

**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**

	<b>Pages</b>
<b>Trustees' Report</b>	1 to 6
<b>Circuit Meeting Membership</b>	Appendix A
<b>Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees</b>	7
<b>Statement of Financial Activities</b>	8 to 9
<b>Balance Sheet</b>	10
<b>Notes to the Financial Statements</b>	11 to 16

## 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and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.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

<b>Full Name of Charity:</b>	Stockton Methodist Circuit
<b>Registration Charity Number:</b>	1137263
<b>Date of Registration:</b>	4 August 2010
<b>Main Communication Address:</b>	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

<b>Active Circuit Minsters</b>	Rev. Vincent Jambawo Rev. Sarah Ramsden Rev. Martin Ramsden Rev. Rachel Williams
<b>Circuit Stewards:</b>	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
<b>Administrator:</b>	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.

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

<b>Investment Bankers:</b>	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
----------------------------	---

## 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

<b>Superintendent</b>	Rev. Vincent Jambawo
<b>Ministers</b>	Rev. Sarah Ramsden Rev. Martin Ramsden Rev. Rachel Williams
<b>Circuit Stewards</b>	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
<b>Circuit Treasurer</b>	Mr. John Moore
<b>Supernumerary Minister</b>	Rev. John Howard-Norman
<b>Secretary of the Circuit Meeting</b>	Mrs June Howard-Norman – appointed September 2022
<b>Secretary of Local Preachers' Meeting</b>	Dr. Peter Dodd
<b>Local Preacher Representative</b>	Mrs. Sheila Hargreaves
<b>Additional Members appointed by the Circuit Meeting</b>	Mr. John Monkhouse Mr. David Parkin Mrs. Delysia Parkin Mrs. Valerie Wootton
<b>Lay Property Secretary</b>	Mr. Vic Bowmer – retired March 2023 Position currently vacant
<b>Lay Mission Support Group Secretary</b>	Mrs. Kathleen Mee
<b>Lay Youth Forum Secretary</b>	Mrs. Margaret Murray
<b>MWiB Representative</b>	Position currently vacant
<b>Methodist Homes Representative</b>	Position currently vacant
<b>Safeguarding</b>	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 £
<b>Income</b>						
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
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total Income</b>		300,054	822	7,776	308,652	234,706
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Expenditure</b>						
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
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total Charitable Expenditure</b>		225,647	784	4,064	230,495	219,336
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net Income/Expenditure</b>		74,407	38	3,712	78,157	15,370
Transfers between funds	17	8,506	(4,300)	(4,206)	-	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>		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
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total Funds Carried Forward</b>	17	1,453,628	23,903	92,096	1,569,627	1,491,470
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

## 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 £
<b>Income</b>						
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
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total Income</b>		195,414	24,197	9,457	234,706	229,068
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Expenditure</b>						
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
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total Charitable Expenditure</b>		227,008	8,166	3,329	219,336	238,503
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure)</b>		(31,594)	16,031	6,128	15,370	(9,435)
Transfers between funds	16	192,887	(188,478)	(4,409)	-	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>		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
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total Funds Carried Forward</b>	16	1,351,713	32,668	91,719	1,491,470	1,476,100
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

## STOCKTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Totals 2023 £	Totals 2022 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>						
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>
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>		1,192,261 =====	- ===	90,000 =====	1,282,261 =====	1,217,261 =====
<b>Current Assets</b>						
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>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		311,328 -----	23,903 -----	2,096 -----	337,327 -----	328,328 -----
<b>Current Liabilities</b>						
Creditors: due in less than one year	18	49,961	-	-	49,961	54,119
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		49,961 -----	- ----	- ----	49,961 -----	54,119 -----
<b>Net Current Assets/Liabilities</b>		261,367 -----	23,903 -----	2,096 -----	287,366 -----	274,209 -----
<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>		1,453,628 =====	23,903 =====	92,096 =====	1,569,627 =====	1,491,470 =====
<b>Net Assets</b>		1,453,628 =====	23,903 =====	92,096 =====	1,569,627 =====	1,491,470 =====
<b>Funds of the Circuit</b>						
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>
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>		1,453,628 -----	23,903 -----	- ----	1,477,531 -----	1,398,880 -----
Restricted funds	19	- ---	- ---	92,096 -----	92,096 -----	92,590 -----
<b>Total Funds</b>	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 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 £	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**

	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Circuit Model Trust Fund</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>2023 Total</b>	<b>2022 Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
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
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	27,434	-	1,570	29,004	20,976
	=====	==	=====	=====	=====

11. **DISTRICT ASSESSMENT AND LEVY**

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

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

This is stated after charging:

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

13. **TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	<b>Circuit Property</b>	<b>Investment Property</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cost or Valuation</b>			
Balance brought forward as at 1 September 2022	1,127,261	90,000	1,217,261
Additions in year	65,000	-	65,000
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 31 August 2022 and 31 August 2023	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
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
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	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
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	92,590	7,776	4,064	(4,206)	92,096
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
<b>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>	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
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	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
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	91,719	7,597	2,321	(4,405)	92,590
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>	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.