

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales · Charity number 1137263

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2010-08-04

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 4 Fritillary Place
Stockton-on-Tees
TS21 3LZ

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Activities

Objects: The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the date of union 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 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.

Activities: Stockton Methodist Circuit comprises of 8 Methodist Churches in the area of Stockton on Tees, Yarm, Thornaby and Billingham. The churches hold services at various times on a Sunday and during the week to proclaim the love and compassion of Jesus Christ for all mankind. During the week the premises are used for various types of outreach for the local community.

Classification

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Stockton-on-tees

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£234,319	£249,109	-	-
2024-08-31	£390,718	£293,878	-	-
2023-08-31	£308,652	£230,495	-	-
2022-08-31	£234,706	£219,336	-	-
2021-08-31	£229,068	£238,503	-	-
2020-08-31	£249,209	£252,232	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Vincent Munyaradzi Jambawo	Chair	2021-09-01
Abigail Charlotte Beer		2022-06-21
Aneta Bradley		2021-11-28
CAROLYN JANE OLIVER		2025-06-19
CHARLTON PETERS		
CYNTHIA MARY DENT		
Caroline Noble		2023-09-01
Catherine Elizabeth Bemrose		2021-09-29
DAVID SMART		
DESMOND CHRISTOPHER KENDREW		
DOREEN MARY SHARP		
Dr PETER DODD PHD		
EDITH APPLEBY		
Eileen Middleton		2015-09-15
GILLIAN MARY CARR		2014-09-01
GRAHAM CLARKE		2014-09-01
HOWARD LESLIE GILL		2013-03-10
Hazel Margaret Hall		2021-09-29
JOHN GREENHILL MOORE		2011-09-27
JUDITH ANN MORRISON		
JUDITH POWELL		2025-06-02
Jacqueline Pitt		2014-09-01
Jenifer Anne Goodchild		2025-03-19
John Graham Monkhouse		2024-09-01
June Lesley Howard-Norman		2022-09-01
Leslie James Gilburt		2022-06-21
MARGARET MURRAY		2014-09-01

Name	Role	Appointed
MARGARET SCHOFIELD		
MARGARET WALTON		
MARK ANDREW HALL		2012-03-22
Maureen Elliott Gowland		2019-06-01
Olga Doreen Brand		2023-06-19
Paul Toplis		2023-06-19
RHONA BALL		2011-09-27
ROBERT BRIAN BAINBRIDGE		
Rev Martin Ramsden		2014-09-01
Rev SARAH RAMSDEN		2014-09-01
Robert Woodman		2018-03-14
Rosalind Ann Matthews		2016-09-01
SHEILA ANNE HARGREAVES BA, PGCE		
SUSAN JOAN BURN BA HONS		
Sandra Wilkinson		2022-06-21

Accounts

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1137263

**ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED**

31 AUGUST 2025

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1137263

**ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

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STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

BASIS OF PREPARATION AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Full Name of Charity: Stockton Methodist Circuit

Registration Charity Number: 1137263

Date of Registration: 4 August 2010

Main Communication Address: 4 Fritillary Place
Stockton-on-Tees
TS21 3LZ

The members of the Stockton 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 at Appendix A of this report.

CIRCUIT MINISTERS AND OFFICERS

Active Circuit Ministers: Rev. Vincent Jambawo
Rev. Sarah Ramsden
Rev. Martin Ramsden
Rev. Rachel Williams – retired July 2025
Rev. Kundai Katiyo – appointed September 2025

Circuit Stewards: Mr. John Moore (treasurer)
Mrs. Margaret Walton (property)
Mr. Mark Hall
Mr. Leslie Gilbert
Mr. Paul Toplis
Mrs. Caroline Noble

Administrator: Mrs. Rachel Wilson – resigned October 2025
Mr. Alastair Howard-Norman – appointed January 2026

Mr. J.G. Moore acted as the principal officer overseeing the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the Circuit during the year.

Independent Examiner: D.F. Adams FCA
Baines Jewitt Limited
Spitfire House
19 Falcon Court
Preston Farm Industrial Estate
STOCKTON ON TEES
TS18 3TU

Investment Bankers: Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

AIMS AND ORGANISATION

The purposes of the Methodist Church are, and shall be deemed to have been since the Date of Union, 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 charity's objective is to act as a Resource provider within the area around Stockton-on-Tees for the Methodist Church. To do this we will engage with the community, share with one another and share Jesus Christ. Our activities include:

- 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;
- Provision of chaplaincy services to the local university and other institutions.

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).

TRUSTEE TRAINING

A range of guidance is 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 given to all new Circuit meeting members as induction to their role as trustees.

RELATED PARTIES

See note 18 to the accounts.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Circuit Mission Statement and New Mission Policy Adoption. *Together in faith, prayer and service so that everyone can grow in God's love.*

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

REVIEW OF THE YEAR - *Continued*

This year, the circuit marked a significant milestone with the completion and formal adoption of a new mission policy. This process involved extensive consultation with church members, congregations and trustees (Church Councils and Circuit Meeting), ecumenical partners, community stakeholders, and local partners, ensuring that the circuit's direction remains responsive to local realities. The new policy builds on the previous vision, emphasising inclusivity, resilience, and sustainability, and aligns with the evolving needs of the Stockton-on-Tees area. A new mission policy was duly adopted by the Circuit Meeting on 19 March 2025, and it states, *inter alia*, that **the Stockton Circuit is a united communion of Methodist Churches in the Stockton Borough. We celebrate and promote our togetherness as we believe that we are stronger when we work together.**

Introduction and Overview of the Year

The period under review has been one of both continuity and change for the Stockton Methodist Circuit. The Circuit, comprising eight churches across Stockton-on-Tees, Yarm, Thornaby and Billingham has navigated a complex landscape marked by ongoing financial pressures, staffing transitions and shifting community needs. Despite these challenges, the Circuit has demonstrated resilience, adaptability and a steadfast commitment to its mission. The Circuit's governance structures remained robust with trustees and staff working diligently to ensure compliance with Charity Commission requirements and Methodist Connexional standards.

Significant developments included expanded partnerships with local food banks and the Stockton-on-Tees Food Power Network, FareShare, and the appointment of new ministerial staff to start in September 2025 and September 2026. The Circuit also faced ongoing concerns related to financial sustainability and staffing, prompting strategic reviews of resource use and ministry development. Throughout the year, the Circuit maintained its commitment to safeguarding, inclusivity and environmental stewardship, aligning its practices with both Methodist and local authority frameworks.

The demographic context of Stockton-on-Tees continued to evolve, with increasing diversity, persistent pockets of deprivation and a growing elderly population. These trends informed the Circuit's outreach and pastoral care strategies ensuring that services remained relevant and accessible to all segments of the community.

As the year ended, the Circuit reflected on its achievements and challenges, preparing to build on its strengths and address areas of concern in the coming year. The following sections provide an account of the Circuit's activities, developments and strategic responses during this period.

Completion and Adoption of the New Mission Policy

As stated in the introduction, a notable achievement of the year was the successful completion and adoption of the Circuit's new mission policy. In this evolving vision, we identify six core values, namely **Togetherness, Faith, Prayer, Service, Everyone and Growth**, alongside the stated calling of the wider Methodist Church in Britain which is **to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission through worship, learning and caring, service and evangelism.**

The Stockton Circuit (SC) is guided by its mission statement, which is rooted in the wider Methodist calling to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship through worship, learning, caring, service and evangelism. The Circuit's erstwhile vision – Engage, Care, Share – has been incorporated into the new vision, reflecting a commitment to engaging with the local and global community, caring for one another and sharing the hope found in Jesus Christ. The policy sets out clear priorities: **deepening spiritual life, expanding community outreach, strengthening ecumenical partnerships and ensuring robust governance and safeguarding.** This renewed focus is a strong foundation for the Circuit's work, guiding decisions on resource allocation, ministry priorities and engagement with wider Methodist and civic initiatives. The policy has provided a framework for decision-making, resource allocation and ministry development, ensuring that all Circuit activities are aligned with its core values. It has also strengthened the Circuit's identity, fostering a sense of shared purpose among churches, staff and volunteers.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

REVIEW OF THE YEAR - *Continued*

Expansion of Community Outreach: Food Banks and Food Power Network Partnerships

The Circuit continued to play a vital role in addressing food insecurity and poverty in Stockton-on-Tees. Through partnerships with local food banks, community pantries and the Stockton-on-Tees Food Power Network (SFPN), the Circuit contributed to a coordinated response to hunger and deprivation. Key achievements included:

- Increased volunteer engagement in food distribution and support services, especially at Norton Methodist Church.
- Participation in the SFPN's Healthy Options Small Grants Scheme, enabling innovative approaches to community food provision. ASDA has also provided funding for Warm Spaces and Catalyst at North Billingham Methodist Church.
- Collaboration with local authorities and partners to promote healthy, sustainable food options and reduce food waste.
- Support for festive food initiatives, ensuring that vulnerable families had access to meals during holidays and periods of increased need.

Strengthening Ecumenical Partnership and Local Collaborations

The Circuit strives to deepen its ecumenical relationships, working closely with Anglican, Baptist and other Christian communities through Churches Together and Local Ecumenical Partnerships (LEPs).

Digital and Online Presence

Building on innovations developed during the pandemic, the Circuit maintained a digital presence through the Circuit Website and Facebook and through the individual churches' websites and social media platforms. The Yarm Methodist Church's YouTube channel continued to provide accessible worship for those unable to attend in person, while the Circuit website offered news, events and spiritual resources.

Recognition and Awards

The Circuit's outreach and partnership work received recognition at the Catalyst Conference and Awards, with local volunteers and projects honoured for their contributions to health, wellbeing, inclusion and community impact. These accolades reflect the Circuit's commitment to excellence and its positive influence in the wider community. Norton Methodist Church was nominated for the King's Award for Voluntary Services.

Community Outreach: Food Banks and Food Power Network Partnerships

Stockton-on-Tees continues to face significant challenges related to food insecurity, poverty and social exclusion. The Circuit's engagement with food banks and the SFPN is a strategic response to these issues, aligning with local authority priorities and the Fairer Stockton-on-Tees Framework. The SFPN, comprising over 45 local organisations, coordinates efforts to promote health, sustainable food, fight food waste and build community resilience. The Circuit's participation in this network has enabled it to contribute effectively to borough-wide initiatives, leveraging resources and expertise to maximise impact.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

REVIEW OF THE YEAR - *Continued*

Circuit Contributions and Impact

The Circuit's churches have served as distribution hubs, volunteer centres and safe spaces for those experiencing food poverty. Key activities include:

- Working with FareShare to tackle food waste and reduce poverty.
- Hosting food bank sessions and providing community meals.
- Supporting the SFPN van initiative which collects surplus food from supermarkets and delivers it to community venues.
- Engaging in grant-funded projects to improve the nutritional quality of meals and increase access to fresh produce.
- Promoting cookery courses and skills development, empowering residents to make healthy choices and reduce reliance on emergency food provision.

The Circuit's efforts have contributed to measurable outcomes, including increased food support for vulnerable families, reduced food waste and enhanced community cohesion. Feedback from beneficiaries and partners has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the Circuit's role as a trusted and compassionate presence in the community.

Case Study: Food Bank Impact

One notable story from the year involved a partnership between Thornaby Methodist Church and local organisations, which enabled the distribution of festive food parcels to over 200 families during the Christmas period. Volunteers from the church worked alongside council staff and community groups to identify those in greatest need, ensuring that no one was left behind during the holidays.

This initiative not only addressed immediate hunger but also fostered relationships and trust, laying the groundwork for ongoing support and engagement.

Strengthening Relationships across Denominations

The Circuit's commitment to ecumenism is reflected in its active participation in Churches Together and Local Ecumenical Partnerships. These relationships have enabled shared worship, joint outreach and collaborative responses to social challenges. Those collaborations have enhanced the Circuit's capacity to serve diverse needs.

Concerns and Challenges: Financial Pressures

Financial sustainability remains a significant concern for the Stockton Circuit. The Circuit's income and expenditure patterns reflect broader trends in church finances, with rising costs, declining giving and increased demand for outreach services. The Circuit's financial history shows fluctuations in income and expenditure, but it faces ongoing pressures related to staffing, property maintenance and outreach activities. The Circuit's trustees have worked diligently to manage resources, maintain reserves and ensure compliance with Charity Commission requirements.

Key Financial Challenges

- **Rising Operational Costs:** Utilities, insurance, property maintenance and staffing expenses have increased, placing a strain on budgets.
- **Increased Demand for Outreach:** The expansion of food bank and community support activities has required additional resources, both financial and volunteer.
- **Giving or Stewardship Funding:** Overall, this has remained fairly constant but with fewer people giving more and more and representing a decrease in real income.
- **Uncertainty in Funding:** Complexities in government and grant funding sometimes create uncertainty, requiring careful planning and diversification of income streams.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

REVIEW OF THE YEAR – *Continued*

Strategic Responses

Changes in demographics and economic conditions have led to reduced regular giving from individual members, necessitating new fundraising strategies. The Circuit has undertaken a strategic review of resource use, exploring opportunities for consolidation, shared ministry and income generation. Key actions include:

- Rationalising property uses and exploring options for shared facilities.
- Seeking grant funding for outreach and community projects.
- Encouraging regular giving and stewardship among members.
- Collaborating with local authorities and partners to leverage resources and expertise.

The Circuit's financial management has been recognised as robust and compliant, with Annual Returns and Accounts submitted on time to the Charity Commission.

Concerns and Challenges: Staffing and Ministerial Resources

Staffing and ministerial resources have been a persistent challenge for the Circuit, reflecting broader trends in church ministry and volunteer engagement. The Circuit relies on a combination of ordained ministers, lay preachers, volunteers and administrative staff to deliver its mission. The staff situation remains stable, although there might be changes in individual appointments. We appointed our part-time Circuit Administrator to a part-time role as Lay Pastoral Assistant to cover the gap created when one member of our ordained staff accepted an offer to become a part-time Mental Health Chaplain with a local hospital, starting 1 September 2024 and we recruited a temporary part-time Administrative Assistant. As mentioned last year, this is cost-neutral as we utilised the financial windfall generated by the shorter working of a staff member.

In the long term, the ordained staff member will be replaced by a minister from another conference through the Methodist Stationing process and who will start in September 2025. The current Superintendent has exercised his right to be stationed to a new appointment in September 2026 and a current colleague will be offered the Circuit Superintendent role from that date. As a consequence, the Circuit will enter the stationing process for a further Presbyter to start in September 2026. Plans are already in place to make sure that this happens smoothly without creating a sense of interregnum. We note that, in any case, the evolving demographic situation across the Connexion means we must redouble our efforts to find volunteers to deliver on mission and ministry. We may have to look more at less traditional sources.

Key Staffing Challenges

- **Recruitment and Retention:** Attracting and retaining qualified ministers and staff remains difficult, particularly in the context of financial constraints and changing patterns of ministry.
- **Volunteer Engagement:** Sustaining volunteer involvement in outreach, worship and governance is essential but increasingly challenging as demographics shift and competing demands arise.
- **Workload and Wellbeing:** Ministers and staff face significant workloads, balancing pastoral care, administration, outreach and compliance responsibilities. Ensuring wellbeing and support is a priority.

Strategic Responses

The Circuit's response to these challenges reflects Methodist values of shared leadership, mutual support and adaptability.

Asset Management and Optimisation

The Circuit has undertaken a strategic review of its assets, aligning with local authority best practices and the Methodist Connexion's guidance on property and resource management. The aim is to optimise the use of buildings, land and financial resources to support ministry, outreach and sustainability.

The Circuit's approach, guided by Methodist Connexionalism, mirrors the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's Strategic Asset Management Plan, emphasising value for money, optimisation and sustainability.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025****REVIEW OF THE YEAR – *Continued*****Financial Resilience**

Prudent financial management, diversification of income streams and robust governance have contributed to the Circuit's resilience. Trustees and staff have worked to maintain reserves, manage risks and ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

The Circuit's financial resilience is supported by:

- Regular review of budgets and expenditure.
- Strategic fundraising and stewardship initiatives.
- Collaboration with partners to leverage resources and expertise.

Safeguarding Framework Resilience

Safeguarding remains a top priority for the Circuit, with robust policies and procedures in place to protect children, vulnerable adults and all members of the community. The Circuit aligns its practices with national Methodist guidance and local authority frameworks, ensuring compliance and best practice.

Key measures include:

- Regular training for staff, volunteers and trustees.
- Implementation of updated safeguarding policies, reflecting changes in statutory guidance (e.g. Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025).
- Participation in multi-agency safeguarding partnerships, sharing information and resources to enhance protection.

Inclusivity Initiatives

The Circuit's commitment to inclusivity is reflected in its outreach, worship and pastoral care. The celebration of the first same-sex marriage, engagement with diverse communities and proactive support for marginalised groups demonstrate leadership in promoting equality and acceptance. Initiatives include:

- Inclusive worship services and events.
- Support for LGBTQ+ individuals and families.
- Engagement with minority ethnic communities and refugees.
- Advocacy for social justice and equality in local and national forums.

The Circuit's approach aligns with Methodist values and broader societal trends towards inclusion and affirmation.

Sustainability and Environmental Initiatives

Sustainability is a growing focus for the Circuit, reflecting both Methodist commitments and local authority priorities. The Circuit has taken steps to reduce its environmental footprint, promote sustainable practices and engage members in stewardship.

Key initiatives include:

- Energy efficiency upgrades in church buildings (e.g. LED lighting, insulation).
- Promotion of recycling, waste reduction and sustainable procurement.
- Participation in local environmental campaigns and partnerships.
- Education and advocacy on climate change and creation care.

The Circuit's efforts align with the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's Environmental Sustainability and Carbon Reduction Strategy, contributing to borough-wide goals for emissions reduction and environmental stewardship.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

REVIEW OF THE YEAR – *Continued*

Evolving Demographic Context

Stockton-on-Tees is home to over 196,000 people, with a population projected to rise to 200,444 by 2030. The Borough is characterised by significant diversity, with areas of affluence alongside some of the most deprived neighbourhoods in England. Key demographic trends include:

- Increasing ethnic diversity, with 8% of the population from black or minority ethnic groups.
- Growing elderly population, particularly among those aged 65 and over.
- Persistent health inequalities, with life expectancy varying dramatically between affluent and deprived areas.
- High levels of child poverty, food insecurity and social exclusion in certain wards.

These trends inform the Circuit's outreach, pastoral care and ministry strategies, ensuring that services are tailored to the needs of diverse communities.

Responding to Community Needs

The Circuit is adapting its activities to address evolving needs, including:

- Targeted outreach to deprived and marginalised communities.
- Support for families, children and young people facing poverty and exclusion.
- Engagement with refugees, asylum seekers and minority ethnic groups.
- Collaboration with local authorities and VCSE (Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise) partners to coordinate responses.

Governance Structures

The Circuit's governance is overseen by the Circuit Leadership Team and the Circuit Meeting (Managing Trustees), comprising ministers, lay leaders and representatives from member churches. Trustees are responsible for strategic direction, financial management, compliance and safeguarding.

Key governance activities during the year included:

- Regular trustee meetings and strategic planning sessions.
- Review and adoption of updated policies (mission, safeguarding and financial management).
- Oversight of property, staffing and outreach activities.
- Engagement with Methodist Connexional and district structures.

Charity Commission Compliance

The Circuit maintained full compliance with Charity Commission requirements, submitting Annual Returns, accounts and trustees' reports on time. The Circuit's reporting history demonstrates a commitment to transparency, accountability and best practice. The governing document, based on the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976), sets out the charitable objects and operational framework for the Circuit. Trustees have ensured that all activities align with these objects and with the Methodist Church's doctrinal standards and discipline.

Worship Life

Worship remains at the heart of the Circuit's life, with services held across eight churches. The Circuit offers a mix of traditional and contemporary worship led by ministers, local preachers and worship leaders. Innovations during the year included:

- Introduction of informal and interactive services, such as Saturday Night Worship at Greens Lane Methodist Church.
- Ecumenical worship events, fostering unity and shared spiritual experience.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

REVIEW OF THE YEAR – *Continued***Pastoral Care**

Pastoral care is a defining feature of the Circuit's ministry, reflecting Methodist values of compassion, support and inclusion. The Circuit offers pastoral support to members and the wider community, including:

- Home visits, telephone support and prayer ministry.
- Support for those facing illness, bereavement or crisis.
- Engagement with older people, families and marginalised groups.
- Training and support for pastoral care volunteers.

The Circuit's approach is informed by national Methodist guidance and local best practice, ensuring that care is sensitive, confidential and effective.

Youth and Children's Ministry

The Circuit remains committed to nurturing faith and wellbeing among children and young people. Activities during the year included:

- Sunday schools, youth groups.
- Participation in the Connexional annual event 3Generate.
- Engagement with schools, colleges and family hubs to support education, wellbeing and inclusion.

Challenges included attracting and retaining young people, adapting to changing interests and addressing barriers to participation.

Communication Strategies

Effective communication is essential for coordination, engagement and outreach. The Circuit has invested in:

- Regular updates to members and partners.
- Transparent reporting on activities, finances and governance.
- Engagement with local media, partners and stakeholders.

These strategies have enhanced the Circuit's visibility, reputation and impact.

Plans and Priorities for the Coming Year (September 2025 – August 2026)**Strategic Priorities**

Building on the achievements and lessons of the past year, the Circuit has identified key priorities for the coming period:

- **Deepening Spiritual Life:** Expanding opportunities for worship, prayer and discipleship.
- **Strengthening Outreach:** Enhancing partnerships with food banks, VCSE organisations and local authorities to address poverty, exclusion and wellbeing.
- **Promoting Inclusivity:** Continuing to affirm and support LGBTQ+ individuals, minority ethnic communities and marginalised groups.
- **Ensuring Sustainability:** Investing in environmental stewardship, financial resilience and asset optimisation.
- **Supporting Youth and Families:** Innovating programmes for children, young people and families, addressing barriers to participation and engagement.
- **Enhancing Governance:** Maintaining robust compliance, transparency and accountability in all activities.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025****REVIEW OF THE YEAR – *Continued*****Planned Actions**

The Circuit remains committed to ongoing discernment, consultation and adaptation, ensuring that its mission remains responsive to changing needs and opportunities.

Acknowledgements and Thanks

The achievements of the Stockton Methodist Circuit during the year would not have been possible without the dedication, generosity and faithfulness of its members, staff, volunteers and partners. Special thanks are extended to:

- Ministers, lay preachers and worship leaders for their spiritual leadership and pastoral care.
- Trustees and administrative staff for their diligent governance and management.
- Volunteers for their tireless service in outreach, worship and community support.
- Ecumenical partners, VCSE organisations and local authorities for their collaboration and shared vision.
- Beneficiaries and community members for their trust, engagement and feedback.

