

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1140223

Trustees' Report and
Unaudited Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 August 2024
for
ROCHDALE AND LITTLEBOROUGH
METHODIST CIRCUIT

SKS Bailey Group Limited
2 Heap Bridge
Bury
BL9 7HR

ROCHDALE AND LITTLEBOROUGH METHODIST CIRCUIT

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for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

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ROCHDALE AND LITTLEBOROUGH METHODIST CIRCUIT

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2024.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Principal objectives and policies

The purpose of The Methodist Church is as laid down in the 1932 Deed of Union. They are 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 Circuits mission is based upon the Methodist Churches Vision Document "Our Calling" – with 4 themes as follows:

Worship – increasing awareness of God's presence and celebration of God's love.

Learning and Caring – Growing and learning through mutual support and care.

Service – To be a good neighbour and challenge injustice.

Evangelism – Make more followers of Jesus Christ

The Circuit and its churches seek to be a spiritual influence in the community and a visible expression of God's inclusive love. We aim to achieve this by encouraging, through the churches in our Circuit, acts of worship, social, and outreach activities that currently exist, but also to seek new ways to extend to others the fellowship of the Church Family. 3 ministers are currently stationed to the Circuit and together with Local Preachers, worship leaders and retired minister's work with the 11 local Churches to hold regular Acts of Worship. The Circuit produces a quarterly preaching plan to ensure that regular acts of worship take place as required in each of the 9 Methodist Churches and in our 2 Local Ecumenical Partnership Churches. These services are open to all people without charge. The ministers also work with the churches to support outreach and mission into the local communities working mainly with young and older people through youth clubs, lunch clubs, craft clubs, care home visits, school assemblies at various community schools and at our Methodist/Anglican Primary School, where one of our ministers is Chaplain and Governor. The Circuit website is active, and each one of our 11 churches are linked into it.

In their management and governance of the charity the Trustees have had regard to its objects and to the Guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

The Circuit makes grants to Circuit churches of up to 1/3rd of the cost for repairs and maintenance to the property or to support outreach into the community.

Investment policies are as set out in the Model Trust Deeds of the Methodist Church. The circuit does not have programme related investments. All investments are via the Trustees for Methodist Purposes or the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and income is used as prescribed by the investment trusts.

All lay members of the Circuit board of Trustees are volunteers who give their services freely, attending a minimum of 3 circuit meetings together with various subcommittees. An estimate of 400 to 450 hours per annum.

ROCHDALE AND LITTLEBOROUGH METHODIST CIRCUIT
Trustees' Report
for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Circuit Review - Within the Circuit there have been a number of new initiatives to reach out to the community including partnership with a community led group using church premises and investment in paid workers used to co-ordinate community activities and outreach. Preliminary high level discussions have taken place about the church community in the Littleborough area meeting together to consider ways of supporting each other, sharing facilities and ideas.

Numbers of attendees on a Sunday have remained stable with some churches increasing and others slightly decreasing. The Circuit continues in its development of new ways of being church, sustaining the principles of our charity, offering virtual meetings and meeting in person to support diversity, sustaining our community work, with some of our buildings being used for food banks, charity shops and cafes.

Safeguarding - The Circuit continues to follow the Connexional Policy on Safeguarding. Each church has a safeguarding representative and the circuit administrator is the safeguarding officer in the Circuit to ensure the adoption of safe practice amongst children and vulnerable adults. Church representatives will continue to receive training and refresher training.

Ministerial Invitations - There have been no new invitations during the connectional year 2023/24 creating a stable platform for our Ministers to support our churches with ministry and outreach. Local preachers – there have been no changes to the number of local preachers this year.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society. Para 1.20 The three active ministers and the support of Local Preachers has ensured continuity to the Circuit and its churches. Continued training in safeguarding ensures that best practice can be assured in caring for vulnerable people in our congregations and in our mission outreach. Grant giving has enabled churches to take forward their vision for the future by making necessary improvements to their buildings to make them fit for purpose and financial support for paid workers co-ordinating outreach to the local communities has increased our profile in the local area.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves Policy

General Fund:

To hold a maximum of approx. six month's budgeted general fund expenditure costs. 2024/25 budgeted expenditure is £225,112 therefore six months is £112,556.

Circuit Advanced Fund:

In order to support the mission and outreach of the 11 Circuit Churches the Circuit needs the support of three ministers.

