Conference. Other budget elements are adjusted to take account of anticipated expenditure needs and cost increases.

Overall, there was a surplus of £7952 overall in the year, compared with £17730 in 2022/23.

Balances, including Restricted Funds, totalled £149710 at year end. The Circuit's policy is to hold a minimum of six months normal expenditure in reserve to meet any unforeseen items of necessary expenditure or the inability to raise the full assessment from the churches.

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of all 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

The Farnworth & Worsley 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 Farnworth & Worsley 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.

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 activities of the circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team along with the Local Preachers meeting and property and finance meetings with representatives of the Circuit churches.

The Circuit is part of the Bolton & Rochdale Methodist District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference. The Bolton & Rochdale District will form part of the new North West England District from September 2024.

The following churches are linked to the Circuit:-

Boothstown Methodist Church

Christ Church, Little Lever (Methodist URC/LEP)

Kearsley Mount Methodist Church

St. Catherine's, Highfield (Anglican/Methodist LEP)

Trinity Church, Farnworth

Walkden Methodist Church

Wharton & Clegg's Lane Church and Community Centre, Little Hulton
(Methodist/URC LEP)

Worsley Road North Methodist Church, Walkden

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 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. Accounts are submitted using the Methodist Church's Standard Form of Accounts.

Full Name of Charity: Farnworth & Worsley Methodist Circuit

Registration Charity Number: 1135135

Date of registration: 24 March 2010

Main communication address: 16 Arkholme, Worsley, Manchester M28 1ZJ

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

Full membership is shown as Appendix A to this report.

Circuit Ministers and officers

Active Circuit Ministers	Rev Darren Garfield Rev Sarah Knebel (to August 2024)
Circuit Stewards	Helen Bolton (to April 2024) Peter Irwin Gillian Dascombe Sharon Smith (from January 2024) Ian Lord
Administrator:	Ruth Dawson

Name of treasurer acted as the principal officer overseeing the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the circuit during the year: Ian Lord

Independent examiner:	Keith Higson FCA
Investment Bankers	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church Trustees for Methodist Church purposes
Day-to-day banking	Royal Bank of Scotland

Appendix A

Names of Trustees of the Charity

Rev Darren Garfield	Superintendent Minister
Rev Sarah Knebel	Presbyter Minister
Rev Neville Markham	Chaplain Bolton Royal
Deacon Debbie Harkness	Deacon
Rev Pat Brown	Supernumerary Minister
Peter Irwin	Circuit Steward / Property Steward
Ian Lord	Circuit Steward / Circuit Treasurer
Sharon Smith	Circuit Steward
Graham Bone	Local Preachers Secretary
Alan Nuttall	Local Preachers Rep
Joan Marshall	Circuit Rep to Connexion Funds
Lee O'Neill	JMA Secretary
Rosemary Young	MWiB Rep
Edna Sate	Boothstown MC Church Steward
Joe Sate	Boothstown MC Church Steward
Wynn Nuttall	Christ Church Elder
Alan Hartley	Christ Church Treasurer
Susan Beswick	Christ Church Rep
Dorothy Holland	Christ Church Rep
Ann Stephenson	Christ Church Rep
Sheila Briggs	KMMC Steward
Wendy Witts	KMMC Rep
Andrew Gibbons	St Catherine's Church Warden / Treasurer
Joy Fairbrother	St Catherine's Rep
Christine Hotchkiss	Trinity MC Treasurer
David Coucill	Trinity MC Rep
Lorraine Price	Walkden MC Steward

Margaret O'Neill	Walkden MC Treasurer
Anne Bennett	Walkden MC Rep
Val Hancox	Walkden MC Rep
Keith Mann	W&CL Treasurer
Joan Adams	W&CL Steward
Margaret Rothwell	W&CL Rep
Susan Taylor	Worsley Road North Steward

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Farnworth & Worsley	Circuit
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2024

Bolton & Rochdale	District	Circuit no	6/3
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1135135

If not a registered charity His Majesty's Revenue and Customs Gift Aid number

(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Ministers:

Rev. Darren Garfield
Rev. Sarah Knebel

Circuit Stewards:

Peter Irwin
Gillian Dascombe
Sharon Smith
Ian Lord

Treasurer:

Ian Lord

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 August 2024
Farnworth & Worsley
Circuit

SECTION A			Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
a1	RECEIPTS	Note	£	£	£	£	£
a2	Assessment/Share		160,012			160,012	183,289
a3	Capital receipts						
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		3,209	912		4,121	2,486
a5	Grants		13,201			13,201	13,318
a6	Other receipts		10,534		50	10,584	5,236
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS		186,956	912	50	187,918 (a8)	204,329

SECTION B							
b1	PAYMENTS						
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs		96,055			96,055	113,202
b3	Manse Costs		15,676			15,676	16,035
b4	Administration etc		18,529			18,529	10,512
b5	District Assessment		39,336			39,336	37,368
b6	Grants & donations		1,258			1,258	806
b7							
b8	Other payments		8,488	624		9,112	8,676
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS		179,342	624		179,966 (b9)	186,599

SECTION C							
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a7-b9)	7,614	288	50	7,952	17,730
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		113,621	17,279	10,857	141,758 (c6)	124,028
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	121,235	17,568	10,907	149,710	141,758
c4	Transfers and adjustments					(c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	121,235	17,568	10,907	149,710 (c8)	141,758 (c6)

SECTION D						
d	FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (these amounts should not be included in total receipts/payments above)					
d1	Balance brought forward from last year					
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations					
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations					
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)					

SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATION REPORTING TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING**SECTION E****Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page**

Summary of the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Circuit Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross receipts and payments totals of the Circuit. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold of £250,000, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the Circuit and connected Circuit Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS		Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1							
e2							
e3							
e4							
e5							
e6							
e7							
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds					(e11)	(e12)
e9	Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	187,918 (a8)	179,966 (b9)	7,952	(c7)	141,758 (c6)	149,710 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	187,918	179,966	7,952		141,758 (x)	149,710 (y)
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward		TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2024**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1		
f2	62,653	56,243
f3		
f4	11,802	23,173
f5	67,302	70,294
f6		
f7	141,758 (c6)	149,710 (c8)
f8	(e11)	(e12)
f9	141,758 (x)	149,710 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2023	At 31 August 2024
g1		
g2	1,021,850	1,061,548
g3		
g4		
g5		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

f5 Include only CFB Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trust accounts this is inserted in line f5)

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2024 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit meeting.

Signature of treasurerI.C.Lord..... Date 25 February 2025

Name and address of treasurer Ian Lord

..... Post Code

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were~~will be~~* presented to the Circuit meeting held on 10 March 2025

Signature of the Chair of the meetingD.Garfield.....

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev Darren Garfield

Date 10 March 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Farnworth & Worsley Circuit

Charity Number 1135135

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Farnworth & Worsleyt Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages 2 to 3. As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Circuit's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

* delete or circle as appropriate

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.

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 examinerK.Higson.....

Name of independent examinerKeith Higson.....

Relevant professional qualification of independent examinerFCA-ICAEW.....

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address

..... Post Code

Date ...19 May 2025.....

* delete or circle as appropriate