The Circuit also acknowledges the support and guidance of the Methodist Connexion, Darlington District and Charity Commission, whose frameworks and resources have enabled effective ministry and compliance. As the Circuit looks ahead to the coming year, it does so with gratitude, hope and a renewed commitment to faith, service and community.

In closing, the Stockton Methodist Circuit affirms its mission to engage with the community, care for one another and share the hope found in Jesus Christ. Through resilience, inclusivity and stewardship, the Circuit continues to be a beacon of faith and compassion in Stockton-on-Tees and beyond.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025****FINANCIAL REVIEW****Income Trends**

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment paid by the Circuit churches. All of the eight churches were able to meet their assessment commitments in the year to 31 August 2025, but continued to be affected by relatively high inflation and wholesale energy costs. Assessments that will provide a 3% uplift on the previous year's level have been agreed with the churches for 2025/2026.

The Circuit has continued to benefit from the relatively high interest rates through 2024 and the first eight months of 2025 and this has represented a useful supplement to assessment income.

The Circuit was grateful to receive a bequest of £1,000 from the estate of Mr Malcolm Bainbridge.

Longer term the Circuit will endeavour to maintain assessment income at the current level with, where possible, some increase to counter inflation. However, it is recognised that with an ageing demographic there will probably be further reductions in church membership and with a number of ageing buildings to maintain, church finances are likely to come under increasing pressure. With such considerations, it is realised that overall church assessment income may not keep up with inflation.

Expenditure Trends

Stipends and associated expenditure and the assessment paid to the District and Connexion make up 75% of Circuit expenditure.

Stipend expenditure has increased by 6.82% in line with Conference approved increases. Increases in the rate of employer's National Insurance contributions and the lowering of the salary threshold at which these start to be paid also raised costs. However, following a revaluation of the Minister's Pension Fund these were largely countered by a 25% reduction in the employer's contribution rate to this fund. The assessment paid to the District and Connexion in the year to 31 August 2025 remained the same as the previous year.

As one of the presbyters was working part-time, the Circuit employed a Lay Pastoral Assistant for 10 hours a week to support the ordained staff. This arrangement also necessitated the employment of an Assistant Administrator for five hours a week. These were temporary roles until the end of August 2025 and the cost of these roles was covered by the savings in presbyter cost.

The Circuit gave a grant of £11,000 to Thornaby Methodist Church (this was the second instalment of a grant of £33,000 to be paid over three years to support specific missional activities). The Circuit also gave a grant of £2,500 to St Andrew's Methodist Church as a contribution to emergency concrete repairs.

Looking ahead to 2025/2026, stipends are scheduled to increase by 3.09%. The District/Connexional assessment will again remain steady in 2025/2026.

Looking further ahead, it is anticipated UK inflation will remain in the region of 2% or 3%. With declining interest rates and the continued financial pressures on the churches, annual Circuit income is not envisaged to increase significantly in the next few years and will probably struggle to keep pace with inflation. Matching income with expenditure is likely to remain challenging.

Fund Balances

As at 31 August 2025, the net current assets of the Circuit were £369,416. However, of this, £64,000 is allocated for funding half the direct employment cost of the Faith Rooted Community Organiser (FRCO) for five years and the remaining grant to Thornaby Methodist Church. Taking this into account, there is approximately 13 months cover for unrestricted expenditure.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025****FINANCIAL REVIEW – Continued****Plans for 2025/2026**

The presbyter who was working part-time during 2024/2025 has moved on to new roles outside the Circuit and will be replaced by a new full-time presbyter starting in September 2025. With this arrangement, the Lay Pastoral Assistant and Assistant Administrator roles are no longer needed and the Circuit will return to having an Administrator working 15 hours a week. Financial plans for the coming year are thus on the basis of three full-time ordained staff and one part-time lay staff. There will be 3.1% cost of living rise for stipends from September 2025 while the assessment paid to the District and Connexion will remain at the same level. The assessment income from the churches has been agreed at 103% of the previous year's level.

Darlington Methodist District is proposing to employ a Faith Rooted Community Organiser (FRCO) from January 2026 and Stockton Methodist Circuit has agreed to contribute half of the direct employment cost (initially, this share will be £10,000 per year). The FRCO will spend 50% of their time working for the district as an enabler developing the concept of the role and 50% engaged in practical community organising in the Circuit.

The Circuit has agreed to pay £11,000 as the third instalment of the grant to Thornaby Methodist Church in 2025/2026.

Apart from the Thornaby grant and the contribution for the FRCO (both these are funded from the proceeds of the sale of Yarm Road Methodist Church in September 2023), the Circuit anticipates running at a deficit of around £20,000 in the coming year.

RESERVES POLICY**General**

It is the trustees' policy to maintain a balance of unrestricted funds equivalent to six months unrestricted expenditure. However, world events show little sign of stabilising and the financial climate continues to be uncertain. Although inflation now seems to be under reasonable control, the high levels of the past few years have been detrimental to the finances of both Circuit and churches. The Circuit is also entering a period in which, over the next several years, it anticipates running at a deficit and needing to sell property in order to maintain an effective presence. All this adds to the anxiety regarding Circuit finances.

One Circuit presbyter has a further five years, another a further four years and a third a further year of their appointments to run. The third presbyter will be leaving in August 2026 and the Circuit has been successful in stationing for a replacement and the incoming presbyter's appointment will run until at least August 2031. The Circuit has also agreed to fund half the direct employment cost of a FRCO, employed by the district, for the next five years and this is estimated overall at £53,000 and still has to pay a grant of £11,000 to Thornaby Methodist Church for the next year. It is essential for the Circuit to maintain sufficient income/reserves to ensure the financial consequences associated with these commitments and decisions can be met.

In these circumstances, it is seen as not unreasonable for reserves to be above the six month level.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The major risks associated with the Circuit have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) with professional advice taken as required. There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded. Income and expenditure are being monitored in total and 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 recreation 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.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

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 Stockton Methodist Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of the Connexional Safeguarding Policy, government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the Circuit and in the churches.

The Stockton Methodist 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.

APPROVAL

This report has been approved by Managing Trustees and will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval at the 18 March 2026 Circuit Meeting.

Approved on behalf of the Charity's Trustees on
and signed on their behalf by:

M Ramsden

Acting Superintendent Minister

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

CIRCUIT MEETING MEMBERSHIP

Superintendent	Rev. Vincent Jambawo *
Ministers	Rev. Sarah Ramsden Rev. Martin Ramsden Rev. Rachel Williams – retired July 2025 Rev. Kundai Katiyo – appointed September 2025
Circuit Stewards	Mrs. Margaret Walton (property) Mr. Mark Hall Mr. Leslie Gilburt Mr. Paul Toplis Mrs. Caroline Noble
Circuit Treasurer	Mr. John Moore
Secretary of the Circuit Meeting	Mrs June Howard-Norman
Secretary of Local Preachers' Meeting	Dr. Peter Dodd
Local Preacher Representative	Mrs. Sheila Hargreaves – retired December 2025
Lay Property Secretary	Position currently vacant
Lay Youth Forum Secretary	Mrs. Margaret Murray
MWiB Representative	Position currently vacant
Methodist Homes Representative	Position currently vacant
Safeguarding	Dr. Peter Dodd

* Rev. Vincent Jambawo will be on sabbatical from 7 January 2026 to 6 April 2026. During this period, Rev. Martin Ramsden will be Acting Superintendent.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025****From each Church: Steward, Treasurer and Elected Representatives:**

Carlton:	Joan Burn, Charlton Peters, Margaret Hall
Greens Lane:	David Smart, Judy Morrison, Margaret Schofield – retired June 2025 Sandra Wilkinson, Heather Wilkinson – appointed June 2025
North Billingham:	Rhona Ball, Cynthia Dent, Jackie Pitt, Maureen Gowland
Norton:	Howard Gill, Judith Lloyd - retired May 2025 Carolyn Oliver – appointed June 2025 Catherine Bemrose Aneta Bradley
St. Andrew's:	Doreen Sharp, Gill Carr Olga Brand
Thornaby:	Judith Powell, Edith Appleby, Eileen Middleton Stephen Smith – appointed September 2024
Trinity Eaglescliffe:	Robert Woodman, Ralph Barton – died April 2025 John Monkhouse – appointed September 2024
Yarm:	Abigail Beer Brian Bainbridge Chris Kendrew, Graham Clarke, Roz Matthews Ian Fyfe – retired January 2025 Jenifer Goodchild – appointed March 2025

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2025 which are set out on pages 15 to 23,

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the charity'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 charity's accounts as 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.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



**D F Adams FCA
Baines Jewitt Limited
Spitfire House
19 Falcon Court
Preston Farm Industrial Estate
STOCKTON ON TEES
TS18 3TU**

Dated : 23 March 2026

DFA/GW

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024-2025 £	Total 2023-2024 £
Income						
Donations and legacies	4	-	1,038	-	1,038	155,000
Income from monetary investments	5	11,078	5,998	-	17,076	20,075
Income from investment properties	6	-	-	6,674	6,674	6,473
Assessments on churches		195,120	-	-	195,120	191,797
Capital receipts		-	-	-	-	-
Grants received		-	-	-	-	-
Other income	7	14,411	-	-	14,411	17,373
Total Income		220,609	7,036	6,674	234,319	390,718
Expenditure						
Grants and donations	8	7,170	13,500	-	20,670	19,471
Salaries and associated costs	9	133,211	449	-	133,660	139,891
Property maintenance	10	35,414	-	1,389	36,803	38,449
Connexional assessment and model trust levy		-	-	-	-	36,216
District assessment and levy	11	48,956	4,407	-	53,363	49,554
Office expenses		1,869	-	-	1,869	2,093
Other outgoings		2,744	-	-	2,744	3,744
Loss on disposal of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	4,460
Total Charitable Expenditure		229,364	18,356	1,389	249,109	293,878
Net Income/Expenditure		(8,755)	(11,320)	5,285	(14,790)	96,840
Transfers between funds	17	17,584	(12,299)	(5,285)	-	-
Net Movement in Funds		8,829	(23,619)	-	(14,790)	96,840
Total funds brought forward		1,436,503	138,138	91,826	1,666,467	1,569,627
Total Funds Carried Forward	17	1,445,332	114,519	91,826	1,651,677	1,666,467

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023-2024 £	Total 2022-2023 £
Income						
Donations	4	-	155,000	-	155,000	65,000
Income from monetary investments	5	13,175	6,900	-	20,075	9,691
Income from investment properties	6	-	-	6,473	6,473	5,776
Assessments on churches		189,320	2,477	-	191,797	204,245
Capital receipts		-	-	-	-	-
Grants received		-	-	-	-	2,000
Other income	7	17,373	-	-	17,373	21,940
Total Income		219,868	164,377	6,473	390,718	308,652
Expenditure						
Grants and donations	8	15,471	4,000	-	19,471	8,627
Salaries and associated costs	9	139,553	68	270	139,891	136,302
Property maintenance	10	36,674	-	1,775	38,449	29,004
Connexional assessment and model trust levy		-	36,216	-	36,216	-
District assessment and levy	11	48,956	598	-	49,554	49,660
Office expenses		2,093	-	-	2,093	2,342
Other outgoings		3,744	-	-	3,744	4,560
Loss on disposal of fixed assets		-	4,460	-	4,460	-
Total Charitable Expenditure		246,491	45,342	2,045	293,878	230,495
Net Income/(Expenditure)		(26,623)	119,035	4,428	96,840	78,157
Transfers between funds	17	9,498	(4,800)	(4,698)	-	-
Net Movement in Funds		(17,125)	114,235	(270)	96,840	78,157
Total funds brought forward		1,453,628	23,903	92,096	1,569,627	1,491,470
Total Funds Carried Forward	17	1,436,503	138,138	91,826	1,666,467	1,569,627

The notes on pages 18 to 23 form part of these accounts

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Totals 2025 £	Totals 2024 £
Fixed Assets						
Circuit Manses and equipment	13	1,192,261	-	-	1,192,261	1,192,261
Investment properties	13	-	-	90,000	90,000	90,000
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Fixed Assets		1,192,261 =====	- ===	90,000 =====	1,282,261 =====	1,282,261 =====
Current Assets						
Debtors	14	7,386	-	-	7,386	8,973
Investments with TMCP	15	-	114,519	-	114,519	138,138
Central Finance Board deposits		285,546	-	1,826	287,372	268,873
Cash at bank and in hand		15,188	-	-	15,188	20,926
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Current Assets		308,120 -----	114,519 -----	1,826 -----	424,465 -----	436,910 -----
Current Liabilities						
Creditors: due in less than one year	16	55,049	-	-	55,049	52,704
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Current Liabilities		55,049 -----	- ----	- ----	55,049 -----	52,704 -----
Net Current Assets/Liabilities		253,071 -----	114,519 -----	1,826 -----	369,416 -----	384,206 -----
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		1,445,332 =====	114,519 =====	91,826 =====	1,651,677 =====	1,666,467 =====
Net Assets		1,445,332 =====	114,519 =====	91,826 =====	1,651,677 =====	1,666,467 =====
Funds of the Circuit						
General fund (unrestricted)	17	1,445,332	-	-	1,445,332	1,436,503
Circuit Model Trust Fund (unrestricted)	17	-	114,519	-	114,519	138,138
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Unrestricted Funds		1,445,332 -----	114,519 -----	- ----	1,559,851 -----	1,574,641 -----
Restricted funds	17	- ---	- ---	91,826 -----	91,826 -----	91,826 -----
Total Funds	17	1,445,332 =====	114,519 =====	91,826 =====	1,651,677 =====	1,666,467 =====

These financial statements were approved on behalf of the Charity's Trustees on 18 March 2026 and are signed on their behalf by:

M Ramsden
(Acting Superintendent Minister)

The notes on pages 18 to 23 form part of these accounts

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1. CHARITY INFORMATION

The charity (registered number 1137263) is a public benefit entity, established in the UK and governed by The Methodist Church Act 1976. The address of the principal office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operation and principal activity is the advancement of the Christian faith.

2. BASIS OF PREPARATION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Basis of Preparation and Assessment of Going Concern

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

3. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Funds

The funds held constitute: General funds held for any purpose of the Circuit which are unrestricted; the Circuit Model Trust Fund has wide purposes defined in Standing Orders and is categorised as unrestricted; Restricted funds which are held for a narrower purpose; there are no endowment funds; details of each material fund are disclosed in the final note to these accounts and any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

(b) Incoming Resources

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Circuit becomes entitled to the resources and the trustees are reasonably certain they will receive the resources; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

(c) Resources Expended

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the Circuit to pay out resources.

(d) Grants

Grants made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment.

(e) VAT

Since the Circuit is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged with the expenses to which it refers.

(f) Tangible Fixed Assets for use by the Circuit

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost more than £500. The freehold property purchased pre 2015 is shown in the accounts at 2015, deemed values resulting from a valuation in 2005. Freehold property purchased since 2015 is shown at cost. The land component is deemed to be a third. No depreciation is provided because the trustees consider the current residual value of the property in its present condition to be not less than its current valuation and, in the absence of any evidence or impairment, any depreciation provision for the buildings component of the property would be immaterial.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 20253. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - *Continued*

(g) Investment Properties

These are properties held for the long term and are included in the financial statements at fair value. Depreciation is not provided on investment property.

(h) Financial Instruments

The charity only has financial assets and liabilities that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

(i) Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

4. DONATIONS

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Gift of church property	-	-	-	-	155,000
Legacy	-	1,038	-	1,038	-
	—	—	—	—	—
	-	1,038	-	1,038	155,000
	===	=====	===	=====	=====

Under the Methodist Church constitution, when a local Methodist society closes, the church passes to the Circuit and becomes part of its assets.

5. INCOME FROM MONETARY INVESTMENTS

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Central Finance Board					
Deposits	11,078	-	-	11,078	13,175
Investments with TMCP	-	5,998	-	5,998	6,900
	—	—	—	—	—
	11,078	5,998	-	17,076	20,075
	=====	=====	===	=====	=====

6. INCOME FROM INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Lettings income:					
Alpine Way	-	-	6,674	6,674	6,473
	—	—	—	—	—
Total	-	-	6,674	6,674	6,473
	==	==	=====	=====	=====

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

7. OTHER CHARITABLE INCOME

	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund £	Restricted £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Lettings income: 2 Wallington Road	6,975	-	-	6,975	6,900
Donations for Connexional Funds	7,170	-	-	7,170	8,471
District employment reimbursement	-	-	-	-	1,878
Other sundry income	266	-	-	266	124
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total	14,411	-	-	14,411	17,373
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

One of the Circuit manses is currently let on a short-term basis. It is anticipated that it will be again required to house a Minister.

8. GRANTS AND DONATIONS

	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund £	Restricted £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Connexional Funds	7,170	-	-	7,170	8,471
Thornaby Methodist Church	-	11,000	-	11,000	11,000
St. Andrew's Methodist Church	-	2,500	-	2,500	-
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
	7,170	13,500	-	20,670	19,471
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

9. SALARIES AND ASSOCIATED COSTS

	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund £	Restricted £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind	98,881	-	-	98,881	99,929
Pension costs	16,856	-	-	16,856	23,995
Employer's national insurance costs	9,397	-	-	9,397	8,960
Apprenticeship levy	488	-	-	488	497
Telephone	4,272	-	-	4,272	3,648
Travelling	2,362	-	-	2,362	2,314
Relocation costs	475	-	-	475	-
Administration	480	449	-	929	548
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total	133,211	449	-	133,660	139,891
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

The average number of staff engaged during the year was 4 (2024: 4). No employees received employee benefits that totalled more than £60,000.

The Superintendent of the Circuit and the other Presbyters and the remaining members of the Circuit Leadership Team are considered as key Management Personnel. The members of the Circuit meeting are the trustees of the Circuit. The stipends, employer's NIC, apprenticeship levy and employer's pension contributions and other expenses of the Presbyters of the Circuit are paid by the Circuit.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**Payments to Trustees**

Apart from the Presbyters (stipends), no member of the Circuit meeting received any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the Circuit.

Included in these accounts is £2,367 (2024: £2,351) in respect of reimbursed expenses for three trustees.

10. **PROPERTY**

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model	Restricted	2025	2024
	£	Trust Fund		Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Council tax	7,130	-	-	7,130	7,868
Water supply	1,956	-	-	1,956	1,565
Energy supply	588	-	-	588	192
Repairs and maintenance	18,278	-	104	18,382	18,348
Insurance	5,487	-	-	5,487	4,818
Letting expenses	1,315	-	1,285	2,600	2,388
Quinquennial reports	660	-	-	660	3,270
Total	35,414	-	1,389	36,803	38,449
	=====	====	=====	=====	=====

11. **DISTRICT ASSESSMENT AND LEVY**

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model	Restricted	2025	2024
	£	Trust Fund		Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
District expenses and Methodist Church funds	48,956	-	-	48,956	48,956
Levy on CMTF funds	-	4,407	-	4,407	598
Total	48,956	4,407	-	53,363	49,554
	=====	=====	===	=====	=====

12. **NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR**

This is stated after charging:

	2025	2024
	Total	Total
	£	£
Independent Examiner's Fees:		
Independent examination – 2025	2,544	2,424
	=====	=====

13. **TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Circuit	Investment	Total
	Property	Property	£
	£	£	£
Cost or Valuation			
Balance brought forward as at 1 September 2024	1,192,261	90,000	1,282,261
Depreciation			
At 31 August 2024 and 31 August 2025	-	-	-
Balance carried forward as at 31 August 2025	1,192,261	90,000	1,282,261
	=====	=====	=====

Circuit property comprises four manses for use by the Circuit staff and the chapel located at Maltby village which is used for occasional Circuit services.

The investment property is one property which is held for the long term. In the opinion of the trustees, £90,000 is a reasonable estimate of the market value as at 31 August 2025.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

14. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Stipends paid in advance	7,377	8,973
Other debtors and prepayments	9	-
	=====	=====
	7,386	8,973
	=====	=====

15. INVESTMENTS WITH TRUSTEES FOR METHODIST CHURCH PURPOSES (TMCP)

TMCP is an investment receiving body within the Methodist Church which pays interest at market rates on funds invested with them.

16. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Assessments received in advance	50,813	48,780
Other creditors and accruals	4,236	3,924
	=====	=====
	55,049	52,704
	=====	=====

17. SUMMARY OF FUND MOVEMENTS

	At 01.09.24 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31.08.25 £
General fund	1,436,503	220,609	229,364	17,584	1,445,332
Circuit Model Trust fund	138,138	7,036	18,356	(12,299)	114,519
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total Unrestricted Funds	1,574,641	227,645	247,720	5,285	1,559,851
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Tees Valley Housing Fund	90,000	6,674	1,389	(5,285)	90,000
Circuit Mission and Evangelism Fund	1,826	-	-	-	1,826
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total Restricted Funds	91,826	6,674	1,389	(5,285)	91,826
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	1,666,467	234,319	249,109	-	1,651,677
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 202517. SUMMARY OF FUND MOVEMENTS – *Continued*

	At 01.09.23 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31.08.24 £
General fund	1,453,628	219,868	246,491	9,498	1,436,503
Circuit Model Trust fund	23,903	164,377	45,342	(4,800)	138,138
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Total Unrestricted Funds	1,477,531	384,245	291,833	4,698	1,574,641
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Tees Valley Housing Fund	90,000	6,473	1,775	(4,698)	90,000
Circuit Mission and Evangelism Fund	2,096	-	270	-	1,826
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Total Restricted Funds	92,096	6,473	2,045	(4,698)	91,826
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	1,569,627	390,718	293,878	-	1,666,467
	=====	=====	=====	===	=====

General Fund - this fund is used for general purposes.

Circuit Model Trust Fund - This fund has wide purposes as defined in the standing orders of the Methodist Church.

Tees Valley Housing Fund - This fund is to be used to benefit homeless families.

Circuit Mission and Evangelism Fund - This fund is used to support new Mission and Evangelism activities.

18. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Churches which form the Stockton Methodist Circuit whose assessments provide the principal income for the Circuit are:

Carlton
Greens Lane
North Billingham
Norton
St. Andrew's
Thornaby
Trinity Eaglescliffe
Yarm

The Circuit paid an assessment and levy to Darlington Methodist District as detailed in note 11 to these accounts.

Accounts

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1137263
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2024

Swimming
against the tide?

We will help you find
calmer waters

Baines Jewitt
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
AND BUSINESS ADVISERS

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1137263

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

C O N T E N T S

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STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

BASIS OF PREPARATION AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Full Name of Charity: Stockton Methodist Circuit

Registration Charity Number: 1137263

Date of Registration: 4 August 2010

Main Communication Address: 4 Fritillary Place
Stockton-on-Tees
TS21 3LZ

The members of the Stockton 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 at Appendix A of this report.