- a. It is agreed that any short fall in annual income could be supported by up to 60% of the cost of one minister.
- b. Grants to Churches of up to 1/3 of any application for Minor property works or community outreach projects.
- c. Reserves for any major repair to manses on ministerial exchanges.
- d. District Levies top sliced based on Connexional policy – 2023/24 was £145,894.

In the 2023/24 accounts: -

- a. 79.59% of the Circuits income was provided by the local Churches.
- b. 73.16% of income was spent on ministerial and lay worker pay and related travel and manse costs.
- c. 16.5% of income received represented our contribution to the District, and the wider Methodist Connexion.
- d. The remainder covers costs of local preachers' expenses, grants to Churches and general administration.

ROCHDALE AND LITTLEBOROUGH METHODIST CIRCUIT
Trustees' Report
for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

All investments are under the governance of the Trustees for Methodist purposes and therefore covered by their investment policy.

The principal risks to the charity are declining church attendance and inflationary costs, plus the national shortage of presbyters. These risks are reviewed annually with representatives from the local churches.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Rochdale and Littleborough Methodist Circuit is governed by Circuit of the Methodist Church, Methodist Church Act (1976), Deed of Union (1932) and the Model Trust Deeds of the Methodist Church.

How is the charity constituted: Act of Parliament

Trustee Selection Methods: Appointed by the local Churches and existing trustees. Ministers are automatically trustees.

Churches in the circuit are members of the Churches together Ecumenical partnerships

Range of guidance produced by Methodist connection. Leaflet 'The role of a Trustee in the Methodist Church' available for all trustees.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1140223

Registered office

10 Whitfield Crescent
Newhey
Rochdale
Lancashire
OL16 4NA

Trustees

Adrian Walton Bleackley (appointed on 14/03/2024)
Andrew Hardwick
Anna Malnut
Beryl Tattersall
Catherine Varley
Colin Wass
David Greenwood (appointed on 25/07/2024)
David Kerr
David Wheatley
Diane Hardwick
Dilys Pearson
Glennis Crossley
Graham Booth
Helen Neilsen
Jackie White
Jacqueline Whitaker
Janice Hicks
Janet Bower
Janice Knot
Jean Spencer
Jill Hamnett

ROCHDALE AND LITTLEBOROUGH METHODIST CIRCUIT

Trustees' Report
for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Trustees

Jillian Copley
Joan Burrows
Joan Tattersall
John Carson
John Dafforne (resigned on 12/12/2024)
Joyce Sanger
Ken Peden
Kenneth Griffin
Leonie O'Donoghue
Les Birkett
Margaret Browning (resigned on 02/11/2023)
Mike Bennion
Nancy Frankland
Neil Helliwell
Nichola Helliwell (appointed on 27/07/2024)
Nigel Eves (appointed on 21/07/2024)
Pauline Mackay
Peter Sanger
Rev Carl Howarth (resigned on 12/09/2023)
Rev John Malnut
Rev Marcianne Uwimana
Rev Lawrence Copley
Rev Ruth Jackson
Rosamund Beal (appointed on 05/12/2024)
Ruth Tunnicliffe
Simba Gomwe
Stephanie Peden
Stephen Ashworth
Steven Tunnicliffe
Susan Downing
Sylvia Wild
Vivienne Collinson

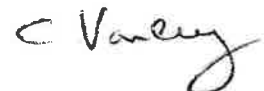
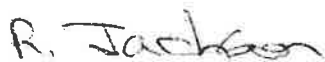
Treasurer

Cath Varley

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 27th February 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Rev Ruth Jackson- Superintendent Minister

Mrs Cath Varley- Treasure



Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
ROCHDALE AND LITTLEBOROUGH METHODIST CIRCUIT

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Rochdale and Littleborough Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31st August 2024 as set out on pages 6 to 7.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

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").

The charity's trustees consider an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the 2011 Act, and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility as independent examiner to:

- ~ examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- ~ follow the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act, and
- ~ to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of Independent Examiners Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the Directions given by the Charity commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items of disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination for the year ended 31st August 2024.

I can confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- ~ accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act or
- ~ the accounts do not accord with the accounting records to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

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.



