

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

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and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.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

<b>Superintendent</b>	Rev. Vincent Jambawo
<b>Ministers</b>	Rev. Sarah Ramsden Rev. Martin Ramsden Rev. Rachel Williams
<b>Circuit Stewards</b>	Mrs. Margaret Walton (property) Mr. Mark Hall Mr. Leslie Gilburt Mr. Paul Toplis Mrs. Caroline Noble – appointed September 2023
<b>Circuit Treasurer</b>	Mr. John Moore
<b>Supernumerary Minister</b>	Rev. John Howard-Norman – retired December 2023
<b>Secretary of the Circuit Meeting</b>	Mrs June Howard-Norman
<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 – retired August 2023 Mr. David Parkin – retired August 2023 Mrs. Delysia Parkin – retired August 2023 Mrs. Valerie Wootton – retired August 2023
<b>Lay Property Secretary</b>	Position currently vacant
<b>Lay Mission Support Group Secretary</b>	Mrs. Kathleen Mee – died August 2024 (this role has been removed)
<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>	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 £
<b>Income</b>						
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
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total Income</b>		219,868	164,377	6,473	390,718	308,652
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Expenditure</b>						
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	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total Charitable Expenditure</b>		246,491	45,342	2,045	293,878	230,495
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net Income/Expenditure</b>		(26,623)	119,035	4,428	96,840	78,157
Transfers between funds	17	9,498	(4,800)	(4,698)	-	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>		(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
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total Funds Carried Forward</b>	17	1,436,503	138,138	91,826	1,666,467	1,569,627
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

## 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		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
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total Income</b>		300,054	822	7,776	308,652	234,706
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<b>Expenditure</b>						
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
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total Charitable Expenditure</b>		225,647	784	4,064	230,495	219,336
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure)</b>		74,407	38	3,712	78,157	15,370
Transfers between funds		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>		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 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>						
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>
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>		1,192,261 =====	- ===	90,000 =====	1,282,261 =====	1,282,261 =====
<b>Current Assets</b>						
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>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		296,946 -----	138,138 -----	1,826 -----	436,910 -----	337,327 -----
<b>Current Liabilities</b>						
Creditors: due in less than one year	16	52,704	-	-	52,704	49,961
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		52,704 -----	- -----	- -----	52,704 -----	49,961 -----
<b>Net Current Assets/Liabilities</b>		244,242 -----	138,138 -----	1,826 -----	384,206 -----	287,366 -----
<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>		1,436,503 =====	138,138 =====	91,826 =====	1,666,467 =====	1,569,627 =====
<b>Net Assets</b>		1,436,503 =====	138,138 =====	91,826 =====	1,666,467 =====	1,569,627 =====
<b>Funds of the Circuit</b>						
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>
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>		1,436,503 -----	138,138 -----	- -----	1,574,641 -----	1,477,531 -----
Restricted funds	17	- ---	- ---	91,826 -----	91,826 -----	92,096 -----
<b>Total Funds</b>	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**

	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Circuit Model Trust Fund</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>2024 Total</b>	<b>2023 Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
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
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	36,674	-	1,775	38,449	29,004
	=====	====	=====	=====	=====

11. **DISTRICT ASSESSMENT AND LEVY**

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

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

This is stated after charging:

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

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 2023	1,192,261	90,000	1,282,261
Additions in year	155,000	-	155,000
Disposals in year	(155,000)	-	(155,000)
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 31 August 2023 and 31 August 2024	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
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
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	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
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	92,096	6,473	2,045	(4,698)	91,826
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
<b>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>	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
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
<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
	=====	=====	=====	==	=====

**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.