CIRCUIT MINISTERS AND OFFICERS

Active Circuit Ministers: Rev. Vincent Jambawo
Rev. Sarah Ramsden
Rev. Martin Ramsden
Rev. Rachel Williams

Circuit Stewards: Mr. John Moore (treasurer)
Mrs. Margaret Walton (property)
Mr. Mark Hall
Mr. Leslie Gilbert
Mr. Paul Toplis
Mrs. Caroline Noble – appointed September 2023

Administrator: Ms. J. Prior – resigned November 2023
Mrs. Rachel Wilson – appointed February 2024

Mr. J.G. Moore acted as the principal officer overseeing the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the Circuit during the year.

Independent Examiner: D.F. Adams FCA
Baines Jewitt Limited
Spitfire House
19 Falcon Court
Preston Farm Industrial Estate
STOCKTON ON TEES
TS18 3TU

Investment Bankers: Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

AIMS AND ORGANISATION

The purposes of the Methodist Church are, and shall be deemed to have been since the Date of Union, 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 charity's objective is to act as a Resource provider within the area around Stockton-on-Tees for the Methodist Church. To do this we will engage with the community, share with one another and share Jesus Christ. Our activities include:

- 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;
- Provision of chaplaincy services to the local university and other institutions.

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).

TRUSTEE TRAINING

A range of guidance is 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 given to all new Circuit meeting members as induction to their role as trustees.

RELATED PARTIES

See note 18 to the accounts.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Circuit Mission Statement

ENGAGE WITH COMMUNITY [local and global]

CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER [watching over each other with love]

SHARE JESUS CHRIST [radical generosity and hospitality]

1 Peter 3:15 *Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you. (Good News Bible).*

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

REVIEW OF THE YEAR - *Continued*

NOTE: The Circuit is reviewing and reimagining its mission statement and vision for the future, considering what we have been in the past and now. The Circuit Support and Encouragement Group (CSET) was appointed with the overarching mandate to, inter alia, help the Circuit churches reimagine their calling in mission and ministry statements which will, in turn, feed into the Circuit Mission Statement. The operating paradigm is the Why Process (Simon Sinek 2009), with the Rev Dr Martin Ramsden leading the team. The overarching question for this ecclesiological and missional “reimagining” is: **What is God doing within each person, each church and the Circuit?** This work is now complete and awaiting adoption by the Circuit meeting. Its recommendations, where there are no statutory requisites, are feeding into our business models and operational paradigms across the Circuit. It is therefore appropriate to state that alongside the current mission statement cited above, **the Stockton Circuit is a united communion of Methodist Churches in the Stockton Borough. We celebrate and promote our togetherness as we believe that we are stronger when we work together.** In this evolving vision, we identify six core values, namely **Togetherness, Faith, Prayer, Service, Everyone and Growth** alongside the stated calling of the wider Methodist Church in Britain which is to respond to the gospel of God’s love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission through **worship, learning and caring, service and evangelism.**

Introduction

This annual review is an overview of the developments, achievements and concerns of the Stockton Methodist Circuit (SMC) over the past year, from September 2023 to August 2024. The Circuit has been actively pursuing its mission over the past year focusing, inter alia, on community engagement, inclusivity and financial sustainability. The Circuit has demonstrated resilience in the face of challenges, with a commitment to fostering a robust and entrepreneurial community for worship, mission and ministry. Eight churches are in the Circuit pursuing and enabling mission opportunities with varying but quantifiable engagement with the communities the local churches serve. While there are always challenges with resourcing our work, our togetherness and shared values mean we remain resilient in how we respond to the needs of our congregations and communities.

The Circuit remains committed to fostering a robust and entrepreneurial community for worship, mission and ministry. Whilst we are still striving for optimum sizing, we are convinced that the current size of the Circuit is sustainable as reflected in our medium-term financial reviews and cash flow projections. We note with joy that, bucking the trend in such scenarios, the closure of our two churches last year has resulted in a near-en-bloc transfer of membership to other churches in the Circuit. We, therefore, trust that whilst we have managed to shrink the budget for our property maintenance, we have retained almost undiminished our assembly of God’s people and their ability to give financially and share skills to the mission and ministry of the whole Circuit. This is not to minimise the perpetual challenge of declining congregations but it does point to a future where we can be leaner in our size but more effective in our reach.

Significant Developments and Achievements

Despite the challenges, SMC has made notable progress in various areas over the past year. We have witnessed increased community outreach programmes, including food banks, with over 100 people served weekly from Norton Methodist Church’s community pantry and the community larder at St Andrew’s Methodist Church, Hardwick. These efforts have allowed the Circuit to engage with a broader demographic, serve those in need and provide potential evidential legitimacy to challenge injustices in society locally and beyond. Furthermore, the Circuit continues to actively promote ecumenical dialogue and collaboration with other religious communities. We have strengthened community bonds and worked towards common goals by fostering mutual understanding and cooperation. On the national scale, the Circuit joined other Circuits and churches to decry the ongoing crisis in the Middle East with the conflict between Israel and Gaza causing untold suffering to many and putting regional stability under severe strain.

Over the year, we also celebrated increased inclusivity, most notably the first same-sex marriage and wedding in our Circuit at Norton Methodist Church. Our internal systemic processes take advantage of Methodist-wide mechanisms of EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity) and Safeguarding to provide appropriate training and oversight to everyone, particularly those in positions of authority and leadership.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024****Concerns and Challenges**

Undoubtedly, declining numbers across traditional gatherings in the Circuit have impacted the Circuit's overall strength and reach. We recognise the sadness and loss felt by members in churches. On the positive side, the threat posed by this has galvanised the Circuit to recognise forms of church (new places, new people) that are not the usual suspects.

Financial struggles have also been a pressing concern for individual churches within the Circuit. The annual contribution required to sustain the Circuit's operations, including staff stipends, salaries and pension contributions has become increasingly burdensome for some churches. This situation has strained the financial stability of the Circuit as a whole.

Resilience and Robustness

In response to these challenges, SMC has taken proactive measures to ensure its resilience and robustness as a charity and worshipping community. We have strengthened our partnership with the broader Methodist community and sought additional resources and support. This includes collaborating with neighbouring Circuits, sharing resources and exploring grant opportunities. For example, Thornaby Methodist Church has secured funding from Darlington Methodist District and other external funders for their community work which is now a designated New Places for New People (NPNP) initiative at that church. Similarly, the community pantry at Norton Methodist Church and the community larder at St Andrew's Methodist Church attract funding from sponsors that are not directly connected to the church. For this, we are truly grateful. In all circumstances, the Circuit uses budget reserves where necessary to reinforce the action plans to deliver on agreed mission objectives for the year and in the long term.

We routinely provide financial guidance and support to all churches in the Circuit particularly those most vulnerable to congregational decline and/or facing difficulties meeting their annual contributions. The Circuit Treasurer consults with church Treasurers on their assessment, meaning that a finger is kept on the pulse of each church. Additionally, we have encouraged churches to explore alternative revenue streams and engage in community fundraising initiatives.

To ensure the long-term sustainability of the Circuit, we are implementing a strategic plan focused on diversifying income sources, reducing expenses and improving financial transparency. Regular monitoring and evaluation of the economic situation will be conducted to address any emerging issues promptly.

The staff situation remains stable, although there might be changes in individual appointments. One member of our ordained staff accepted an offer to become a part-time Mental Health Chaplain with a local hospital starting 1 September 2024. In the short-term, we will make adjustments within the lay and ordained teams to cover for any deficit in time available. This is cost-neutral as we will be utilising the financial windfall generated by the shorter working of a staff member. In the long-term, the ordained staff member will be replaced by another minister through the Methodist Stationing process. Plans are already in place to make sure that this happens smoothly without creating a sense of interregnum. Looking ahead, we also note that another member of ordained staff currently in his fourth year of "travel" will be available for connexional stationing or re-invitation to the Circuit. As with the preceding scenario, this will be dealt with using the established process through which the Methodist Church stations its ministers working alongside Circuits and Districts. We note that, in any case, the evolving demographic situation across the connexion means we must redouble our efforts to find volunteers to deliver on mission and ministry. We may have to look more and more at less traditional sources.

We are also pleased to record that all our premises are maintained at or above legal requirements and that safeguarding policies have been robust and proactive over the years.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024****Conclusion**

While SMC has faced significant challenges over the past year, it remains committed to its mission of worship and charity. Financial struggles among individual churches have necessitated resilience and robustness. Through collaborative efforts, financial support and strategic planning, the Circuit works tirelessly to overcome these challenges and build a sustainable future. With its members' continued dedication and support, SMC will continue to thrive as a worshipping community and a force for positive change in the broader society.

FINANCIAL REVIEW**Income Trends**

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment paid by the Circuit churches. All of the continuing churches were able to meet their assessment commitments in the year to 31 August 2024, but continued to be affected by relatively high inflation and wholesale energy costs. Yarm Road Methodist Church closed at the end of August 2023 and this meant that the Circuit lost assessment income from this source. This was partially compensated by the receipt of some residual funds from Yarm Road. Assessments that will provide a 3% uplift on the previous year's level have been agreed with the churches for 2024/2025.

The Circuit has benefitted from the relatively high interest rates through 2023 and the first eight months of 2024 and this has compensated to some extent for the reduction in assessment income.

Following closure of Yarm Road Methodist Church, the Circuit came into possession of the building which was then sold for £155,000. After fees and the payment of the levy to the Connexional Priority Fund (CPF) the Circuit received a capital sum of £114,000.

Longer term the Circuit will endeavour to maintain assessment income at the current level. However, it is recognised that with an ageing demographic there will probably be further reductions in church membership and with a number of ageing buildings to maintain, church finances are likely to come under increasing pressure. With such considerations it is anticipated that overall, the income from church assessments is unlikely to increase significantly.

Expenditure Trends

Stipends and associated expenditure and the assessment paid to the District and Connexion make up 75% of Circuit expenditure.

Stipend expenditure has increased by 7.84% in line with Conference approved increases. The assessment paid to the District and Connexion in the year to 31 August 2024 remained the same as the previous year. Following receipt of the proceeds of the sale of Yarm Road Methodist Church the Circuit has given a grant of £11,000 to Thornaby Methodist Church to support specific missional activities (this was the first instalment of a grant of £33,000 to be paid over three years).

Looking ahead to 2024/2025, stipends are scheduled to increase by 6.81%. Increases in the rate of employer's National Insurance Contributions and the lowering of the salary threshold at which these start to be paid will also raise costs. However, following a revaluation of the Minister's Pension Fund these will largely be countered by a 25% reduction in the employer's contribution rate to this fund. The District/Connexional assessment will again remain steady in 2024/2025.

Looking further ahead, in 2025/2026 stipend expenditure is anticipated to increase by around 3.1% and it is anticipated general UK inflation will remain in the region of 2% or 3%. Annual Circuit income is not envisaged to increase in the next few years, and could suffer some decrease. Matching income with expenditure is likely to remain challenging.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

FINANCIAL REVIEW – Continued

Fund Balances

As at 31 August 2024, the net current assets of the Circuit were £384,000 giving approximately 19 months cover for unrestricted expenditure.

Plans for 2024/2025

One of the Circuit presbyters is reducing to 60% full-time working from September 2024 and so Circuit financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that there will be two full-time ordained staff, one part-time ordained staff and one part-time lay staff. However, in this situation it is likely there will be additional lay staff employment to support the presbyters. The Circuit expects to return to three full-time ordained staff from September 2025. There will be 6.81% cost of living increase for stipends from September 2024 while the assessment paid to the District and Connexion will remain at the same level. The assessment income from the churches has been agreed at 103% of the previous year's level. The Circuit has agreed to pay £11,000 as the second instalment of the grant to Thornaby Methodist Church in 2024/2025 and has also agreed to pay grants of £2,500 to St Andrew's Methodist Church towards emergency concrete repairs and £1,000 to Norton Methodist Church towards a feasibility study with respect to the development of their buildings. Apart from these grants it is anticipated that, with foreseeable outgoings, the Circuit will run at a small deficit in 2024/2025.

RESERVES POLICY

General

It is the trustees' policy to maintain a balance of unrestricted funds equivalent to six months unrestricted expenditure. However, following on from the coronavirus pandemic and with the continuing conflicts in the Ukraine and the Middle East, the financial climate continues to be uncertain. Some of the churches have found recovery from the pandemic difficult and all have been affected by the sharp increase in wholesale gas prices. Although inflation is now stabilising, the high levels of the past three years have been detrimental to the finances of both Circuit and churches. All this adds to the anxiety regarding Circuit finances. In these circumstances it is seen as not unreasonable for reserves to be above this level until there is more clarity about the future situation.

One Circuit presbyter has a further five years, and another a further two years of their appointments to run. The third presbyter will be leaving in August 2025, but the Circuit has entered stationing for a replacement and if successful the incoming presbyter's appointment would run until at least August 2030. It has also been agreed that the Circuit will provide a grant of £11,000 a year to Thornaby Methodist Church for the next two years. This is to support specific mission activity and is primarily associated with funding staff positions. It is essential for the Circuit to maintain sufficient income/reserves to ensure the financial consequences associated with these commitments and decisions can be met.

The Circuit also hopes to identify and support other mission challenges in the Stockton area, including the potential appointment of a Community Chaplain to work with the food bank activities associated with some of the churches, and endeavours to hold funds for these purposes.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The major risks associated with the Circuit have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) with professional advice taken as required. There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded. Income and expenditure are being monitored in total and 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 recreation 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.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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 Stockton Methodist Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of the Connexional Safeguarding Policy, government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the Circuit and in the churches.

The Stockton Methodist 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.

APPROVAL

This report has been approved by Managing Trustees and will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval at the 19 March 2025 Circuit Meeting.

Approved on behalf of the Charity's Trustees on 19 March 2025
and signed on their behalf by:

REV. VINCENT JAMBAWO

.....
Superintendent Minister

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

CIRCUIT MEETING MEMBERSHIP

Superintendent	Rev. Vincent Jambawo
Ministers	Rev. Sarah Ramsden Rev. Martin Ramsden Rev. Rachel Williams
Circuit Stewards	Mrs. Margaret Walton (property) Mr. Mark Hall Mr. Leslie Gilburt Mr. Paul Toplis Mrs. Caroline Noble – appointed September 2023
Circuit Treasurer	Mr. John Moore
Supernumerary Minister	Rev. John Howard-Norman – retired December 2023
Secretary of the Circuit Meeting	Mrs June Howard-Norman
Secretary of Local Preachers' Meeting	Dr. Peter Dodd
Local Preacher Representative	Mrs. Sheila Hargreaves
Additional Members appointed by the Circuit Meeting	Mr. John Monkhouse – retired August 2023 Mr. David Parkin – retired August 2023 Mrs. Delysia Parkin – retired August 2023 Mrs. Valerie Wootton – retired August 2023
Lay Property Secretary	Position currently vacant
Lay Mission Support Group Secretary	Mrs. Kathleen Mee – died August 2024 (this role has been removed)
Lay Youth Forum Secretary	Mrs. Margaret Murray
MWiB Representative	Position currently vacant
Methodist Homes Representative	Position currently vacant
Safeguarding	Dr. Peter Dodd

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024****From each Church: Steward, Treasurer and Elected Representatives:**

Carlton:	Joan Burn, Charlton Peters, Margaret Hall
Greens Lane:	David Smart, Judy Morrison, Margaret Schofield, Sandra Wilkinson
North Billingham:	Rhona Ball, Cynthia Dent, Jackie Pitt, Maureen Gowland
Norton:	Howard Gill, Judith Lloyd Catherine Bemrose Aneta Bradley
St. Andrew's:	Doreen Sharp, Gill Carr, Marjorie Dunn - retired June 2023 Olga Brand – appointed June 2023
Thornaby:	Judith Powell, Ken Davison – retired August 2024, Edith Appleby, Eileen Middleton Stephen Smith – appointed September 2024
Trinity Eaglescliffe:	Robert Woodman, Ralph Barton, John Monkhouse – appointed September 2024
Yarm:	Abigail Beer Brian Bainbridge Chris Kendrew, Graham Clarke, Roz Matthews Ian Fyfe – retired January 2025
Yarm Road:	Alison Tonkinson, Jim Dale, Edwin Doidge – all retired September 2023

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2024 which are set out on pages 9 to 17.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the charity'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 charity's accounts as 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.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



D F Adams FCA
Baines Jewitt Limited
Spitfire House
19 Falcon Court
Preston Farm Industrial Estate
STOCKTON ON TEES
TS18 3TU

2 April 2025

DFA/GW

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023-2024 £	Total 2022-2023 £
Income						
Donations and legacies	4	-	155,000	-	155,000	65,000
Income from monetary investments	5	13,175	6,900	-	20,075	9,691
Income from investment properties	6	-	-	6,473	6,473	5,776
Assessments on churches		189,320	2,477	-	191,797	204,245
Capital receipts		-	-	-	-	-
Grants received		-	-	-	-	2,000
Other income	7	17,373	-	-	17,373	21,940
Total Income		219,868	164,377	6,473	390,718	308,652
Expenditure						
Grants and donations	8	15,471	4,000	-	19,471	8,627
Salaries and associated costs	9	139,553	68	270	139,891	136,302
Property maintenance	10	36,674	-	1,775	38,449	29,004
Connexional assessment and model trust levy		-	36,216	-	36,216	-
District assessment and levy	11	48,956	598	-	49,554	49,660
Office expenses		2,093	-	-	2,093	2,342
Other outgoings		3,744	-	-	3,744	4,560
Loss on disposal of fixed assets		-	4,460	-	4,460	-
Total Charitable Expenditure		246,491	45,342	2,045	293,878	230,495
Net Income/Expenditure		(26,623)	119,035	4,428	96,840	78,157
Transfers between funds	17	9,498	(4,800)	(4,698)	-	-
Net Movement in Funds		(17,125)	114,235	(270)	96,840	78,157
Total funds brought forward		1,453,628	23,903	92,096	1,569,627	1,491,470
Total Funds Carried Forward	17	1,436,503	138,138	91,826	1,666,467	1,569,627

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022-2023 £	Total 2021-2022 £
Income						
Donations		65,000	-	-	65,000	-
Income from monetary investments		8,869	822	-	9,691	1,132
Income from investment properties		-	-	5,776	5,776	5,597
Assessments on churches		204,245	-	-	204,245	204,495
Capital receipts		-	-	-	-	-
Grants received		-	-	2,000	2,000	2,000
Other income		21,940	-	-	21,940	21,482
Total Income		300,054	822	7,776	308,652	234,706
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Expenditure						
Grants and donations		8,627	-	-	8,627	12,755
Salaries and associated costs		135,948	80	274	136,302	127,496
Property maintenance		27,434	-	1,570	29,004	20,976
Connexional assessment and model trust levy		-	-	-	-	-
District assessment and levy		48,956	704	-	49,660	52,349
Office expenses		2,342	-	-	2,342	2,621
Other outgoings		2,340	-	2,220	4,560	3,139
Total Charitable Expenditure		225,647	784	4,064	230,495	219,336
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net Income/(Expenditure)		74,407	38	3,712	78,157	15,370
Transfers between funds		8,506	(4,300)	(4,206)	-	-
Net Movement in Funds		82,913	(4,262)	(494)	78,157	15,370
Total funds brought forward		1,370,715	28,165	92,590	1,491,470	1,476,100
Total Funds Carried Forward		1,453,628	23,903	92,096	1,569,627	1,491,470
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Totals 2024 £	Totals 2023 £
Fixed Assets						
Circuit Manses and equipment	13	1,192,261	-	-	1,192,261	1,192,261
Investment properties	13	-	-	90,000	90,000	90,000
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Fixed Assets		1,192,261 =====	- ===	90,000 =====	1,282,261 =====	1,282,261 =====
Current Assets						
Debtors	14	8,973	-	-	8,973	10,214
Investments with TMCP	15	-	138,138	-	138,138	23,903
Central Finance Board deposits		267,047	-	1,826	268,873	282,766
Cash at bank and in hand		20,926	-	-	20,926	20,444
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Current Assets		296,946 -----	138,138 -----	1,826 -----	436,910 -----	337,327 -----
Current Liabilities						
Creditors: due in less than one year	16	52,704	-	-	52,704	49,961
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Current Liabilities		52,704 -----	- -----	- -----	52,704 -----	49,961 -----
Net Current Assets/Liabilities		244,242 -----	138,138 -----	1,826 -----	384,206 -----	287,366 -----
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		1,436,503 =====	138,138 =====	91,826 =====	1,666,467 =====	1,569,627 =====
Net Assets		1,436,503 =====	138,138 =====	91,826 =====	1,666,467 =====	1,569,627 =====
Funds of the Circuit						
General fund (unrestricted)	17	1,436,503	-	-	1,436,503	1,453,628
Circuit Model Trust Fund (unrestricted)	17	-	138,138	-	138,138	23,903
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Unrestricted Funds		1,436,503 -----	138,138 -----	- -----	1,574,641 -----	1,477,531 -----
Restricted funds	17	- ---	- ---	91,826 -----	91,826 -----	92,096 -----
Total Funds	17	1,436,503 =====	138,138 =====	91,826 =====	1,666,467 =====	1,569,627 =====

These financial statements were approved on behalf of the Charity's Trustees on 19 March 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:

REV. VINCENT JAMBAWO

.....

(Superintendent Minister)

The notes on pages 12 to 17 form part of these accounts

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

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

1. CHARITY INFORMATION

The charity (registered number 1137263) is a public benefit entity, established in the UK and governed by The Methodist Church Act 1976. The address of the principal office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operation and principal activity is the advancement of the Christian faith.

2. BASIS OF PREPARATION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Basis of Preparation and Assessment of Going Concern

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

3. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Funds

The funds held constitute: General funds held for any purpose of the Circuit which are unrestricted; the Circuit Model Trust Fund has wide purposes defined in Standing Orders and is categorised as unrestricted; Restricted funds which are held for a narrower purpose; there are no endowment funds; details of each material fund are disclosed in the final note to these accounts and any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

(b) Incoming Resources

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Circuit becomes entitled to the resources and the trustees are reasonably certain they will receive the resources; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

(c) Resources Expended

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the Circuit to pay out resources.

(d) Grants

Grants made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment.

(e) VAT

Since the Circuit is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged with the expenses to which it refers.

(f) Tangible Fixed Assets for use by the Circuit

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost more than £500. The freehold property purchased pre 2015 is shown in the accounts at 2015, deemed values resulting from a valuation in 2005. Freehold property purchased since 2015 is shown at cost. The land component is deemed to be a third. No depreciation is provided because the trustees consider the current residual value of the property in its present condition to be not less than its current valuation and, in the absence of any evidence or impairment, any depreciation provision for the buildings component of the property would be immaterial.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 20243. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - *Continued*

(g) Investment Properties

These are properties held for the long term and are included in the financial statements at fair value. Depreciation is not provided on investment property.

(h) Financial Instruments

The charity only has financial assets and liabilities that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

(i) Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

4. DONATIONS

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Gift of church property	-	155,000	-	155,000	65,000
	===	=====	===	=====	=====

Under the Methodist Church constitution, when a local Methodist society closes, the church passes to the Circuit and becomes part of its assets.

5. INCOME FROM MONETARY INVESTMENTS

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Central Finance Board					
Deposits	13,175	-	-	13,175	8,869
Investments with TMCP	-	6,900	-	6,900	822
	-----	-----	---	-----	-----
	13,175	6,900	-	20,075	9,691
	=====	=====	===	=====	=====

6. INCOME FROM INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Lettings income:					
Alpine Way	-	-	6,473	6,473	5,776
	---	---	-----	-----	-----
Total	-	-	6,473	6,473	5,776
	===	===	=====	=====	=====

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

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

7. OTHER CHARITABLE INCOME

	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund £	Restricted £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Lettings income: 2 Wallington Road	6,900	-	-	6,900	6,900
Donations for Connexional Funds	8,471	-	-	8,471	8,627
District employment reimbursement	1,878	-	-	1,878	6,147
Other sundry income	124	-	-	124	266
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total	17,373	-	-	17,373	21,940
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

One of the Circuit manse is currently let on a short-term basis. It is anticipated that it will be again required to house a Minister.

8. GRANTS AND DONATIONS

	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund £	Restricted £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Connexional Funds	8,471	-	-	8,471	8,627
Thornaby Methodist Church	7,000	4,000	-	11,000	-
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
	15,471	4,000	-	19,471	8,627
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

9. SALARIES AND ASSOCIATED COSTS

	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund £	Restricted £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind	99,929	-	-	99,929	97,705
Pension costs	23,995	-	-	23,995	22,553
Employer's national insurance costs	8,960	-	-	8,960	8,654
Apprenticeship levy	497	-	-	497	490
Telephone	3,648	-	-	3,648	2,855
Travelling	2,044	-	270	2,314	3,485
Administration	480	68	-	548	560
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total	139,553	68	270	139,891	136,302
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

The average number of staff engaged during the year was 4 (2023: 4). No employees received employee benefits that totalled more than £60,000.

The Superintendent of the Circuit and the other Presbyters and the remaining members of the Circuit Leadership Team are considered as key Management Personnel. The members of the Circuit meeting are the trustees of the Circuit. The stipends, employer's NIC, apprenticeship levy and employer's pension contributions and other expenses of the Presbyters of the Circuit are paid by the Circuit.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**Payments to Trustees**

Apart from the Presbyters (stipends) and the Supernumerary Minister (preaching fees), no member of the Circuit meeting received any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the Circuit.

Included in these accounts is £2,351 (2023: £3,766) in respect of reimbursed expenses for four trustees.

10. **PROPERTY**

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Council tax	7,868	-	-	7,868	7,412
Water supply	1,565	-	-	1,565	1,557
Energy supply	192	-	-	192	50
Repairs and maintenance	17,788	-	560	18,348	12,213
Insurance	4,818	-	-	4,818	4,655
Letting expenses	1,173	-	1,215	2,388	2,217
Quinquennial reports	3,270	-	-	3,270	900
Total	36,674	-	1,775	38,449	29,004
	=====	====	=====	=====	=====

11. **DISTRICT ASSESSMENT AND LEVY**

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
District expenses and Methodist Church funds	48,956	-	-	48,956	48,956
Levy on CMTF funds	-	598	-	598	704
Total	48,956	598	-	49,554	49,660
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

12. **NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR**

This is stated after charging:

	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£
Independent Examiner's Fees:		
Independent examination - 2024	2,424	2,340
	=====	=====

13. **TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Circuit Property	Investment Property	Total
	£	£	£
Cost or Valuation			
Balance brought forward as at 1 September 2023	1,192,261	90,000	1,282,261
Additions in year	155,000	-	155,000
Disposals in year	(155,000)	-	(155,000)
Depreciation			
At 31 August 2023 and 31 August 2024	-	-	-
Balance carried forward as at 31 August 2024	1,192,261	90,000	1,282,261
	=====	=====	=====

Circuit property comprises four manses for use by the Circuit staff and the chapel located at Maltby village which is used for occasional Circuit services and as a Circuit office.

The investment property is one property which is held for the long term. In the opinion of the trustees, £90,000 is a reasonable estimate of the market value as at 31 August 2024.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

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

14. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Stipends paid in advance	8,973	10,176
Other debtors	-	38
	=====	=====
	8,973	10,214
	=====	=====

15. INVESTMENTS WITH TRUSTEES FOR METHODIST CHURCH PURPOSES (TMCP)

TMCP is an investment receiving body within the Methodist Church which pays interest at market rates on funds invested with them.

16. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Assessments received in advance	48,780	46,130
Other creditors and accruals	3,924	3,831
	=====	=====
	52,704	49,961
	=====	=====

17. SUMMARY OF FUND MOVEMENTS

	At 01.09.23 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31.08.24 £
General fund	1,453,628	219,868	246,491	9,498	1,436,503
Circuit Model Trust fund	23,903	164,377	45,342	(4,800)	138,138
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total Unrestricted Funds	1,477,531	384,245	291,833	4,698	1,574,641
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Tees Valley Housing Fund	90,000	6,473	1,775	(4,698)	90,000
Circuit Mission and Evangelism Fund	2,096	-	270	-	1,826
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total Restricted Funds	92,096	6,473	2,045	(4,698)	91,826
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	1,569,627	390,718	293,878	-	1,666,467
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 202417. SUMMARY OF FUND MOVEMENTS – *Continued*

	At 01.09.22 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31.08.23 £
General fund	1,370,715	300,054	225,647	8,506	1,453,628
Circuit Model Trust fund	28,165	822	784	(4,300)	23,903
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Unrestricted Funds	1,398,880	300,876	226,431	4,206	1,477,531
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Tees Valley Housing Fund	90,000	5,776	1,570	(4,206)	90,000
Circuit Mission and Evangelism Fund	2,590	2,000	2,494	-	2,096
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Restricted Funds	92,590	7,776	4,064	(4,206)	92,096
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	1,491,470	308,652	230,495	-	1,569,627
	=====	=====	=====	==	=====

General Fund - this fund is used for general purposes.

Circuit Model Trust Fund - This fund has wide purposes as defined in the standing orders of the Methodist Church.

Tees Valley Housing Fund - This fund is to be used to benefit homeless families.

Circuit Mission and Evangelism Fund – This fund is used to support new Mission and Evangelism activities.

18. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Churches which form the Stockton Methodist Circuit whose assessments provide the principal income for the Circuit are:

Carlton
Greens Lane
North Billingham
Norton
St. Andrew's
Thornaby
Trinity Eaglescliffe
Yarm
Yarm Road – closed August 2023

The Circuit paid an assessment and levy to Darlington Methodist District as detailed in note 11 to these accounts.

Accounts

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1137263

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 AUGUST 2023

Swimming
against the tide?

We will help you find
calmer waters

Baines Jewitt
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
AND BUSINESS ADVISERS

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1137263

**ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

C O N T E N T S

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Circuit Meeting Membership	Appendix A
Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees	7
Statement of Financial Activities	8 to 9
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STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

BASIS OF PREPARATION AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Full Name of Charity:	Stockton Methodist Circuit
Registration Charity Number:	1137263
Date of Registration:	4 August 2010
Main Communication Address:	4 Fritillary Place Stockton-on-Tees TS21 3LZ

The members of the Stockton 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 at Appendix A of this report.

CIRCUIT MINISTERS AND OFFICERS

Active Circuit Minsters	Rev. Vincent Jambawo Rev. Sarah Ramsden Rev. Martin Ramsden Rev. Rachel Williams
Circuit Stewards:	Dr. Peter Dodd – retired August 2023 Mr. John Moore (treasurer) Mrs. Margaret Walton (property) Mrs. Jean Jones – retired June 2023 Mr. Mark Hall – appointed October 2021 Mr. Leslie Gilbert – appointed June 2022 Mr. Paul Toplis – appointed June 2023 Mrs. Caroline Noble – appointed September 2023
Administrator:	Ms. J. Prior – resigned November 2023 Mrs. Rachel Wilson – appointed February 2024

Mr. J.G. Moore acted as the principal officer overseeing the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the Circuit during the year.

Independent Examiner:	D.F. Adams FCA Baines Jewitt Limited Spitfire House 19 Falcon Court Preston Farm Industrial Estate STOCKTON ON TEES TS18 3TU
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Investment Bankers:	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
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STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

AIMS AND ORGANISATION

The purposes of the Methodist Church are, and shall be deemed to have been since the Date of Union, 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 charity's objective is to act as a Resource provider within the area around Stockton-on-Tees for the Methodist Church. To do this we will engage with the community, share with one another and share Jesus Christ. Our activities include:

- 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;
- Provision of chaplaincy services to the local university and other institutions.

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).

TRUSTEE TRAINING

A range of guidance is 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 given to all new Circuit meeting members as induction to their role as trustees.

RELATED PARTIES

See note 18 to the accounts.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Circuit Mission Statement

ENGAGE WITH COMMUNITY [local and global]

CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER [watching over each other with love]

SHARE JESUS CHRIST [radical generosity and hospitality]

1 Peter 3:15 *Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you. (Good News Bible).*

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

REVIEW OF THE YEAR - *Continued*

NOTE: The Circuit is reviewing and reimagining its mission statement and vision for the future considering what we have been in the past and now. The Circuit Support and Encouragement Group (CSET) was appointed at the beginning of the church year with the overarching mandate to, inter alia, help the Circuit churches reimagine their calling in mission and ministry statements which will, in turn, feed into the Circuit Mission Statement. The operating paradigm is the Why Process (Simon Sinek 2009) with the Rev. Dr. Martin Ramsden leading the team. The overarching question for this ecclesiological and missional "reimagining" is: **What is God doing within each person, each church and the Circuit?**

Introduction

This annual review provides an overview of the developments, achievements and concerns of the Stockton Methodist Circuit (SMC) over the past year, from September 2022 to August 2023. At the beginning of the year, the Circuit comprised ten churches. During the year, it faced significant challenges with the closure of one church in October and another at the end of August and financial difficulties among other individual churches. However, the Circuit remains committed and favourably positioned to foster a resilient and robust community for worship, mission and ministry. Additionally, the closure of the two churches is, in effect, a strategic resizing for efficiency and effectiveness with most members from these churches poised to transfer their membership to one of the other churches in the Circuit.

Significant Developments and Achievements

Despite the challenges, SMC has made notable progress in various areas over the past year. We have witnessed increased community outreach programmes, including food banks, with over 100 people served weekly from Norton Methodist Church's community pantry and the Community Larder at St. Andrew's Methodist Church, Hardwick. These efforts have allowed the Circuit to engage with a broader demographic, serve those in need and provide potential evidential legitimacy to challenge injustices in society locally and beyond. Furthermore, the Circuit has actively promoted ecumenical dialogue and collaboration with other religious communities. We have strengthened community bonds and worked towards common goals by fostering mutual understanding and cooperation. On the national scale, the Circuit joined other Circuits across the Connexion in supporting the JPIT (Joint Public Issues Team of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church and the United Reform Church) statement expressing concern about the Illegal Immigration Bill. Over the year, we also celebrated increased inclusivity, most notably the registration of several churches for same-sex marriages. Our internal systemic processes take advantage of Methodist-wide mechanisms of EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity) and Safeguarding to provide appropriate training and oversight to everyone, particularly those in positions of authority and leadership.

Concerns and Challenges

Closing two churches within the Circuit has undoubtedly posed a significant challenge. The loss of these churches has impacted the Circuit's overall strength and reach. We recognise the sadness and loss felt by members of these churches and have provided support and guidance during this transition.

Financial struggles have also been a pressing concern for individual churches within the Circuit. The annual contribution required to sustain the Circuit's operations, including staff stipends, salaries and pension contributions, has become increasingly burdensome for some churches. This situation has strained the financial stability of the Circuit as a whole.

Resilience and Robustness

In response to these challenges, the SMC has taken proactive measures to ensure its resilience and robustness as a charity and worshipping community. We have strengthened our partnership with the broader Methodist community and sought additional resources and support. This includes collaborating with neighbouring Circuits, sharing resources, and exploring grant opportunities. For example, Thornaby Methodist Church has received funding from Darlington Methodist District for one year for a caretaker. This is the first planning stage for a New Places for New People (NPNP) initiative at that church.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023****Resilience and Robustness - *continued***

Efforts have also been made to provide financial guidance and support to churches facing difficulties meeting their annual contributions. The Circuit Treasurer consults with church Treasurers on their assessment, meaning that a finger is kept on the pulse of each church. Additionally, we have encouraged churches to explore alternative revenue streams and engage in community fundraising initiatives.

To ensure the long-term sustainability of the Circuit, we are implementing a strategic plan focused on diversifying income sources, reducing expenses, and improving financial transparency. Regular monitoring and evaluation of the economic situation will be conducted to address any emerging issues promptly.

The staff situation remains stable with the Rev. Dr Martin Ramsden invited to be stationed and serve in the Circuit for a further five years. The evolving demographic situation means we must redouble our efforts to find volunteers to deliver on mission and ministry. We may have to look more and more to less traditional sources.

We are also pleased to record that all our premises are maintained at or above legal requirements and that safeguarding policies have been robust and proactive over the years.

Conclusion

While SMC has faced significant challenges over the past year, it remains committed to its mission of worship and charity. The closure of two churches and financial struggles among individual churches have necessitated resilience and robustness. Through collaborative efforts, financial support and strategic planning, the Circuit works tirelessly to overcome these challenges and build a sustainable future. With its members' continued dedication and support, SMC will continue to thrive as a worshipping community and a force for positive change in the broader society.

FINANCIAL REVIEW**Income Trends**

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment paid by the Circuit churches. In general, church finances have recovered from the pandemic and all of the continuing churches were able to meet their assessment commitments in the year to 31 August 2023. However, they have all been affected by high inflation and the increase in wholesale energy costs. One of the smaller churches at Maltby closed in October 2022 which resulted in a minor loss of assessment income but the Circuit was compensated by the receipt of the residual funds of this church. It was agreed the Yarm Road Methodist church would close at the end of the 2022/2023 church year. This meant that the Circuit did not receive any assessment payment from this source in August 2023 (normally the Circuit would receive payment in advance for the months of September, October and November). Assessments that will provide 96% of the previous year's level have been agreed with churches for 2023/2024 but it should be noted this is the second year running in which the assessment level has fallen slightly from the year before.

The Circuit has benefitted from the progressive rise in interest rates in the second half of 2022 and through 2023. This has compensated to some extent for the reduction in assessment income.

The Circuit has taken possession of the Maltby church property. This is a small, one-roomed chapel without any onsite parking or any surrounding land. The Circuit expects to receive a capital sum from the sale of the Yarm Road Church property during the 2023/2024 church year.

Longer term, the Circuit will endeavour to maintain assessment income at the current level. However, it is recognised that with an ageing demographic there will probably be further reductions in church membership and with a number of ageing buildings to maintain, church finances are likely to come under increasing pressure. With such considerations, it is anticipated that overall the income from church assessments is unlikely to increase.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

FINANCIAL REVIEW – *Continued*

Expenditure Trends

Stipend and associated expenditure and the assessment paid to the District and Connexion make up 75% of Circuit expenditure.

Stipend expenditure has increased by 4.3% in line with conference approved increases. Following on from the sharp increase in energy prices and the high level of general inflation, with encouragement from the Connexion, the Circuit brought the annual cost of living rise for lay workers forward by four months to 1 December 2023. The Circuit also made a one-off cost of living payment to lay workers on the basis of £500 for a full-time worker, part-time workers receiving a payment in proportion to their hours. It should be noted that the presbyters also received a one-off cost of living payment but the money for this came from Connexional funds and the Circuit finances were not involved. The assessment paid to the District and Connexion in the year to 31 August 2023 remained the same as the previous year.

Looking ahead to 2023/2024, stipend expenditure is scheduled to increase by 7.84%, while the District/Connexional assessment will remain steady. General inflation which affects the remaining 25% of expenditure is now falling and during 2024, it will hopefully return to the levels that were normal in the previous decade.

Looking further ahead, in 2024/2025 stipend expenditure is anticipated to increase by around 6.8%, but it seems likely general UK inflation will fall back to 2 or 3%. Annual Circuit income is not envisaged to increase in the next few years and could suffer some decrease. Matching income with expenditure is likely to remain challenging.

Fund Balances

As at 31 August 2023, the net current assets of the Circuit were £287,000 giving approximately 15 months' cover for unrestricted expenditure.

Plans for 2023/2024

Circuit financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that there will be three full-time ordained staff and one part-time lay staff with a 7.84% cost of living stipend increase. The assessment paid to the District and Connexion will remain at the same level. The assessment income from the churches has been agreed at 96% of the previous year's level. It is anticipated that the Circuit will receive a lump sum from the sale of Yarm Road Methodist Church during the year and it is intended this will be used to support mission activities at Thornaby Methodist Church and also mission activities elsewhere in the Stockton area. Apart from this "one-off" injection of money and any associated expenditure, it is anticipated that, with foreseeable outgoings, the Circuit will run at a small deficit in 2023/2024.

RESERVES POLICY

General

It is the trustees' policy to maintain a balance of unrestricted funds equivalent to six months' unrestricted expenditure. However, following on from the coronavirus pandemic and with the continuing conflicts in the Ukraine and the Middle East, the financial climate continues to be uncertain. Some of the churches have found recovery from the pandemic difficult and all have been affected by the sharp increase in wholesale gas prices. The past two years of high inflation have been detrimental to the finances of both Circuit and churches. All this adds to the anxiety regarding Circuit finances. In these circumstances, it is seen as not unreasonable for reserves to be above this level until there is more clarity about the future situation.

The Circuit has extended the position of one presbyter for a further five years, meaning their appointment will run until at least August 2029. In addition, the appointments of the two other presbyters still have three years to run. It has also been agreed that the Circuit will provide a grant of £11,000 a year to Thornaby Methodist Church for the next three years. This is to support specific mission activity and is primarily associated with funding staff positions. It is essential for the Circuit to maintain sufficient income/reserves to ensure the financial consequences associated with these commitments and decisions can be met.

The Circuit still hopes to identify and support other mission challenges in the Stockton area and endeavours to hold funds for this purpose.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023****RISK MANAGEMENT**

The major risks associated with the Circuit have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) with professional advice taken as required. There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded. Income and expenditure are 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 recreation 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 Stockton Methodist Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of the Connexional Safeguarding Policy, government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the Circuit and in the churches.

The Stockton Methodist 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.

APPROVAL

This report has been approved by Managing Trustees and will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval at the 19 March 2024 Circuit Meeting.

Approved on behalf of the Charity's Trustees on 19 March 2024
and signed on their behalf by:

Rev. Vincent Jambawo
Superintendent Minister

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

CIRCUIT MEETING MEMBERSHIP

Superintendent	Rev. Vincent Jambawo
Ministers	Rev. Sarah Ramsden Rev. Martin Ramsden Rev. Rachel Williams
Circuit Stewards	Dr. Peter Dodd – retired August 2023 Mrs. Margaret Walton (property) Mrs. Jean Jones – retired June 2023 Mr. Mark Hall Mr. Leslie Gilburt Mr. Paul Toplis – appointed June 2023 Mrs. Caroline Noble – appointed September 2023
Circuit Treasurer	Mr. John Moore
Supernumerary Minister	Rev. John Howard-Norman
Secretary of the Circuit Meeting	Mrs June Howard-Norman – appointed September 2022
Secretary of Local Preachers' Meeting	Dr. Peter Dodd
Local Preacher Representative	Mrs. Sheila Hargreaves
Additional Members appointed by the Circuit Meeting	Mr. John Monkhouse Mr. David Parkin Mrs. Delysia Parkin Mrs. Valerie Wootton
Lay Property Secretary	Mr. Vic Bowmer – retired March 2023 Position currently vacant
Lay Mission Support Group Secretary	Mrs. Kathleen Mee
Lay Youth Forum Secretary	Mrs. Margaret Murray
MWiB Representative	Position currently vacant
Methodist Homes Representative	Position currently vacant
Safeguarding	Ms. Aneta Bradley – retired May 2023 Dr. Peter Dodd – appointed June 2023

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023****From each Church: Steward, Treasurer and Elected Representatives:**

Carlton:	Joan Burn, Charlton Peters, Margaret Hall
Greens Lane:	David Smart, Judy Morrison, Margaret Schofield, Sandra Wilkinson
Maltby:	Joan Tarren, Stephen Smith, Ken Davison – all retired November 2022
North Billingham:	Rhona Ball, Cynthia Dent, Jackie Pitt, Maureen Gowland
Norton:	Howard Gill, Judith Lloyd Catherine Bemrose Aneta Bradley
St. Andrew's:	Doreen Sharp, Gill Carr, Marjorie Dunn
Thornaby:	Judith Powell, Ken Davison, Edith Appleby, Eileen Middleton
Trinity Eaglescliffe:	Robert Woodman, Ralph Barton
Yarm:	Abigail Beer Brian Bainbridge Chris Kendrew, Graham Clarke, Roz Matthews Ian Fyfe
Yarm Road:	Alison Tonkinson, Jim Dale, Edwin Doidge – all retired September 2023

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2023 which are set out on pages 8 to 16.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the charity'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 charity's accounts as 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.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



**D F Adams FCA
Baines Jewitt Limited
Spitfire House
19 Falcon Court
Preston Farm Industrial Estate
STOCKTON ON TEES
TS18 3TU**

25 March 2024

DFA/GW

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022-2023 £	Total 2021-2022 £
Income						
Donations	4	65,000	-	-	65,000	-
Income from monetary investments	5	8,869	822	-	9,691	1,132
Income from investment properties	6	-	-	5,776	5,776	5,597
Assessments on churches		204,245	-	-	204,245	204,495
Capital receipts		-	-	-	-	-
Grants received		-	-	2,000	2,000	2,000
Other income	7	21,940	-	-	21,940	21,482
Total Income		300,054	822	7,776	308,652	234,706
Expenditure						
Grants and donations	8	8,627	-	-	8,627	12,755
Salaries and associated costs	9	135,948	80	274	136,302	127,496
Property maintenance	10	27,434	-	1,570	29,004	20,976
Connexional assessment and model trust levy		-	-	-	-	-
District assessment and levy	11	48,956	704	-	49,660	52,349
Office expenses		2,342	-	-	2,342	2,621
Other outgoings		2,340	-	2,220	4,560	3,139
Total Charitable Expenditure		225,647	784	4,064	230,495	219,336
Net Income/Expenditure		74,407	38	3,712	78,157	15,370
Transfers between funds	17	8,506	(4,300)	(4,206)	-	-
Net Movement in Funds		82,913	(4,262)	(494)	78,157	15,370
Total funds brought forward		1,370,715	28,165	92,590	1,491,470	1,476,100
Total Funds Carried Forward	17	1,453,628	23,903	92,096	1,569,627	1,491,470

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021-2022 £	Total 2020-2021 £
Income						
Income from monetary investments	4	339	794	-	1,132	1,133
Income from investment properties	5	-	-	5,457	5,597	5,457
Assessments on churches		187,805	-	-	204,495	187,805
Grants received		-	-	4,000	2,000	4,000
Other income	6	7,270	23,403	-	21,482	30,673
Total Income		195,414	24,197	9,457	234,706	229,068
Expenditure						
Grants and donations	7	200	-	-	12,755	200
Salaries and associated costs	8	129,101	410	-	127,496	129,511
Property maintenance	9	35,822	-	1,048	20,976	36,870
Connexional assessment and model trust levy		-	-	-	-	-
District assessment and levy	10	57,736	7,756	-	52,349	65,492
Office expenses		2,049	-	-	2,621	2,049
Other outgoings		2,100	-	2,281	3,139	4,381
Total Charitable Expenditure		227,008	8,166	3,329	219,336	238,503
Net Income/(Expenditure)		(31,594)	16,031	6,128	15,370	(9,435)
Transfers between funds	16	192,887	(188,478)	(4,409)	-	-
Net Movement in Funds		161,293	(172,447)	1,719	15,370	(9,435)
Total funds brought forward		1,190,420	205,115	90,000	1,476,100	1,485,535
Total Funds Carried Forward	16	1,351,713	32,668	91,719	1,491,470	1,476,100

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Totals 2023 £	Totals 2022 £
Fixed Assets						
Circuit Manses and equipment	15	1,192,261	-	-	1,192,261	1,127,261
Investment properties	15	-	-	90,000	90,000	90,000
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Fixed Assets		1,192,261 =====	- ===	90,000 =====	1,282,261 =====	1,217,261 =====
Current Assets						
Debtors	16	10,214	-	-	10,214	9,472
Investments with TMCP	17	-	23,903	-	23,903	28,165
Central Finance Board deposits		280,670	-	2,096	282,766	268,707
Cash at bank and in hand		20,444	-	-	20,444	21,984
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Current Assets		311,328 -----	23,903 -----	2,096 -----	337,327 -----	328,328 -----
Current Liabilities						
Creditors: due in less than one year	18	49,961	-	-	49,961	54,119
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Current Liabilities		49,961 -----	- ----	- ----	49,961 -----	54,119 -----
Net Current Assets/Liabilities		261,367 -----	23,903 -----	2,096 -----	287,366 -----	274,209 -----
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		1,453,628 =====	23,903 =====	92,096 =====	1,569,627 =====	1,491,470 =====
Net Assets		1,453,628 =====	23,903 =====	92,096 =====	1,569,627 =====	1,491,470 =====
Funds of the Circuit						
General fund (unrestricted)	19	1,453,628	-	-	1,453,628	1,370,715
Circuit Model Trust Fund (unrestricted)	19	-	23,903	-	23,903	28,165
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Unrestricted Funds		1,453,628 -----	23,903 -----	- ----	1,477,531 -----	1,398,880 -----
Restricted funds	19	- ---	- ---	92,096 -----	92,096 -----	92,590 -----
Total Funds	19	1,453,628 =====	23,903 =====	92,096 =====	1,569,627 =====	1,491,470 =====

These financial statements were approved on behalf of the Charity's Trustees on 19 March 2024
and are signed on their behalf by:

Rev. Vincent Jambawo
(Superintendent Minister)

The notes on pages 11 to 16 form part of these accounts

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1. CHARITY INFORMATION

The charity (registered number 1137263) is a public benefit entity, established in the UK and governed by The Methodist Church Act 1976. The address of the principal office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operation and principal activity is the advancement of the Christian faith.

2. BASIS OF PREPARATION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Basis of Preparation and Assessment of Going Concern

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

3. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Funds

The funds held constitute: General funds held for any purpose of the Circuit which are unrestricted; the Circuit Model Trust Fund has wide purposes defined in Standing Orders and is categorised as unrestricted; Restricted funds which are held for a narrower purpose; there are no endowment funds; details of each material fund are disclosed in the final note to these accounts and any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

(b) Incoming Resources

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Circuit becomes entitled to the resources and the trustees are reasonably certain they will receive the resources; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

(c) Resources Expended

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the Circuit to pay out resources.

(d) Grants

Grants made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment.

(e) VAT

Since the Circuit is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged with the expenses to which it refers.

(f) Tangible Fixed Assets for use by the Circuit

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost more than £500. The freehold property purchased pre 2015 is shown in the accounts at 2015, deemed values resulting from a valuation in 2005. Freehold property purchased since 2015 is shown at cost. The land component is deemed to be a third. No depreciation is provided because the trustees consider the current residual value of the property in its present condition to be not less than its current valuation and, in the absence of any evidence or impairment, any depreciation provision for the buildings component of the property would be immaterial.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 20233. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - *Continued*

(g) Investment Properties

These are properties held for the long term and are included in the financial statements at fair value. Depreciation is not provided on investment property.

(h) Financial Instruments

The charity only has financial assets and liabilities that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

(i) Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

4. DONATIONS

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Gift of church property	65,000	-	-	65,000	-
	=====	==	==	=====	==

Under the Methodist Church constitution, when a local Methodist society closes, the church passes to the Circuit and becomes part of its assets.

5. INCOME FROM MONETARY INVESTMENTS

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Central Finance Board					
Deposits	8,869	-	-	8,869	995
Investments with TMCP	-	822	-	822	137
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	8,869	822	-	9,691	1,132
	=====	===	==	=====	=====

6. INCOME FROM INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Lettings income:					
Alpine Way	-	-	5,776	5,776	5,597
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	-	-	5,776	5,776	5,597
	===	===	=====	=====	=====

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

7. OTHER CHARITABLE INCOME

	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund £	Restricted £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Lettings income: 2 Wallington Road	6,900	-	-	6,900	6,900
Donations for Connexional Funds	8,627	-	-	8,627	9,955
District employment reimbursement	6,147	-	-	6,147	4,240
Other sundry income	266	-	-	266	387
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total	21,940	-	-	21,940	21,482
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

One of the Circuit manses is currently let on a short-term basis. It is anticipated that it will be again required to house a Minister.

8. GRANTS AND DONATIONS

	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund £	Restricted £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Connexional Funds	8,627	-	-	8,627	9,955
Thornaby Methodist Church	-	-	-	-	2,800
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
	8,627	-	-	8,627	12,755
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

9. SALARIES AND ASSOCIATED COSTS

	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund £	Restricted £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind	97,705	-	-	97,705	91,504
Pension costs	22,553	-	-	22,553	21,580
Employer's national insurance costs	8,654	-	-	8,654	8,115
Apprenticeship levy	490	-	-	490	459
Telephone	2,855	-	-	2,855	2,370
Travelling	3,211	-	274	3,485	2,982
Administration	480	80	-	560	573
Relocation costs	-	-	-	-	(87)
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total	135,948	80	274	136,302	127,496
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

The average number of staff engaged during the year was 4 (2022: 4). No employees received employee benefits that totalled more than £60,000.

The Superintendent of the Circuit and the other Presbyters and the remaining members of the Circuit Leadership Team are considered as key Management Personnel. The members of the Circuit meeting are the trustees of the Circuit. The stipends, employer's NIC, apprenticeship levy and employer's pension contributions and other expenses of the Presbyters of the Circuit are paid by the Circuit.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**Payments to Trustees**

Apart from the Presbyters (stipends) and the Supernumerary Minister (preaching fees), no member of the Circuit meeting received any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the Circuit.

Included in these accounts is £3,766 (2022: £4,266) in respect of reimbursed expenses for four trustees.

10. PROPERTY

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Council tax	7,412	-	-	7,412	7,008
Water supply	1,557	-	-	1,557	1,352
Energy supply	50	-	-	50	-
Repairs and maintenance	11,806	-	407	12,213	4,444
Insurance	4,655	-	-	4,655	3,730
Letting expenses	1,054	-	1,163	2,217	2,282
Quinquennial reports	900	-	-	900	2,160
Total	27,434	-	1,570	29,004	20,976
	=====	==	=====	=====	=====

11. DISTRICT ASSESSMENT AND LEVY

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
District expenses and Methodist Church funds	48,956	-	-	48,956	51,532
Levy on CMTF funds	-	704	-	704	817
Total	48,956	704	-	49,660	52,349
	=====	===	==	=====	=====

12. NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR

This is stated after charging:

	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£
Independent Examiner's Fees:		
Independent examination – 2023	2,340	2,100
	=====	=====

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Circuit Property	Investment Property	Total
	£	£	£
Cost or Valuation			
Balance brought forward as at 1 September 2022	1,127,261	90,000	1,217,261
Additions in year	65,000	-	65,000
Depreciation			
At 31 August 2022 and 31 August 2023	-	-	-
Balance carried forward as at 31 August 2023	1,192,261	90,000	1,282,261
	=====	=====	=====

Circuit property comprises four manses for use by the Circuit staff and the chapel located at Maltby village which is used for occasional Circuit services and as a Circuit office.

The investment property is one property which is held for the long term. In the opinion of the trustees, £90,000 is a reasonable estimate of the market value as at 31 August 2023.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

14. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Stipends paid in advance	10,176	9,472
Other debtors	38	-
	10,214	9,472
	=====	=====

15. INVESTMENTS WITH TRUSTEES FOR METHODIST CHURCH PURPOSES

This is an investment receiving body within the Methodist Church and pay interest at market rates.

16. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Assessments received in advance	46,130	50,675
Other creditors and accruals	3,831	3,444
	49,961	54,119
	=====	=====

17. SUMMARY OF FUND MOVEMENTS

	At 01.09.22 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31.08.23 £
General fund	1,370,715	300,054	225,647	8,506	1,453,628
Circuit Model Trust fund	28,165	822	784	(4,300)	23,903
Total Unrestricted Funds	1,398,880	300,876	226,431	4,206	1,477,531
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Tees Valley Housing Fund	90,000	5,776	1,570	(4,206)	90,000
Circuit Mission and Evangelism Fund	2,590	2,000	2,494	-	2,096
Total Restricted Funds	92,590	7,776	4,064	(4,206)	92,096
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	1,491,470	308,652	230,495	-	1,569,627
	=====	=====	=====	==	=====

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 202317. SUMMARY OF FUND MOVEMENTS – *Continued*

	At 01.09.21 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31.08.22 £
General fund	1,351,713	226,972	216,105	8,135	1,370,715
Circuit Model Trust fund	32,668	137	910	(3,730)	28,165
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Unrestricted Funds	1,384,381	227,109	217,015	4,405	1,398,880
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Tees Valley Housing Fund	90,000	5,597	1,192	(4,405)	90,000
Circuit Mission and Evangelism Fund	1,719	2,000	1,129	-	2,590
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Restricted Funds	91,719	7,597	2,321	(4,405)	92,590
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	1,476,100	234,706	219,336	-	1,491,470
	=====	=====	=====	==	=====

General Fund - this fund is used for general purposes.

Circuit Model Trust Fund - This fund has wide purposes as defined in the standing orders of the Methodist Church.

Tees Valley Housing Fund - This fund is to be used to benefit homeless families.

Circuit Mission and Evangelism Fund - This fund is used to support new Mission and Evangelism activities.

18. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Churches which form the Stockton Methodist Circuit whose assessments provide the principal income for the Circuit are:

Carlton
Greens Lane
Maltby – closed October 2022
North Billingham
Norton
St. Andrew's
Thornaby
Trinity Eaglescliffe
Yarm
Yarm Road

The Circuit paid an assessment and levy to Darlington Methodist District as detailed in note 11 to these accounts.

Accounts

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1137263
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2022

Swimming
against the tide?

We will help you find
calmer waters



Baines Jewitt
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
AND BUSINESS ADVISERS

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1137263

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

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STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

BASIS OF PREPARATION AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Full Name of Charity: Stockton Methodist Circuit

Registration Charity Number: 1137263

Date of Registration: 4 August 2010

Main Communication Address: 4 Fritillary Place
Stockton-on-Tees
TS21 3LZ

The members of the Stockton 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 at Appendix A of this report.

CIRCUIT MINISTERS AND OFFICERS

Active Circuit Ministers Rev. Vincent Jambawo – appointed September 2021
Rev. Sarah Ramsden
Rev. Martin Ramsden
Rev. Rachel Williams – appointed September 2021

Circuit Stewards: Dr. Peter Dodd
Dr. Roger Taylor – retired January 2022
Mr. John Moore (treasurer)
Mrs. Margaret Walton (property)
Mrs. Jean Jones
Mr. Mark Hall – appointed October 2021
Mr. Leslie Gilburt – appointed June 2022

Administrator: Ms. J. Prior

Mr. J.G. Moore acted as the principal officer overseeing the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the Circuit during the year.

Independent Examiner: D.F. Adams FCA
Baines Jewitt Limited
Barrington House
41-45 Yarm Lane
Stockton-on-Tees
TS18 3EA

Investment Bankers: Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

AIMS AND ORGANISATION

The purposes of the Methodist Church are, and shall be deemed to have been since the Date of Union, 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 charity's objective is to act as a Resource provider within the area around Stockton-on-Tees for the Methodist Church. To do this we will engage with the community, share with one another and share Jesus Christ. Our activities include:

- 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;
- Provision of chaplaincy services to the local university and other institutions.

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).

TRUSTEE TRAINING

A range of guidance is 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 given to all new Circuit meeting members as induction to their role as trustees.

RELATED PARTIES

See note 17 to the accounts.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR**Circuit Mission Statement**

ENGAGE WITH COMMUNITY [Local and global]

CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER

SHARE JESUS CHRIST

1 Peter 3:15 *Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you. (Good News Bible).*

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

REVIEW OF THE YEAR - *Continued*

NOTE: The Circuit is reviewing and reimagining its mission statement and vision for the future considering what we have been in the past and now. To this end, a Circuit Encouragement Group has been proposed and will receive appropriate training to, among other things, help the Circuit churches rethink their mission statements which will in turn feed into the Circuit Mission Statement.

Significant Developments during the Year

Coming out of lockdown and its debilitating impact on life, in general, has been both a rewarding and challenging experience and no less so for the work and life of the church. Over this year, the Circuit has been supporting individual churches to negotiate and navigate the intricacies of their context while seeking to identify and forge synergies across the Circuit to fulfil the calling of the Methodist Church people in Britain of responding to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission. Some churches have embraced novel ways of being church and all churches have experienced diminished activity in some aspects of their ecclesiological objectives. Invariably 'community ministry' has occasioned the most significant growth as churches responded with insight and sensitivity to the needs of their individual communities. There is no doubt that this will reinforce the foundations of community evangelicalism as the Circuit seeks to deliver on the district-wide mantra of 'every church growing'.

Whilst there is evidence of growth and even flourishing, the pandemic and concomitant challenges have put a severe strain on ecclesiological viability, threatening, in some cases, the very survival of church communities. It is worth noting that this existential risk has roots beyond the pandemic, with an inexorable decline in traditional ways of being church recorded across the Connexion, and the pandemic has either hastened this decline or brought the predicament into sharper relief. Stockton Circuit has not been shielded from lockdown and church decline. It is in this context that we must report with not a small degree of sadness and consternation that one of the smaller Circuit churches, Maltby Methodist Church, has asked for and has been granted permission to cease to meet with their last act of worship scheduled at the beginning of the following church year on 16 October 2022. While there is a tremendous amount of sadness across the Circuit at this development, there are many ways in which the church's decision must be considered brave, proactive and prophetic. In the fullness of time, we will acknowledge and affirm Maltby's ministry in the area over many years and across several generations.

Despite these adverse conditions (or because of that), it is with thanksgiving that we note the resurgence of missional initiative and entrepreneurship in all churches. Whilst resuscitating viable traditional pre-pandemic activities, the churches in the Circuit are becoming adept at exploring and picking up community-relevant ways of being church. This is neither easy nor smooth, but we trust and pray that this ethos will transform the Circuit into a mission-shaped movement of faithful disciples.

The arrival of a new Superintendent and a new Presbyter has changed the staff dynamic somewhat but is in sync with an ongoing revisioning and rethinking of the governance and management of the Circuit. Robust lay leadership of experienced Circuit stewards ensures stability and continuity amidst opportunities for change and innovation. One steward who was also responsible for safeguarding relocated during the church year. The Circuit, however, has been able to appoint a Circuit Safeguarding Officer who is not a member of the Circuit Leadership Team. There is now a full complement of Circuit Stewards, with two joining the Circuit Leadership Team during the year. One of these had previously served on the team before and the other is having his first stint. Three stewards have agreed to extend their terms in office, giving the Circuit space to scout for potential leaders for these critical roles in the constitution and management of the Circuit.

There is no doubt that in the future, along with the churches, the Circuit will struggle to find willing and able volunteers to take up all mandatory roles hence the constant need to rethink the way the Circuit is structured. There is District and Connexional support for the Circuit to explore various possibilities. The Circuit is considering sending a team to participate in the Connexionally-run Transformational Leadership Learning Community, for at least one year. This will, among other things, provide capacity-building and change-management support to the Circuit leadership.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Achievements during the Year

As mentioned above, the Circuit successfully appointed two members of staff, a Presbyter and a Superintendent Minister, through the Methodist Stationing process in a like-for-like replacement at the beginning of the year, September 2021. There are now three full-time Presbyters serving the ten Circuit churches.

As we emerge from the stifling effects of the pandemic lockdown, Circuit churches find themselves at variable degrees of preparedness to build back, with declining congregational numbers and demographic frailty made more apparent. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has compounded the global situation and the inevitable global economic uncertainty is impacting some of our members' ability to contribute financially to the life of their churches. Although fundraising opportunities are creeping back into the mix, they are yet to attain the pre-pandemic levels.

At the beginning of the calendar year, Stockton Circuit was one of the Circuits visited by Sonia Hicks (President) and Barbara Easton (Vice-President) of the Methodist Church in Britain on their tour of the Darlington Methodist District. It was a memorable and inspiring experience during which the Circuit was able to highlight, showcase and affirm its church-to-community ministry. Starting with morning prayers and the fellowship of community bacon butties and a cuppa at Eaglescliffe Trinity Methodist Church, the presidential tour included the vision of reclaimed industrial wasteland shared at the Port Clarences allotment project, the conversations of community engagement at Thornaby, the work of Stockton Hope at St. Andrew's Methodist Church, the radical welcome practised by the Refugees and Asylum Seekers' Project (RASPS) at Yarm Road Methodist Church and the tour of John Wesley's favourite elegant church in Yarm. The President gave us the challenging and encouraging sermon of response at Norton Methodist Church and both the President and Vice-President helped in the practical testimony of community service of the Community Pantry. The visit represents graphically a synopsis of significant Circuit developments this year. The Community Pantry at Norton, the Stockton Hope Food Bank, the Salvation Project at Thornaby and the Refugees and Asylum Seekers' Project at Yarm Road are truly inspiring community projects whose relevance and expansion are both touching and heart-wrenching.

The Circuit is grateful to the Impetus Environmental Trust who provided The Friends of Thornaby Methodist Church with 90% of the cost of new heating boilers and a new heating system, following the failure of the existing vintage boilers in November. This has enabled both worship and the community service work to continue at this location.

Although the Circuit no longer employs a Baptism Lay Worker, baptism services are a shining testimony of the Circuit's Christian witness to the communities we journey alongside. Most baptisms are for people who otherwise have no connection with the church. It is fresh ground that needs to be tilled and nurtured.

Worship takes place across the Circuit and we have continued to seek to find ways to encourage variety. This year saw the continued development of online Circuit services and studies and the support of churches as they managed the gradual unlocking as the pandemic continued.

The church has engaged meaningfully and sensitively with the conference's decision to recognise, celebrate and consecrate same-sex marriage alongside traditional heterosexual marriages. At least two of the Circuit churches are now registered to conduct same-sex marriages.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income Trends

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment paid by the Circuit churches. With the progressive easing of coronavirus pandemic restrictions in 2022, church finances have gradually recovered and all the Circuit churches have been able to meet their assessment commitments in the year to 31 August 2022. The Circuit has also benefited from the gradual rise in interest rates in 2022, a trend that looks set to continue for some time.

However, the pandemic has taken its toll and has led churches to review their situations. One of the smaller churches has already decided to close in the Autumn of 2022 and at least one other is considering its position. Assessments that will provide 97% of the previous year's level have been agreed with the churches for 2022/2023.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

FINANCIAL REVIEW – *Continued*

Longer term, the Circuit will endeavour to maintain assessment income at this level. However, it is recognised that with an ageing demographic there will probably be further reductions in church membership and with a number of ageing buildings to maintain, church finances are likely to come under increasing pressure. Closure of further churches in ensuing years represents a significant threat to Circuit finances, as the remaining churches may well struggle to make up the resulting shortfall. With such considerations, it is anticipated that overall, the income from church assessments is unlikely to increase.

Expenditure Trends

Stipend expenditure has increased by 1.16% in line with conference approved increases and there were also increased employer's national insurance contributions during the year, although the government has now reversed these changes. The assessment paid to the District and Connexion in the year to 31 August 2022 was reduced by 10.75% from the previous year. Manse maintenance costs were a few thousand less than predicted but this was mainly due to some scheduled tasks being delayed until the next financial year.

Stipends and associated expenditure and the assessment paid to the District and Connexion make up 75% of Circuit expenditure. In 2022/2023, stipends will increase by 4.3% but the District/Connexional assessment will reduce by 5.3%. However, world events have brought about significantly increased levels of inflation in the UK economy and these will undoubtedly have an effect increasing the remaining 25% of Circuit costs.

Looking further ahead, although in 2023/2024 the District/Connexional assessment is likely to remain steady, stipend expenditure is anticipated to increase by over 7.8% and it seems likely general UK inflation will also be at this level. General UK inflation is predicted to eventually fall back, but this may take some time. As annual Circuit income is not envisaged to increase in the next few years, and could suffer some decrease, matching income with expenditure is likely to prove challenging.

Fund Balances

As at 31 August 2022, the net current assets of the Circuit were £274,000 giving approximately 15 months' cover for unrestricted expenditure.

Plans for 2022/2023

Circuit financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that there will be three full-time ordained staff and one part-time lay staff with a 4.3% cost of living stipend increase. The assessment paid to the District and Connexion will be reduced by 5.3%. As described above, the assessment income from the churches has been agreed at 97% of the previous year's level. With foreseeable outgoings, income and expenditure is anticipated to be in balance.

RESERVES POLICY**General**

It is the trustees' policy to maintain a balance of unrestricted funds equivalent to six months' unrestricted expenditure. However, as a consequence of the coronavirus pandemic and the conflict in Ukraine, the financial climate remains uncertain. Some of the churches have found recovery from the pandemic particularly difficult and are uncertain of their future direction and this adds to the anxiety regarding Circuit finances. In these circumstances, it is seen as not unreasonable if reserves are above this level until there is more clarity about the future situation.

The Circuit took on two new presbyters in September 2021 and their appointments still have four years to run. In addition, the Circuit has a third presbyter whose appointment still has two years to run and the Circuit/presbyter will need to discern in the coming year whether this will be extended or whether the Circuit is to enter the stationing process for a new presbyter to start in September 2024. In this latter case, the new appointment would run until 2029. It is essential for the Circuit to maintain sufficient income/reserves to ensure the financial consequences associated with these commitments and decisions can be met.

The Circuit also endeavours to hold funds to meet a mission challenge in the Stockton area.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

RISK MANAGEMENT

The major risks associated with the Circuit have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) with professional advice taken as required. There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded. Income and expenditure are 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 recreation 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 Stockton Methodist Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of the Connexional Safeguarding Policy, government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the Circuit and in the churches.

The Stockton Methodist 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.

APPROVAL

This report has been approved by Managing Trustees and will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval at the 20 March 2023 Circuit Meeting.

Approved on behalf of the Charity's Trustees on 20 March 2023
and signed on their behalf by:

REV VINCENT JAMBAWO

.....
Superintendent Minister

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

CIRCUIT MEETING MEMBERSHIP

Superintendent	Rev. Vincent Jambawo – appointed September 2021
Ministers	Rev. Sarah Ramsden Rev. Martin Ramsden Rev. Rachel Williams – appointed September 2021
Circuit Stewards	Dr. Peter Dodd Dr. Roger Taylor – retired January 2022 Mrs. Margaret Walton (property) Mrs. Jean Jones Mr. Mark Hall - appointed October 2021 Mr Leslie Gilburt – appointed June 2022
Circuit Treasurer	Mr. John Moore
Supernumerary Minister	Rev. John Howard-Norman – appointed September 2021
Secretary of the Circuit Meeting	Ms. J Prior (non-voting) – retired June 2022 Mrs June Howard-Norman – appointed September 2022
Secretary of Local Preachers' Meeting	Dr. Peter Dodd – appointed June 2021
Local Preacher Representative	Mrs. Sheila Hargreaves
Additional Members appointed by the Circuit Meeting	Mr. Ian Fyfe – became a Yarm representative September 2021 Mr. John Monkhouse Mr. David Parkin Mrs. Delysia Parkin Mrs. Valerie Wootton
Lay Property Secretary	Mr. Vic Bowmer
Lay Mission Support Group Secretary	Mrs. Kathleen Mee
Lay Youth Forum Secretary	Mrs. Margaret Murray
MWiB Representative	Position currently vacant
Methodist Homes Representative	Position currently vacant
Safeguarding	Dr. Roger Taylor – retired January 2022 Ms. Aneta Bradley – appointed February 2022

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

MEETING – SEPTEMBER 2022

From each Church: Steward, Treasurer and Elected Representatives:

Carlton:	Joan Burn, Charlton Peters, Margaret Hall – appointed September 2021
Greens Lane:	Caroline Noble – retired June 2022, David Smart, Judy Morrison, Margaret Schofield. Sandra Wilkinson – appointed June 2022
Maltby:	Joan Tarren, Stephen Smith, Ken Davison – all retired November 2022
North Billingham:	Rhona Ball, Cynthia Dent, Jackie Pitt, Maureen Gowland
Norton:	Howard Gill, Judith Lloyd Catherine Bemrose – appointed September 2021 Aneta Bradley – appointed November 2021
St. Andrew's:	Doreen Sharp, Gill Carr, Marjorie Dunn
Thornaby:	Judith Powell, Ken Davison, Edith Appleby, Eileen Middleton
Trinity Eaglescliffe:	Robert Woodman, Ralph Barton
Yarm:	Abigail Beer – appointed December 2021 Brian Bainbridge, Mark Hall – became Circuit Steward October 2021 Chris Kendrew, Graham Clarke, Roz Matthews Ian Fyfe – was an additional member until September 2021
Yarm Road:	Alison Tonkinson, Jim Dale, Edwin Doidge

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2022 which are set out on pages 8 to 16.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the charity'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 charity's accounts as 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.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



D F Adams FCA
Baines Jewitt Limited
Barrington House
41-45 Yarm Lane
STOCKTON ON TEES
TS18 3EA

17 April 2023

DFA/GW

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021-2022 £	Total 2020-2021 £
Income						
Income from monetary investments	4	995	137	-	1,132	1,133
Income from investment properties	5	-	-	5,597	5,597	5,457
Assessments on churches		204,495	-	-	204,495	187,805
Grants received		-	-	2,000	2,000	4,000
Other income	6	21,482	-	-	21,482	30,673
Total Income		226,972	137	7,597	234,706	229,068
Expenditure						
Grants and donations	7	12,755	-	-	12,755	200
Salaries and associated costs	8	127,213	93	190	127,496	129,511
Property maintenance	9	19,784	-	1,192	20,976	36,870
Connexional assessment and model trust levy		-	-	-	-	-
District assessment and levy	10	51,532	817	-	52,349	65,492
Office expenses		2,621	-	-	2,621	2,049
Other outgoings		2,200	-	939	3,139	4,381
Total Charitable Expenditure		216,105	910	2,321	219,336	238,503
Net Income/(Expenditure)		10,867	(773)	5,276	15,370	(9,435)
Transfers between funds	16	8,135	(3,730)	(4,405)	-	-
Net Movement in Funds		19,002	(4,503)	871	15,370	(9,435)
Total funds brought forward		1,351,713	32,668	91,719	1,476,100	1,485,535
Total Funds Carried Forward	16	1,370,715	28,165	92,590	1,491,470	1,476,100

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020-2021 £	Total 2019-2020 £
Income						
Income from monetary investments	4	339	794	-	1,133	3,509
Income from investment properties	5	-	-	5,457	5,457	5,238
Assessments on churches		187,805	-	-	187,805	209,700
Grants received		-	-	4,000	4,000	17,100
Other income	6	7,270	23,403	-	30,673	13,662
Total Income		195,414	24,197	9,457	229,068	249,209
Expenditure						
Grants and donations	7	200	-	-	200	6,242
Salaries and associated costs	8	129,101	410	-	129,511	143,306
Property maintenance	9	35,822	-	1,048	36,870	29,696
Connexional assessment and model trust levy		-	-	-	-	-
District assessment and levy	10	57,736	7,756	-	65,492	67,493
Office expenses		2,049	-	-	2,049	3,499
Other outgoings		2,100	-	2,281	4,381	1,996
Total Charitable Expenditure		227,008	8,166	3,329	238,503	252,232
Net Income/(Expenditure)		(31,594)	16,031	6,128	(9,435)	(3,023)
Transfers between funds	16	192,887	(188,478)	(4,409)	-	-
Net Movement in Funds		161,293	(172,447)	1,719	(9,435)	(3,023)
Total funds brought forward		1,190,420	205,115	90,000	1,485,535	1,488,558
Total Funds Carried Forward	16	1,351,713	32,668	91,719	1,476,100	1,485,535

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2022

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Totals 2022 £	Totals 2021 £
Fixed Assets						
Circuit Manses and equipment	12	1,127,261	-	-	1,127,261	1,127,261
Investment properties	12	-	-	90,000	90,000	90,000
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Fixed Assets		<u>1,127,261</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>90,000</u>	<u>1,217,261</u>	<u>1,217,261</u>
		=====	====	=====	=====	=====
Current Assets						
Debtors	13	9,472	-	-	9,472	10,223
Investments with TMCP	14	-	28,165	-	28,165	32,668
Central Finance Board deposits		266,117	-	2,590	268,707	236,522
Cash at bank and in hand		21,984	-	-	21,984	33,310
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Current Assets		<u>297,573</u>	<u>28,165</u>	<u>2,590</u>	<u>328,328</u>	<u>312,723</u>
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Current Liabilities						
Creditors: due in less than one year	15	54,119	-	-	54,119	53,884
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Current Liabilities		<u>54,119</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>54,119</u>	<u>53,884</u>
		-----	----	----	-----	-----
Net Current Assets/Liabilities		<u>243,454</u>	<u>28,165</u>	<u>2,590</u>	<u>274,209</u>	<u>258,839</u>
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		<u>1,370,715</u>	<u>28,165</u>	<u>92,590</u>	<u>1,491,470</u>	<u>1,476,100</u>
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Net Assets		<u>1,370,715</u>	<u>28,165</u>	<u>92,590</u>	<u>1,491,470</u>	<u>1,476,100</u>
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Funds of the Circuit						
General fund (unrestricted)	16	1,370,715	-	-	1,370,715	1,351,713
Circuit Model Trust Fund (unrestricted)	16	-	28,165	-	28,165	32,668
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Unrestricted Funds		<u>1,370,715</u>	<u>28,165</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,398,880</u>	<u>1,384,381</u>
		-----	-----	----	-----	-----
Restricted funds	16	-	-	92,590	92,590	91,719
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Funds	16	<u>1,370,715</u>	<u>28,165</u>	<u>92,590</u>	<u>1,491,470</u>	<u>1,476,100</u>
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

These financial statements were approved on behalf of the Charity's Trustees on 20 March 2023
and are signed on their behalf by:

REV VINCENT JAMBAWO

.....
(Superintendent Minister)

The notes on pages 11 to 16 form part of these accounts

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

1. CHARITY INFORMATION

The charity (registered number 1137263) is a public benefit entity, established in the UK and governed by The Methodist Church Act 1976. The address of the principal office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operation and principal activity is the advancement of the Christian faith.

2. BASIS OF PREPARATION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Basis of Preparation and Assessment of Going Concern

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

3. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Funds

The funds held constitute: General funds held for any purpose of the Circuit which are unrestricted; the Circuit Model Trust Fund has wide purposes defined in Standing Orders and is categorised as unrestricted; Restricted funds which are held for a narrower purpose; there are no endowment funds; details of each material fund are disclosed in the final note to these accounts and any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

(b) Incoming Resources

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Circuit becomes entitled to the resources and the trustees are reasonably certain they will receive the resources; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

(c) Resources Expended

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the Circuit to pay out resources.

(d) Grants

Grants made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment.

(e) VAT

Since the Circuit is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged with the expenses to which it refers.

(f) Tangible Fixed Assets for use by the Circuit

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost more than £500. The freehold property purchased pre 2015 is shown in the accounts at 2015, deemed values resulting from a valuation in 2005. Freehold property purchased since 2015 is shown at cost. The land component is deemed to be a third. No depreciation is provided because the trustees consider the current residual value of the property in its present condition to be not less than its current valuation and, in the absence of any evidence or impairment, any depreciation provision for the buildings component of the property would be immaterial.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 20223. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - *Continued*

(g) Investment Properties

These are properties held for the long term and are included in the financial statements at fair value. Depreciation is not provided on investment property.

(h) Financial Instruments

The charity only has financial assets and liabilities that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

(i) Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

4. INCOME FROM MONETARY INVESTMENTS

	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund £	Restricted £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Central Finance Board					
Deposits	995	-	-	995	339
Investments with TMCP	-	137	-	137	794
	—	—	—	—	—
	995	137	-	1,132	1,133
	===	===	===	=====	=====

5. INCOME FROM INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund £	Restricted £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Lettings income:					
Alpine Way	-	-	5,597	5,597	5,457
	—	—	—	—	—
Total	-	-	5,597	5,597	5,457
	==	==	=====	=====	=====

6. OTHER CHARITABLE INCOME

	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund £	Restricted £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Lettings income:					
2 Wallington Road	6,900	-	-	6,900	6,900
Donations for Connexional Funds	9,955	-	-	9,955	200
District employment reimbursement	4,240	-	-	4,240	
Gain on sale of 15 Hanbury Grove, Ingleby Barwick	-	-	-	-	23,403
Sale of manuals	-	-	-	-	-
Other sundry income	387	-	-	387	170
	—	—	—	—	—
Total	21,482	-	-	21,482	30,673
	=====	==	==	=====	=====

One of the Circuit manse is currently let on a short-term basis. It is anticipated that it will be again required to house a Minister.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

7. GRANTS AND DONATIONS

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Connexional Funds	9,955	-	-	9,955	200
Thornaby Methodist Church	2,800	-	-	2,800	-
	-----	----	----	-----	----
	12,755	-	-	12,755	200
	=====	==	==	=====	===

8. SALARIES AND ASSOCIATED COSTS

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind	91,504	-	-	91,504	86,951
Pension costs	21,580	-	-	21,580	21,036
Employer's national insurance costs	8,115	-	-	8,115	7,345
Apprenticeship levy	459	-	-	459	467
Telephone	2,370	-	-	2,370	2,266
Travelling	2,792	-	190	2,982	1,833
Administration	480	93	-	573	890
Relocation costs	(87)	-	-	(87)	8,723
	-----	----	----	-----	-----
Total	127,213	93	190	127,496	129,511
	=====	===	===	=====	=====

The average number of staff engaged during the year was 4 (2021: 4). No employees received employee benefits that totalled more than £60,000.

The Superintendent of the Circuit and the other Presbyters and the remaining members of the Circuit Leadership Team are considered as key Management Personnel. The members of the Circuit meeting are the trustees of the Circuit. The stipends, employer's NIC, apprenticeship levy and employer's pension contributions and other expenses of the Presbyters of the Circuit are paid by the Circuit.

Payments to Trustees

Apart from the Presbyters (stipends) and the Supernumerary Minister (preaching fees), no member of the Circuit meeting received any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the Circuit.

Included in these accounts is £4,266 (2021: £1,571) in respect of reimbursed expenses for four trustees.

9. PROPERTY

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Council tax	7,008	-	-	7,008	5,832
Water supply	1,352	-	-	1,352	1,002
Energy supply	-	-	-	-	141
Repairs and maintenance	4,305	-	139	4,444	20,913
Insurance	3,730	-	-	3,730	3,235
Letting expenses	1,229	-	1,053	2,282	2,147
Quinquennial reports	2,160	-	-	2,160	3,600
	-----	----	----	-----	-----
Total	19,784	-	1,192	20,976	36,870
	=====	==	=====	=====	=====

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

10. DISTRICT ASSESSMENT AND LEVY

	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund £	Restricted £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
District expenses and Methodist Church funds	51,532	-	-	51,532	57,736
Levy on CMTF funds	-	817	-	817	7,756
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	51,532	817	-	52,349	65,492
	=====	====	==	=====	=====

11. NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR

This is stated after charging:

	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Independent Examiner's Fees: Independent examination – 2022	2,100	2,100
	=====	=====

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Circuit Manse £	Investment Property £	Total £
Cost or Valuation			
Balance brought forward as at 1 September 2021	1,127,261	90,000	1,217,261
Depreciation			
At 31 August 2021 and 31 August 2022	-	-	-
	-----	-----	-----
Balance carried forward as at 31 August 2022	1,127,261	90,000	1,217,261
	=====	=====	=====

The Manses comprise four manses for use by the Circuit staff.

The investment property is one property which is held for the long term. In the opinion of the trustees, £90,000 is a reasonable estimate of the market value as at 31 August 2022.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

13. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Assessment debtors	-	1,200
Stipends paid in advance	9,472	9,023
	=====	=====
	9,472	10,223
	=====	=====

14. INVESTMENTS WITH TRUSTEES FOR METHODIST CHURCH PURPOSES

This is an investment receiving body within the Methodist Church and pay interest at market rates.

15. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Assessments received in advance	50,675	49,320
Other creditors and accruals	3,444	4,564
	=====	=====
	54,119	53,884
	=====	=====

16. SUMMARY OF FUND MOVEMENTS

	At 01.09.21 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31.08.22 £
General fund	1,351,713	226,972	216,105	8,135	1,370,715
Circuit Model Trust fund	32,668	137	910	(3,730)	28,165
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total Unrestricted Funds	1,384,381	227,109	217,015	4,405	1,398,880
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Tees Valley Housing Fund	90,000	5,597	1,192	(4,405)	90,000
Circuit Mission and Evangelism Fund	1,719	2,000	1,129	-	2,590
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total Restricted Funds	91,719	7,597	2,321	(4,405)	92,590
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	1,476,100	234,706	219,336	-	1,491,470
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 202216. SUMMARY OF FUND MOVEMENTS – *Continued*

	At 01.09.20 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31.08.21 £
General fund	1,190,420	195,414	227,008	192,887	1,351,713
Circuit Model Trust fund	205,115	24,197	8,166	(188,478)	32,668
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Unrestricted Funds	1,395,535	219,611	235,174	4,409	1,384,381
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Tees Valley Housing Fund	90,000	5,457	1,048	(4,409)	90,000
Circuit Mission and Evangelism Fund	-	4,000	2,281	-	1,719
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Restricted Funds	90,000	9,457	3,329	(4,409)	91,719
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	1,485,535	229,068	238,503	-	1,476,100
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

General Fund - this fund is used for general purposes.

Circuit Model Trust Fund - This fund has wide purposes as defined in the standing orders of the Methodist Church.

Tees Valley Housing Fund - This fund is to be used to benefit homeless families.

Circuit Mission and Evangelism Fund - This fund is used to support new Mission and Evangelism activities.

17. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Churches which form the Stockton Methodist Circuit whose assessments provide the principal income for the Circuit are:

Carlton
Greens Lane
Maltby – closed October 2022
North Billingham
Norton
St. Andrew's
Thornaby
Trinity Eaglescliffe
Yarm
Yarm Road

The Circuit paid an assessment and levy to Darlington Methodist District as detailed in note 10 to these accounts.

Accounts

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1137263

**ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

Swimming
against the tide?

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calmer waters



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AND BUSINESS ADVISERS

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STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1137263

**ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

C O N T E N T S

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STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

BASIS OF PREPARATION AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Full Name of Charity: Stockton Methodist Circuit

Registration Charity Number: 1137263

Date of Registration: 4 August 2010

Main Communication Address: 4 Fritillary Place
Stockton-on-Tees
TS21 3LZ

The members of the Stockton 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 at Appendix A of this report.

CIRCUIT MINISTERS AND OFFICERS

Active Circuit Ministers Rev. Vincent Jambawo – appointed September 2021
Rev. Peter Catford – retired August 2021
Rev. Suva Catford – retired August 2021
Rev. Sarah Ramsden
Rev. Martin Ramsden
Rev. Rachel Williams – appointed September 2021

Circuit Stewards: Mrs. Liz Mason – retired August 2021
Dr. Peter Dodd
Dr. Roger Taylor – retired January 2022
Mr. John Moore
Mrs. Margaret Walton (property)
Mrs. Jean Jones
Mr. Mark Hall – appointed October 2021

Administrator: Ms. J. Prior

Mr. J.G. Moore acted as the principal officer overseeing the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the Circuit during the year.

Independent Examiner: D.F. Adams FCA
Baines Jewitt Limited
Barrington House
41-45 Yarm Lane
Stockton-on-Tees
TS18 3EA

Investment Bankers: Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

AIMS AND ORGANISATION

The purposes of the Methodist Church are, and shall be deemed to have been since the Date of Union, 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 charity's objective is to act as a Resource provider within the area around Stockton-on-Tees for the Methodist Church. To do this we will engage with the community, share with one another and share Jesus Christ. Our activities include:

- 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;
- Provision of chaplaincy services to the local university and other institutions.

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).

TRUSTEE TRAINING

A range of guidance is 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 given to all new Circuit meeting members as induction to their role as trustees.

RELATED PARTIES

See note 17 to the accounts.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Circuit Mission Statement

ENGAGE WITH COMMUNITY [Local and global]

CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER

SHARE JESUS CHRIST

1 Peter 3;15 *Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you. (Good News Bible).*

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021****REVIEW OF THE YEAR - *Continued*****Significant Developments during the Year**

Over this year, the Circuit has been seeking to support churches as they work out how to be church in a season when traditional ways of working have not been possible.

We have maintained contact with the Methodists who have joined the Anglican church at St Paul's in Newtown. They have completed their refurbishment and the new priest was inaugurated on 25 July with one of the new church wardens being a former Methodist member. The Circuit has continued to be involved with the Methodist members hosting conversations when restrictions allowed. These conversations have provided a safe space to talk and have played a part in enabling the project to reach this stage of development.

The staff team has deepened its relationship and supported one another as we have tried to understand how to exercise ministry during the pandemic.

Along with the churches we continue to struggle to find volunteers to fill roles at a Circuit level and to keep these covered. This is causing a rethink in the way the Circuit is structured and we await to see what changes will be prompted in the coming months.

Achievements during the Year

Having come to the end of their five-year appointments, the husband and wife presbyter team decided to move on. Consequently, working through the Methodist Church stationing process, two new presbyters (one of them to be Superintendent Minister) have been appointed to the Circuit and will be joining us in September 2021.

The two new presbyters are not related to each other, so it has been necessary to provide an extra manse. The existing spare manse in Ingleby Barwick needed significant renovation and was located several miles distant from any of the Circuit's churches. This manse was sold and the proceeds, together with some additional funding, used to buy a new manse in the Hartburn area of West Stockton. Some further expenditure was required to bring the electrical wiring and heating system up to the appropriate standard. The new manse is located in the vicinity of the four churches with which the occupying presbyter is most involved.

A number of the Circuit churches have found the year to 31 August 2021 to present financial challenges, with loss of fundraising opportunities, reductions in lettings income and also in some voluntary offerings. As a Circuit, we have been aware of these issues and have supported the churches by offering a dispensation that they need not pay the fourth instalment of the assessment. Six of the ten churches chose to accept this offer. This resulted in a loss of Circuit income of £24,300 and this shortfall was covered from the reserves.

The celebrations of special services of baptism and weddings have recently been restarted. Our focus during the pandemic has been to support those who are grieving by providing a safe venue for funerals to take place in accordance with Government guidelines.

There has been work across the Circuit in partnership with local schools and this has continued during the pandemic using Zoom and recording material to be used for assemblies.

Work in the community has developed at St Andrew's. The Foodbank has continued to seek to serve the community in the pandemic. Local support groups have not met but have been supported by the Community Worker.

The Circuit has been supportive of an initiative at North Billingham in using a bequest to fund their "Grow our Church" project which involves renewal of outside areas and looking to appropriate community involvement in a garden project as restrictions are lifted.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Achievements during the Year – Continued

In Port Clarence the Circuit continues to support the work of Belp (Billingham Environmental Link Programme) by providing a chaplain on the allotment on a monthly basis. The Circuit is investigating if it can place a chaplain more regularly on the allotment and this will be brought to the attention of the Circuit meeting in the coming months.

The Yarm Road church has continued to develop support of the Asylum Seeker project as they seek to find ways to support people safely as restrictions are lifted. This is being achieved with the aid of a grant from the Darlington District.

Greens Lane has developed outreach into the community and amongst those who have been isolating through knitted installations for Remembrance, Christmas, Lent, Easter and most recently for Creation. It has brought joy and comfort to those who have passed by and purpose to our knitters.

Worship takes place across the Circuit and we have continued to seek to find ways to encourage variety. This year saw the continued developing of Circuit online services and studies and the support of churches as they manage the gradual unlocking as the pandemic continues.

We continue to implement Methodist Safeguarding policy with a new Circuit Safeguarding Officer. He has begun work on ensuring that the Circuit and churches are supported and accountable in adhering to their safeguarding policy. This is being achieved on a one-to-one level with three churches each year and with regular get-togethers of church officers. This, along with training and improved record keeping, is part of the Circuit's commitment to safeguarding vulnerable people of all ages.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income Trends

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment paid by the Circuit churches. The effects of the coronavirus pandemic have meant that 2020/2021 was a lean year financially for many of the churches. Being mindful of this, the Circuit offered a dispensation that they need not pay the fourth instalment of the assessment and six of the ten churches chose to take advantage of this. As a consequence, Circuit income was reduced by £24,300. However, assessments have been agreed with all the churches for 2021/2022 that overall will provide 98% of the pre-pandemic level and it is anticipated all will be able to meet this commitment.

Longer term, the Circuit will endeavour to maintain assessment income at this level. However, it is recognised that with an ageing demographic, there will probably be further reductions in church membership and with a number of ageing buildings to maintain, church finances are likely to come under increasing pressure. Not all of the churches may be able to continue indefinitely. In such circumstances, a significant increase in income from church assessments cannot reasonably be expected.

Expenditure Trends

Stipend expenditure has increased by 2.6% in line with conference approved increases but the assessment paid to the District and Connexion in the year to 31 August 2021 was reduced by 2% from the previous year. This year has also seen £166,000 of the Circuit's cash reserves spent on the purchase of a new manse and subsequent maintenance work to bring it up to standard. However, this was in nature a one-off event and not anticipated to be repeated in future years.

Stipends and associated expenditure and the assessment paid to the District and Connexion make up 75% of Circuit expenditure. In 2021/2022 stipends will increase by 1.16% and from April there will also be the 1.25% rise in employer's national insurance contributions. However, the District/Connexional assessment will reduce by 10.75%. In addition, having used most of the funds in its TMCP account to buy the new manse, the Circuit will benefit by a reduction in the District levy on these funds of almost £7,000.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021****FINANCIAL REVIEW – Continued**

Looking further ahead, although in 2022/2023 the District/Connexional assessment is proposed to reduce by a further 5%, stipend expenditure is anticipated to increase by nearly 4.3% and it seems likely general UK inflation will also be at this level. As annual Circuit income is not envisaged to increase in the next few years, if this level of inflation were to continue, it would become an issue of some concern.

Fund Balances

As at 31 August 2021, the net current assets of the Circuit were £256,000 giving approximately 13 months cover for unrestricted expenditure. This is a significant reduction compared to the previous year, largely due to the purchase of the new manse.

Plans for 2020/2021

Circuit financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that there will be three full-time ordained staff and one part-time lay staff with a 1.16% cost of living stipend increase and taking into account the 1.25% increase in employer's national insurance contributions from April. The assessment paid to the District and Connexion will be reduced by 10.75%. As described above, the assessment income from the churches has been agreed at 98% of the pre-pandemic level. With foreseeable outgoings, income and expenditure is anticipated to be in balance.

RESERVES POLICY**General**

It is the trustees' policy to maintain a balance of unrestricted funds equivalent to six months unrestricted expenditure. However, as a consequence of the coronavirus pandemic, the current financial climate remains uncertain and it is not clear how well and how quickly church finances will recover. In these circumstances, it is seen as not unreasonable if reserves are above this level until there is more clarity about the future situation.

The Circuit has agreed to take on two new presbyters from September 2021 and their appointments will have five years to run. In addition, the Circuit has a third presbyter whose appointment still has at least three years to run. It is essential for the Circuit to maintain sufficient income/reserves to ensure the associated financial commitments can be met.

The Circuit also endeavours to hold funds to meet a mission challenge in the Stockton area.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The major risks associated with the Circuit have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) with professional advice taken as required. There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded. Income and expenditure are 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 recreation 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;

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

SAFEGUARDING - *Continued*

- 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 Stockton Methodist Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of the Connexional Safeguarding Policy, government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the Circuit and in the churches.

The Stockton Methodist 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.

APPROVAL

This report has been approved by Managing Trustees and will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval at the 21 March 2022 Circuit Meeting.

Approved on behalf of the Charity's Trustees on 21 March 2022
and signed on their behalf by:

REV. VINCENT JAMBAWO

.....
Superintendent Minister

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

CIRCUIT MEETING MEMBERSHIP

Superintendent	Rev. Peter Catford – retired August 2021 Rev. Vincent Jambawo – appointed September 2021
Ministers	Rev. Suva Catford – retired August 2021 Rev. Sarah Ramsden Rev. Martin Ramsden Rev. Rachel Williams – appointed September 2021
Circuit Stewards	Mrs. Liz Mason – retired August 2021 Dr. Peter Dodd Dr. Roger Taylor – retired January 2022 Mrs. Margaret Walton (property) Mrs. Jean Jones Mr. Mark Hall - appointed October 2021
Circuit Treasurer	Mr. John Moore
Supernumerary Minister	Rev. Richard Bielby – retired March 2020 Rev. John Howard-Norman – appointed September 2021
Secretary of the Circuit Meeting	Ms. J Prior (non-voting) – appointed June 2021
Secretary of Local Preachers' Meeting	Dr. Peter Dodd – appointed June 2021
Local Preacher Representative	Mrs. Sheila Hargreaves
Additional Members appointed by the Circuit Meeting	Mr. Ian Fyfe – became a Yarm representative September 2021 Mr. Mike Leason – died December 2020 Mr. John Monkhouse Mr. David Parkin Mrs. Delysia Parkin Mrs. Valerie Wootton
Lay Property Secretary	Mr. Vic Bowmer
Lay Mission Support Group Secretary	Mrs. Kathleen Mee
Lay Youth Forum Secretary	Mrs. Margaret Murray
MWiB Representative	Miss Margaret Rose – retired August 2021 Position currently vacant
Methodist Homes Representative	Position currently vacant
Safeguarding	Dr. Roger Taylor – appointed October 2020, retired January 2022 Ms. Aneta Bradley – appointed February 2022

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

MEETING – SEPTEMBER 2020

From each Church: Steward, Treasurer and Elected Representatives:

Carlton:	Joan Burn, Charlton Peters, <i>Margaret Hall</i> – appointed September 2021
Greens Lane:	Caroline Noble, David Smart, Judy Morrison, <i>Jim Bruce</i> (died December 2020) Margaret Schofield
Maltby:	Joan Tarren, Stephen Smith, Ken Davison
North Billingham:	Rhona Ball, Cynthia Dent, Jackie Pitt, Maureen Gowland
Norton:	Guan Lim and Kay Dodsworth – retired August 2021 Howard Gill, Judith Lloyd <i>Catherine Bemrose</i> – appointed September 2021 <i>Aneta Bradley</i> – appointed November 2021
St. Andrew's:	Doreen Sharp, Gill Carr, Marjorie Dunn
Thornaby:	Judith Powell, Ken Davison, Edith Appleby, Eileen Middleton
Trinity Eaglescliffe:	Robert Woodman, Ralph Barton
Yarm:	<i>Joan Rivers</i> – retired August 2021; <i>Abigail Beer</i> – appointed December 2021 Brian Bainbridge, <i>Mark Hall</i> – became Circuit Steward October 2021 Chris Kendrew, Graham Clarke, Roz Matthews <i>Ian Fyfe</i> – was an additional member until September 2021
Yarm Road:	Alison Tonkinson, Jim Dale, Edwin Doidge

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2021 which are set out on pages 8 to 16.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the charity'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 charity's accounts as 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.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



**D.F. Adams, FCA
Baines Jewitt Limited
Barrington House
41-45 Yarm Lane
STOCKTON ON TEES
TS18 3EA**

4 April 2022

DFA/GW

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020-2021 £	Total 2019-2020 £
Income						
Income from monetary investments	4	339	794	-	1,133	3,509
Income from investment properties	5	-	-	5,457	5,457	5,238
Assessments on churches		187,805	-	-	187,805	209,700
Grants received		-	-	4,000	4,000	17,100
Other income	6	7,270	23,403	-	30,673	13,662
Total Income		195,414	24,197	9,457	229,068	249,209
Expenditure						
Grants and donations	7	200	-	-	200	
Salaries and associated costs	8	129,101	410	-	129,511	6,242
Property maintenance	9	35,822	-	1,048	36,870	143,306
Connexional assessment and model trust levy		-	-	-	-	29,696
District assessment and levy	10	57,736	7,756	-	65,492	-
Office expenses		2,049	-	-	2,049	67,493
Other outgoings		2,100	-	2,281	4,381	3,499
Total Charitable Expenditure		227,008	8,166	3,329	238,503	1,996
Net Income/(Expenditure)		(31,594)	16,031	6,128	(9,435)	(3,023)
Transfers between funds	16	192,887	(188,478)	(4,409)	-	-
Net Movement in Funds		161,293	(172,447)	1,719	(9,435)	(3,023)
Total funds brought forward		1,190,420	205,115	90,000	1,485,535	1,488,558
Total Funds Carried Forward	16	1,351,713	32,668	91,719	1,476,100	1,485,535

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2019-2020 £	Total 2018-2019 £
Income						
Donations and legacies		-	-	-	-	16,791
Income from monetary investments	4	1,702	1,807	-	3,509	3,797
Income from investment properties	5	-	-	5,238	5,238	5,313
Assessments on churches		209,700	-	-	209,700	213,825
Capital receipts		-	-	-	-	130,159
Grants received		-	-	17,100	17,100	15,600
Other income	6	13,662	-	-	13,662	76,893
Total Income		225,064	1,807	22,338	249,209	462,378
Expenditure						
Grants and donations	7	6,242	-	-	6,242	11,053
Salaries and associated costs	8	125,763	443	17,100	143,306	149,092
Property maintenance	9	19,519	9,213	964	29,696	22,923
Connexional assessment and model trust levy		-	-	-	-	32,064
District assessment and levy	10	58,916	8,577	-	67,493	65,383
Office expenses		3,499	-	-	3,499	5,180
Other outgoings		1,996	-	-	1,996	2,000
Total Charitable Expenditure		215,935	18,233	18,064	252,232	287,695
Net Income/(Expenditure)		9,129	(16,426)	4,274	(3,023)	174,683
Transfers between funds	16	4,274	-	4,274	-	-
Net Movement in Funds		13,403	(16,426)	-	(3,023)	174,683
Total funds brought forward		1,177,017	221,541	90,000	1,488,558	1,313,875
Total Funds Carried Forward	16	1,190,420	205,115	90,000	1,485,535	1,488,558

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2021

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Totals 2021 £	Totals 2020 £
Fixed Assets						
Circuit Manses and equipment	12	1,127,261	-	-	1,127,261	949,942
Investment properties	12	-	-	90,000	90,000	90,000
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Fixed Assets		1,127,261	-	-	1,217,261	1,039,942
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Current Assets						
Debtors	13	10,223	-	-	10,223	8,917
Investments with TMCP	14	-	32,668	-	32,668	205,115
Central Finance Board deposits		234,803	-	1,719	236,522	264,219
Cash at bank and in hand		33,310	-	-	33,310	22,114
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Current Assets		278,336	32,668	1,719	312,723	500,365
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Current Liabilities						
Creditors: due in less than one year	15	53,884	-	-	53,884	54,772
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Current Liabilities		53,884	-	-	53,884	54,772
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Net Current Assets/Liabilities		224,452	32,668	1,719	258,839	445,593
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		1,351,713	32,668	91,719	1,476,100	1,485,535
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Net Assets		1,351,713	32,668	91,719	1,476,100	1,485,535
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Funds of the Circuit						
General fund (unrestricted)	16	1,351,713	-	-	1,351,713	1,190,420
Circuit Model Trust Fund (unrestricted)	16	-	32,668	-	32,668	205,115
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Unrestricted Funds		1,351,713	32,668	-	1,384,381	1,395,535
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Restricted funds	16	-	-	91,719	91,719	90,000
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Funds	16	1,351,713	32,668	91,719	1,476,100	1,485,535
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

These financial statements were approved on behalf of the Charity's Trustees on 21 March 2022 and are signed on their behalf by:

REV. VINCENT JAMBAWO

.....
(Superintendent Minister)

The notes on pages 11 to 16 form part of these accounts

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1. CHARITY INFORMATION

The charity (registered number 1137263) is a public benefit entity, established in the UK and governed by The Methodist Church Act 1976. The address of the principal office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operation and principal activity is the advancement of the Christian faith.

2. BASIS OF PREPARATION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Basis of Preparation and Assessment of Going Concern

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value, and in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 and the Charities Act 2011. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

3. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Funds

The funds held constitute: General funds held for any purpose of the Circuit which are unrestricted; the Circuit Model Trust Fund has wide purposes defined in Standing Orders and is categorised as unrestricted; Restricted funds which are held for a narrower purpose; there are no endowment funds; details of each material fund are disclosed in the final note to these accounts and any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

(b) Incoming Resources

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Circuit becomes entitled to the resources and the trustees are reasonably certain they will receive the resources; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

(c) Resources Expended

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the Circuit to pay out resources.

(d) Grants

Grants made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment.

(e) VAT

Since the Circuit is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged with the expenses to which it refers.

(f) Tangible Fixed Assets for use by the Circuit

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost more than £500. The freehold property purchased pre 2015 is shown in the accounts at 2015, deemed values resulting from a valuation in 2005. Freehold property purchased since 2015 is shown at cost. The land component is deemed to be a third. No depreciation is provided because the trustees consider the current residual value of the property in its present condition to be not less than its current valuation and, in the absence of any evidence or impairment, any depreciation provision for the buildings component of the property would be immaterial.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 20213. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - *Continued*

(g) Investment Properties

These are properties held for the long term and are included in the financial statements at fair value. Depreciation is not provided on investment property.

(h) Financial Instruments

The charity only has financial assets and liabilities that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

4. INCOME FROM MONETARY INVESTMENTS

	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund £	Restricted £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Central Finance Board					
Deposits	339	-	-	339	1,702
Investments with TMCP	-	794	-	794	1,807
	—	—	—	—	—
	339	794	-	1,133	3,509
	===	===	==	=====	=====

5. INCOME FROM INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund £	Restricted £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Lettings income:					
Alpine Way	-	-	5,457	5,457	5,238
	—	—	—	—	—
Total	-	-	5,457	5,457	5,238
	==	==	=====	=====	=====

6. OTHER CHARITABLE INCOME

	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund £	Restricted £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Lettings income:					
2 Wallington Road	6,900	-	-	6,900	6,900
Donations for Connexional Funds	200	-	-	200	6,242
Gain on sale of 15 Hanbury Grove, Ingleby Barwick	-	23,403	-	23,403	-
Sale of manuals	-	-	-	-	520
Other sundry income	170	-	-	170	-
	—	—	—	—	—
Total	7,270	23,403	-	30,673	13,662
	=====	=====	==	=====	=====

One of the Circuit manse is currently let on a short-term basis. It is anticipated that it will be again required to house a Minister.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

7. GRANTS AND DONATIONS

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2021 Total	2020 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Connexional Funds	200	-	-	200	6,242
	===	==	==	===	=====

8. SALARIES AND ASSOCIATED COSTS

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2021 Total	2020 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind	86,951	-	-	86,951	104,405
Pension costs	21,036	-	-	21,036	21,668
Employer's national insurance costs	7,345	-	-	7,345	8,586
Apprenticeship levy	467	-	-	467	489
Telephone	2,266	-	-	2,266	2,027
Travelling	1,833	-	-	1,833	2,858
Administration	480	410	-	890	923
Relocation costs	8,723	-	-	8,723	2,350
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	129,101	410	-	129,511	143,306
	=====	===	==	=====	=====

The average number of staff engaged during the year was 4 (2020: 5). No employees received employee benefits that totalled more than £60,000.

The Superintendent of the Circuit and the other Presbyters and the remaining members of the Circuit Leadership Team are considered as key Management Personnel. The members of the Circuit meeting are the trustees of the Circuit. The stipends, employer's NIC, apprenticeship levy and employer's pension contributions and other expenses of the Presbyters of the Circuit are paid by the Circuit.

Payments to Trustees

Apart from the Presbyters (stipends) and the Supernumerary Minister (preaching fees), no member of the Circuit meeting received any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the Circuit.

Included in these accounts is £1,571 (2020: £5,296) in respect of reimbursed expenses for four trustees.

9. PROPERTY

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2021 Total	2020 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Council tax	5,832	-	-	5,832	4,542
Water supply	1,002	-	-	1,002	1,191
Energy supply	141	-	-	141	356
Repairs and maintenance	20,782	-	131	20,913	17,101
Insurance	3,235	-	-	3,235	3,633
Letting expenses	1,230	-	917	2,147	2,113
Valuation fees	-	-	-	-	280
Quinquennial reports	3,600	-	-	3,600	480
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	35,822	-	1,048	36,870	29,696
	=====	==	=====	=====	=====

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

10. DISTRICT ASSESSMENT AND LEVY

	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund £	Restricted £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
District expenses and Methodist Church funds	57,736	-	-	57,736	58,916
Levy on CMTF funds	-	7,756	-	7,756	8,577
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total	57,736	7,756	-	65,492	67,493
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

11. NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR

This is stated after charging:

	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Independent Examiner's Fees:		
Independent examination – 2021	2,100	1,998
Less: Overprovision re 2019	-	(2)
	=====	=====
	2,100	1,996
	=====	=====

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Circuit Manses £	Investment Property £	Total £
Cost or Valuation			
Balance brought forward as at 1 September 2020	949,942	90,000	1,039,942
Additions	329,125	-	329,125
Disposals	(151,806)	-	(151,806)
	=====	=====	=====
	1,127,261	90,000	1,217,261
Depreciation			
At 31 August 2020 and 31 August 2021	-	-	-
	=====	=====	=====
Balance carried forward as at 31 August 2021	1,127,261	90,000	1,217,261
	=====	=====	=====

The Manses comprise four manses for use by the Circuit staff.

The investment property is one property which is held for the long term. In the opinion of the trustees, £90,000 is a reasonable estimate of the market value as at 31 August 2021.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

13. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Assessment debtors	1,200	-
Stipends paid in advance	9,023	8,680
	10,223	8,680
	=====	=====

14. INVESTMENTS WITH TRUSTEES FOR METHODIST CHURCH PURPOSES

This is an investment receiving body within the Methodist Church and pay interest at market rates.

15. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Assessments received in advance	49,320	52,425
Other creditors and accruals	4,564	2,347
	53,884	54,772
	=====	=====

16. SUMMARY OF FUND MOVEMENTS

	At 01.09.20 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31.08.21 £
General fund	1,190,420	195,414	227,008	192,887	1,351,713
Circuit Model Trust fund	205,115	24,197	8,166	(188,478)	32,668
Total Unrestricted Funds	1,395,535	219,611	235,174	4,409	1,384,381
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Tees Valley Housing Fund	90,000	5,457	1,048	(4,409)	90,000
Circuit Mission and Evangelism Fund	-	4,000	2,281	-	1,719
Total Restricted Funds	90,000	9,457	3,329	(4,409)	91,719
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	1,485,535	229,068	238,503	-	1,476,100
	=====	=====	=====	===	=====

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 202116. SUMMARY OF FUND MOVEMENTS – *Continued*

	At 01.09.19 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31.08.20 £
General fund	1,177,017	225,064	215,935	4,274	1,190,420
Circuit Model Trust fund	221,541	1,807	18,233	-	205,115
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Unrestricted Funds	1,398,558	226,871	234,168	4,274	1,395,535
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Tees Valley Housing Fund	90,000	5,238	964	4,274	90,000
Baptismal Worker Fund	-	17,100	17,100	-	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Restricted Funds	90,000	22,338	18,064	4,274	90,000
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	1,488,558	249,209	252,232	-	1,485,535
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

General Fund - this fund is used for general purposes.

Circuit Model Trust Fund - This fund has wide purposes as defined in the standing orders of the Methodist Church.

Tees Valley Housing Fund - This fund is to be used to benefit homeless families.

Baptismal Worker Fund - This fund was used towards the cost of employing a baptismal worker.

Circuit Mission and Evangelism Fund - This fund is used to support new Mission and Evangelism activities.

17. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Churches which form the Stockton Methodist Circuit whose assessments provide the principal income for the Circuit are:

Carlton
Greens Lane
Maltby
North Billingham
Norton
St. Andrew's
Thornaby
Trinity Eaglescliffe
Yarm
Yarm Road

The Circuit paid an assessment and levy to Darlington Methodist District as detailed in note 10 to these accounts.

Accounts

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1137263

**ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1137263

**ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

C O N T E N T S

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STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

BASIS OF PREPARATION AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Full Name of Charity: Stockton Methodist Circuit

Registration Charity Number: 1137263

Date of Registration: 4 August 2010

Main Communication Address: 4 Fritillary Place
Stockton-on-Tees
TS21 3LZ

The members of the Stockton 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 at Appendix A of this report.

CIRCUIT MINISTERS AND OFFICERS

Active Circuit Minsters Rev. Peter Catford
Rev. Suva Catford
Rev. Sarah Ramsden
Rev. Martin Ramsden

Circuit Stewards: Mrs. Liz Mason
Dr. Peter Dodd
Dr. Roger Taylor
Mr. John Moore
Mrs. Margaret Walton (property)
Mrs. Jean Jones – appointed September 2019

Administrator: Mr. C. Hutchinson – retired September 2019
Ms. J. Prior – appointed September 2019

Mr. J.G. Moore acted as the principal officer overseeing the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the Circuit during the year.

Independent Examiner: D.F. Adams FCA
Baines Jewitt Limited
Barrington House
41-45 Yarm Lane
Stockton-on-Tees
TS18 3EA

Investment Bankers: Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

AIMS AND ORGANISATION

The purposes of the Methodist Church are, and shall be deemed to have been since the Date of Union, 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 charity's objective is to act as a Resource provider within the area around Stockton-on-Tees for the Methodist Church. To do this we will engage with the community, share with one another and share Jesus Christ. Our activities include:

- 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;
- Provision of chaplaincy services to the local university and other institutions.

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).

TRUSTEE TRAINING

A range of guidance is 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 given to all new Circuit meeting members as induction to their role as trustees.

RELATED PARTIES

See note 20 to the accounts.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Circuit Mission Statement

ENGAGE WITH COMMUNITY [Local and global]

CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER

SHARE JESUS CHRIST

1 Peter 3;15 *Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you. (Good News Bible).*

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

REVIEW OF THE YEAR - *Continued*

Significant Developments during the Year

Over this year the Circuit, with support from the Darlington District, has continued to seek to engage more intentionally with the families and the Methodist Churches that are celebrating baptism. This has been difficult over the year with the pandemic and has led to only 10 baptisms being celebrated over the year. However, we tried to remain in contact with families who had children baptised using a new website, familytime.uk paid for by the Circuit, and through social media and telephone contacts. This was not as successful as we had hoped and a review of the current policy on baptism is being undertaken resourced by a full report from the Baptismal Support Worker who resigned her post in August 2020 to train for presbyteral ministry.

We have maintained contact with the Methodists who have joined the Anglican church at St. Paul's in Newtown. They are moving into a major refurbishment project and it is encouraging for the Circuit to hear how this letting go has created potential for growth.

We integrated a new member of staff into the team during the year who was returning after a period of illness. The change in pastoral oversight was well received and the staff team has a deepening relationship that is supportive of one another.

Two members of staff had sabbaticals during the year. With the support of the Circuit this was a time of renewal for the staff and opportunity to share ministry between lay and ordained in a new way especially during the time of pandemic.

Along with the churches we continue to struggle to find volunteers to fill roles at a Circuit level and to keep these covered. This is causing a rethink in the way the Circuit is structured.

Achievements during the Year

Achievements included the celebration of special services of baptism as above and also weddings and funerals where members of the community have received ministry from presbyters and from local church communities, as we have hosted wedding and funeral services.

There has been work across the Circuit in partnership with local schools and this has continued during the pandemic using Zoom and recording material to be used for assemblies.

Godly play was still being used in some local Care Homes in Billingham whilst that was possible, although in the current circumstances, future development of this is on hold.

Work in the community has developed at St. Andrew's as there was an initiative to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the estate and the church, which was cancelled in August due to the pandemic. The Foodbank has continued to seek to serve the community in the pandemic. Local support groups have not met but been supported by the Community Worker. The Circuit has supported the church as it reviewed the future development of its building which, after due consideration, it has chosen not to pursue.

In Port Clarence, the Circuit continues to support the work of BELP (Billingham Environmental Link Programme) by providing a chaplain on the allotment on a monthly basis and the community action over the summer.

The Yarm Road church has continued to develop support of the Asylum Seeker project. The pandemic has meant they are no longer meeting, however the space is being used for storage and contact is being maintained.

Worship takes place across the Circuit and we have continued to seek to find ways to encourage variety. We accredited a local preacher this year and have one other in training. The Circuit also supported a local preacher as she candidated for presbyteral ministry for which she was accepted.

This year saw the setting up and developing of Circuit online services.

Circuit Meaningful Ageing was handed on to the District and other local Circuits and is running successfully.

We continue to implement Methodist Safeguarding policy through training and oversight of local congregation practices.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income Trends

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment paid by the Circuit churches. The Circuit is mindful that a number of the churches have suffered a reduction in income due to limitation of their activities brought about by the government restrictions introduced to fight the spread of the coronavirus. However, all churches have been able to meet their commitments in the year to 31 August 2020 and it is anticipated all will be able to pay the full amount in 2020/2021.

Expenditure Trends

Stipend expenditure has increased by 2.8% in line with conference approved increases and the assessment paid to the District and Connexion in the year to 31 August 2020 was increased by 4.5% from the previous year.

Fund Balances

As at 31 August 2020, the net current assets of the Circuit were £445,000 giving approximately 24 months cover for unrestricted expenditure. However, the Circuit currently has two presbyters who are married so sharing the same manse. These presbyters will be leaving in August 2021. It is intended to replace both presbyters through the stationing process, but it is anticipated the new presbyters will not be related to each other. Therefore, the Circuit needs to hold funds to enable it to purchase a further manse in the correct geographical area.

Plans for 2020/2021

Circuit financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that there will be three full-time ordained staff and one part-time lay staff with a 2.7% cost of living stipend increase, but there will be a 2% reduction in the assessment paid to the District and Connexion. There will be no assessment increase for the churches as we continue to see reduced membership in the Circuit churches. However, it is anticipated that, despite reductions in income due to coronavirus restrictions, all churches will be able to continue to pay assessments at the current level.

RESERVES POLICY

General

It is the trustees' policy to maintain a balance of unrestricted funds equivalent to six months unrestricted expenditure. However, in the current uncertain financial climate, it is not seen as unreasonable if reserves are above this level until there is more clarity about the future situation. In particular, the Circuit has entered the stationing process for two replacement presbyters and must ensure it has the income/reserves to cover the stipendiary and accommodation costs of these presbyters for the five years of the appointment.

In addition, the Circuit needs to hold sufficient funds to be able to buy a new manse as the existing husband and wife presbyters are leaving and are expected to be replaced by two ministers unrelated to each other. The Circuit is also holding sufficient funds to meet a mission challenge in the Stockton area.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The major risks associated with the Circuit have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Finance and Property Committee with professional advice taken as required. There is a regular annual 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 recreation 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;

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

SAFEGUARDING - *Continued*

- 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 Stockton Methodist Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of the Connexional Safeguarding Policy, government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the Circuit and in the churches.

The Stockton Methodist 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.

APPROVAL

This report has been approved by Managing Trustees and will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval at the 23 March 2021 Circuit Meeting.

Approved on behalf of the Charity's Trustees on 23 March 2021
and signed on their behalf by:

REV P. CATFORD

.....
Superintendent Minister

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

CIRCUIT MEETING MEMBERSHIP

Superintendent	Rev. Peter Catford
Ministers	Rev. Suva Catford Rev. Sarah Ramsden Rev. Martin Ramsden
Circuit Stewards	Mrs. Liz Mason Dr. Peter Dodd Dr. Roger Taylor Mrs. Margaret Walton (property) Mrs. Jean Jones – appointed September 2019
Circuit Treasurer	Mr. John Moore
Supernumerary Minister	Rev. Richard Bielby – retired March 2020
Secretary of the Circuit Meeting	Position currently vacant
Secretary of Local Preachers' Meeting	Miss Rebecca Catford – retired September 2019 (position currently vacant)
Local Preacher Representative	Mrs. Sheila Hargreaves
Additional Members appointed by the Circuit Meeting	Mr. Edwin Doidge – became a Yarm Road representative September 2020 Mrs. Jane Jones – died October 2019 Mr. Ian Fyfe Mr. Mike Leason – died December 2020 Mr. John Monkhouse Mr. David Parkin Mrs. Delysia Parkin Mrs. Valerie Wootton
Lay Property Secretary	Mr. Vic Bowmer
Lay Mission Support Group Secretary	Mrs. Kathleen Mee
Lay Youth Forum Secretary	Mrs. Margaret Murray
MWiB Representative	Miss Margaret Rose
Methodist Homes Representative	Position currently vacant
Safeguarding	Mrs. Liz Foulger – retired August 2020 Dr. Roger Taylor – appointed October 2020

MEETING – SEPTEMBER 2020

From each Church: Steward, Treasurer and Elected Representatives:

Carlton:	Joan Burn, Charlton Peters
Greens Lane:	Caroline Noble, David Smart, Judy Morrison, <i>Jim Bruce</i> (died December 2020) Margaret Schofield
Maltby:	Joan Tarren, Stephen Smith, Ken Davison
North Billingham:	Rhona Ball, Cynthia Dent, Jackie Pitt, Maureen Gowland
Norton:	Guan Lim, Kay Dodsworth, Howard Gill, Judith Lloyd
St. Andrew's:	Doreen Sharp, Gill Carr, <i>Marjorie Dunn</i> - transferred from Carlton September 2019
Thornaby:	Judith Powell, Ken Davison, Edith Appleby, Eileen Middleton
Trinity Eaglescliffe:	Robert Woodman, Ralph Barton
Yarm:	<i>Chris Robinson</i> – retired September 2020, Joan Rivers, <i>Iain Baird</i> – retired September 2019, Brian Bainbridge, Mark Hall, Chris Kendrew, Graham Clarke, Roz Matthews
Yarm Road:	Alison Tonkinson, <i>Paula Clark</i> – retired September 2019, Jim Dale, <i>Jean Jones</i> – became circuit steward September 2019, <i>Jess Dale</i> – appointed September 2019, <i>Edwin Doidge</i> – was an additional member until September 2020

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2020 which are set out on pages 7 to 15.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

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

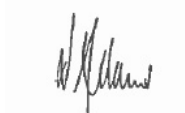
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



D.F. Adams, FCA
Baines Jewitt Limited
Barrington House
41-45 Yarm Lane
STOCKTON ON TEES
TS18 3EA

9 April 2021

DFA/GB

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2019-2020 £	Total 2018-2019 £
Income						
Donations and legacies	4	-	-	-	-	16,791
Income from monetary investments	5	1,702	1,807	-	3,509	3,797
Income from investment properties	6	-	-	5,238	5,238	5,313
Assessments on churches		209,700	-	-	209,700	213,825
Capital receipts	7	-	-	-	-	130,159
Grants received		-	-	17,100	17,100	15,600
Other income	8	13,662	-	-	13,662	76,893
Total Income		225,064	1,807	22,338	249,209	462,378
Expenditure						
Grants and donations	9	6,242	-	-	6,242	11,053
Salaries and associated costs	10	125,763	443	17,100	143,306	149,092
Property maintenance	11	19,519	9,213	964	29,696	22,923
Connexional assessment and model trust levy	12	-	-	-	-	32,064
District assessment and levy	13	58,916	8,577	-	67,493	65,383
Office expenses		3,499	-	-	3,499	5,180
Other outgoings		1,996	-	-	1,996	2,000
Total Charitable Expenditure		215,935	18,233	18,064	252,232	287,695
Net Income / (Expenditure)		9,129	(16,426)	4,274	(3,023)	174,683
Transfers between funds	19	4,274	-	4,274	-	-
Net Movement in Funds		13,403	(16,426)	-	(3,023)	174,683
Total funds brought forward		1,177,017	221,541	90,000	1,488,558	1,313,875
Total Funds Carried Forward	19	1,190,420	205,115	90,000	1,485,535	1,488,558

The notes on pages 10 to 15 form part of these accounts

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2018-2019 £	Total 2017-2018 £
Income						
Donations and legacies	4	16,791	-	-	16,791	-
Income from monetary investments	5	1,468	2,329	-	3,797	2,315
Income from investment properties	6	-	-	5,313	5,313	5,367
Assessments on churches		213,825	-	-	213,825	225,500
Capital receipts	7	-	130,159	-	130,159	-
Grants received		-	-	15,600	15,600	10,500
Other income	8	17,953	58,940	-	76,893	14,687
Total Income		250,037	191,428	20,913	462,378	258,369
Expenditure						
Grants and donations	9	11,053	-	-	11,053	20,947
Salaries and associated costs	10	133,032	460	15,600	149,092	157,120
Property maintenance	11	21,959	-	964	22,923	19,702
Connexional assessment and model trust levy	12	-	32,064	-	32,064	-
District assessment and levy	13	56,380	9,003	-	65,383	66,528
Office expenses		5,180	-	-	5,180	5,092
Other outgoings		2,000	-	-	2,000	2,810
Total Charitable Expenditure		229,604	41,527	16,564	287,695	272,199
Net Income / (Expenditure)		20,433	149,901	4,349	174,683	(13,830)
Transfers between funds	19	162,771	(158,422)	(4,349)	-	-
Net Movement in Funds		183,204	(8,521)	-	174,683	(13,830)
Total funds brought forward		993,813	230,062	90,000	1,313,875	1,327,705
Total Funds Carried Forward	19	1,177,017	221,541	90,000	1,488,558	1,313,875

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2020

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Totals 2020 £	Totals 2019 £
Fixed Assets						
Circuit Manses and equipment	15	949,942	-	-	949,942	949,942
Investment properties	15	-	-	90,000	90,000	90,000
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Fixed Assets		949,942	-	90,000	1,039,942	1,039,942
		=====	==	=====	=====	=====
Current Assets						
Debtors	16	8,917	-	-	8,917	8,680
Investments with TMCP	17	-	205,115	-	205,115	221,541
Central Finance Board deposits		264,219	-	-	264,219	261,598
Cash at bank and in hand		22,114	-	-	22,114	29,695
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Current Assets		295,250	205,115	-	500,365	521,514
		-----	-----	---	-----	-----
Current Liabilities						
Creditors: due in less than one year	18	54,772	-	-	54,772	72,898
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Current Liabilities		54,772	-	-	54,772	72,898
		-----	---	---	-----	-----
Net Current Assets/Liabilities		240,478	205,115	-	445,593	448,616
		-----	-----	---	-----	-----
Total Assets less Current Liabilities						
		1,190,420	205,115	90,000	1,485,535	1,488,558
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Net Assets		1,190,420	205,115	90,000	1,485,535	1,488,558
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Funds of the Circuit						
General fund (unrestricted)	19	1,190,420	-	-	1,190,420	1,177,017
Circuit Model Trust Fund (unrestricted)	19	-	205,115	-	205,115	221,541
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Unrestricted Funds		1,190,420	205,115	-	1,395,535	1,398,558
		-----	-----	---	-----	-----
Restricted funds	19	-	-	90,000	90,000	90,000
		---	---	-----	-----	-----
Total Funds	19	1,190,420	205,115	90,000	1,485,535	1,488,558
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

These financial statements were approved on behalf of the Charity's Trustees on 23 March 2021 and are signed on their behalf by:

REV P. CATFORD

.....
(Superintendent Minister)

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1. CHARITY INFORMATION

The charity (registered number 1137263) is a public benefit entity, established in the UK and governed by The Methodist Church Act 1976. The address of the principal office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operation and principal activity is the advancement of the Christian faith.

2. BASIS OF PREPARATION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Basis of Preparation and Assessment of Going Concern

The charity constitutes a public entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value, and in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 and the Charities Act 2011. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

3. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Funds

The funds held constitute: General funds held for any purpose of the Circuit which are unrestricted; the Circuit Model Trust Fund has wide purposes defined in Standing Orders and is categorised as unrestricted; Restricted funds which are held for a narrower purpose; there are no endowment funds; details of each material fund are disclosed in the final note to these accounts and any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

(b) Incoming Resources

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Circuit becomes entitled to the resources and the trustees are reasonably certain they will receive the resources; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

(c) Resources Expended

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the Circuit to pay out resources.

(d) Grants

Grants made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment.

(e) VAT

Since the Circuit is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged with the expenses to which it refers.

(f) Tangible Fixed Assets for use by the Circuit

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost more than £500. The freehold property purchased pre 2015 is shown in the accounts at 2015, deemed values resulting from a valuation in 2005. Freehold property purchased since 2015 is shown at cost. The land component is deemed to be a third. No depreciation is provided because the trustees consider the current residual value of the property in its present condition to be not less than its current valuation and, in the absence of any evidence or impairment, any depreciation provision for the buildings component of the property would be immaterial.

(g) Investment Properties

These are properties held for the long term and are included in the financial statements at fair value. Depreciation is not provided on investment property.

(h) Financial Instruments

The charity only has financial assets and liabilities that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

4. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund £	Restricted £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
South Billingham Church	-	-	-	-	9,323
Newtown Church	-	-	-	-	7,468
	—	—	—	—	—
	-	-	-	-	16,791
	==	==	==	==	=====

5. INCOME FROM MONETARY INVESTMENTS

	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund £	Restricted £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Central Finance Board					
Deposits	1,702	-	-	1,702	1,468
Investments with TMCP	-	1,807	-	1,807	2,329
	—	—	—	—	—
	1,702	1,807	-	3,509	3,797
	=====	=====	==	=====	=====

6. INCOME FROM INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund £	Restricted £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Lettings income:					
Alpine Way	-	-	5,238	5,238	5,313
	—	—	—	—	—
Total	-	-	5,238	5,238	5,313
	==	==	=====	=====	=====

7. CAPITAL RECEIPTS

	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund £	Restricted £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Sales proceeds from sale of					
South Billingham Methodist					
Church	-	-	-	-	137,500
Legal fees	-	-	-	-	(2,797)
Reclaimed grants	-	-	-	-	(4,544)
	—	—	—	—	—
	-	-	-	-	130,159
	==	==	==	==	=====

8. OTHER CHARITABLE INCOME

	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund £	Restricted £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Lettings income:					
2 Wallington Road	6,900	-	-	6,900	6,900
Donations for Connexional					
Funds	6,242	-	-	6,242	11,053
Gain on sale of 625 Yarm Road,					
Eaglescliffe	-	-	-	-	58,940
Sale of manuals	520	-	-	520	-
	—	—	—	—	—
Total	13,662	-	-	13,662	76,893
	=====	==	==	=====	=====

One of the Circuit manses is currently let on a short-term basis. It is anticipated that it will be again required to house a Minister.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

9. GRANTS AND DONATIONS

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model	Restricted	2020	2019
	£	Trust Fund	£	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Connexional Funds	6,242	-	-	6,242	11,053
	=====	==	==	=====	=====

10. SALARIES AND ASSOCIATED COSTS

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model	Restricted	2020	2019
	£	Trust Fund	£	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind	87,305	-	17,100	104,405	108,070
Pension costs	21,668	-	-	21,668	21,873
Employer's national insurance costs	8,586	-	-	8,586	9,117
Apprenticeship levy	489	-	-	489	-
Telephone	2,027	-	-	2,027	1,520
Travelling	2,858	-	-	2,858	6,908
Administration	480	443	-	923	1,604
Relocation costs	2,350	-	-	2,350	-
	=====	==	=====	=====	=====
Total	125,763	443	17,100	143,306	149,092
	=====	==	=====	=====	=====

The average number of staff engaged during the year was 5 (2019: 5). No employees received employee benefits that totalled more than £60,000.

The Superintendent of the Circuit and the other Presbyters and the remaining members of the Circuit Leadership Team are considered as key Management Personnel. The members of the Circuit meeting are the trustees of the Circuit. The stipends, employer's NIC, apprenticeship levy and employer's pension contributions and other expenses of the Presbyters of the Circuit are paid by the Circuit.

Payments to Trustees

Apart from the Presbyters, no member of the Circuit meeting received any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the Circuit.

Included in these accounts is £5,296 (2019: £3,922) in respect of reimbursed expenses for three trustees.

11. PROPERTY

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model	Restricted	2020	2019
	£	Trust Fund	£	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Council tax	4,542	-	-	4,542	4,093
Water supply	1,191	-	-	1,191	949
Energy supply	356	-	-	356	339
Repairs and maintenance	7,807	9,213	81	17,101	7,222
Insurance	3,633	-	-	3,633	3,401
Letting expenses	1,230	-	883	2,113	2,044
Valuation fees	280	-	-	280	1,200
Quinquennial reports	480	-	-	480	2,250
South Billingham church running costs prior to sale	-	-	-	-	1,425
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total	19,519	9,213	964	29,696	22,923
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

12. CONNEXIONAL ASSESSMENT AND MODEL TRUST LEVY

	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund £	Restricted £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Levy on sale of South Billingham church	-	-	-	-	32,064
	—	—	—	—	—
Total	-	-	-	-	32,064
	==	==	==	==	=====

13. DISTRICT ASSESSMENT AND LEVY

	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund £	Restricted £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
District expenses and Methodist Church funds	58,916	-	-	58,916	56,380
Levy on CMTF funds	-	8,577	-	8,577	9,003
	—	—	—	—	—
Total	58,916	8,577	-	67,493	65,383
	=====	=====	==	=====	=====

14. NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR

This is stated after charging:

	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Independent Examiner's Fees:		
Independent examination – 2020	1,998	2,000
Less: Overprovision re 2019	(2)	-
	—	—
	1,996	2,000
	=====	=====

15. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Circuit Manse £	Investment Property £	Total £
Cost or Valuation			
Balance brought forward as at 1 September 2019	949,942	90,000	1,039,942
Depreciation			
At 31 August 2019 and 31 August 2020	-	-	-
	—	—	—
Balance carried forward as at 31 August 2020	949,942	90,000	1,039,942
	=====	=====	=====

The Manse comprise four manse for use by the Circuit staff.

The investment property is one property which is held for the long term. In the opinion of the trustees, £90,000 is a reasonable estimate of the market value as at 31 August 2020.

16. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Stipends paid in advance	8,917	8,680
	=====	=====

17. INVESTMENTS WITH TRUSTEES FOR METHODIST CHURCH PURPOSES

This is an investment receiving body within the Methodist Church and pay interest at market rates.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

18. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Assessments received in advance	52,425	52,425
Grants received in advance	-	17,100
Other creditors and accruals	2,347	3,373
	54,772	72,898
	=====	=====

19. SUMMARY OF FUND MOVEMENTS

	At 01.09.19 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31.08.20 £
General fund	1,177,017	225,064	215,935	4,274	1,190,420
Circuit Model Trust fund	221,541	1,807	18,233	-	205,115
Total Unrestricted Funds	1,398,558	226,871	234,168	4,274	1,395,535
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Tees Valley Housing Fund	90,000	5,238	964	4,274	90,000
Baptismal Worker Fund	-	17,100	17,100	-	-
Total Restricted Funds	90,000	22,338	18,064	4,274	90,000
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	1,488,558	249,209	252,232	-	1,485,535
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

	At 01.09.18 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31.08.19 £
General fund	993,813	250,037	229,604	162,771	1,177,017
Circuit Model Trust fund	230,062	191,428	41,527	(158,422)	221,541
Total Unrestricted Funds	1,223,875	441,465	271,131	4,349	1,398,558
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Restricted Housing Fund	90,000	5,313	964	4,349	90,000
Baptismal Worker Fund	-	15,600	15,600	-	-
Total Restricted Funds	90,000	20,913	16,564	4,349	90,000
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	1,313,875	462,378	287,695	-	1,488,558
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

General Fund - this fund is used for general purposes.

Circuit Model Trust Fund - This fund has wide purposes as defined in the standing orders of the Methodist Church.

Tees Valley Housing Fund - This fund is to be used to benefit homeless families.

Baptismal Worker Fund - This fund is used towards the costs of employing a baptismal worker.

STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

20. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Churches which form the Stockton Methodist Circuit whose assessments provide the principal income for the Circuit are:

Carlton
Greens Lane
Maltby
North Billingham
Norton
St. Andrew's
Thornaby
Trinity Eaglescliffe
Yarm
Yarm Road

The Circuit paid an assessment and levy to Darlington Methodist District as detailed in note 13 to these accounts.