Mrs J Roach A.C.A
Independent Examiner
SKS Bailey Group Limited
2 Heap Bridge
Bury
BL9 7HR

ROCHDALE AND LITTLEBOROUGH METHODIST CIRCUIT
Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2024 Total Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
RECIEPTS					
Assessment on Churches	181,635	-	-	181,635	171,628
Bank & Trust Interest	4,596	-	-	4,596	2,431
Donations to Circuit Funds	346	-	-	346	280
Rental Income	-	-	-	-	4,500
Other Income	18,599	-	-	18,599	12,159
Investment Income	848	914	15,898	17,660	2,942
Collection for External Organisations	-	-	-	-	492
Income from Sale of Trinity Church	424,734	-	-	424,734	-
Total Receipts	630,758	914	15,898	647,570	194,432
PAYMENTS					
Ministers Salaries/NI/Pensions	123,107	-	-	123,107	114,300
Ministers Travel Expenses	2,802	-	-	2,802	3,356
Ministers Office Expenses	2,082	-	-	2,082	3,573
Lay Worker Salaries & Expenses	11,003	-	-	11,003	9,424
Manses Repairs & Maintenance	16,003	-	-	16,003	15,257
Manses Council Tax, Water & Insurance	11,963	-	-	11,963	15,174
Property Inspections	5,220	-	-	5,220	3,912
Circuit Admin Costs	3,504	-	-	3,504	5,503
Visiting Preachers Allowance	675	-	-	675	615
District Assessment	37,668	-	-	37,668	35,704
Sundry Donations	966	-	-	966	300
Collections to External Organisations	-	-	-	-	492
Accountancy Fee	1,920	-	-	1,920	1,800
Investment Charges	10,004	502	803	11,309	1,438
CMTF Charges	145,894	-	-	145,894	100,818
Closing Churches Expenses	8,509	-	-	8,509	5,444
Grants to Churches	1,555	-	-	1,555	2,523
New Loans to Churches	-	-	-	-	3,880
Professional Fee	-	-	-	-	4,956
Total Payments	382,875	502	803	384,180	328,468
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	247,883	412	15,095	263,390	(134,036)
Other recognised/ unrecognised gains/ (losses)					
Unrealised gains/(losses) on revaluation of manses	50,000	-	-	50,000	-
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investment assets	-	461	1,780	2,241	(1,246)
Realised Gains / (losses) on sale of manses	-	-	-	-	7,000
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	297,883	873	16,875	315,631	(128,282)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward	1,386,560	17,505	27,780	1,431,845	1,560,127
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	1,684,443	18,378	44,655	1,747,476	1,431,845

CONTINUING OPERATIONS

All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities.

ROCHDALE AND LITTLEBOROUGH METHODIST CIRCUIT

Balance Sheet
31 August 2024

	Notes	2024 Total Funds	2023 Total Funds
FIXED ASSETS			
Premises	5	1,130,000	1,080,000
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	7	10,397	10,079
Short Term Investments	6	541,789	280,912
Cash at bank and in hand		99,560	86,854
		<u>651,746</u>	<u>377,845</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors	8	(34,270)	(26,000)
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>617,476</u>	<u>351,845</u>
NET ASSETS		<u><u>1,747,476</u></u>	<u><u>1,431,845</u></u>
FUNDS	9		
Unrestricted funds		1,684,443	1,386,560
Restricted funds		18,378	17,505
Endowment funds		44,655	27,780
TOTAL FUNDS		<u><u>1,747,476</u></u>	<u><u>1,431,845</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on the 27th February 2025 and signed on their behalf:

Rev Ruth Jackson- Superintendent Minister

Mrs Cath Varley- Treasure

R. Jackson

C. Varley

ROCHDALE AND LITTLEBOROUGH METHODIST CIRCUIT
Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "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 (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements 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 the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

INCOMING RESOURCES

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income. It is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

RESOURCES EXPENDED

All expenses are allocated or apportioned to applicable expenditure headings.

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount for the obligation can be measured reliably.

PREMISES

Market value of premises, along with any realised gains/(losses), are shown at year end.

INVESTMENTS

Unlisted equity investments are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently measured at fair value. If fair value cannot be reliably measured, assets are measured at cost less impairment.

Listed investments are measured at fair value with changes in fair value being recognised in income or expenditure.

Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and, therefore, is not liable for Income Tax or Corporation Tax on income derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Cash flow statement

The charitable incorporated organisation qualifies as a small charity and advantage has been taken of the exemption provided by SORP (FRS 102) as amended by Bulletin 2, not to prepare a cash flow statement.

ROCHDALE AND LITTLEBOROUGH METHODIST CIRCUIT
Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

Volunteers and donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time is not recognised and refers to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt. No such donations were received during the year.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due. Accrued income and tax recoverable is included at the best estimate of the amounts receivable at the balance sheet date.

Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

2. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 August 2024 nor for the year ended 31 August 2023.

TRUSTEES' EXPENSES

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 August 2024 nor for the year ended 31 August 2023.

3. STAFF COSTS

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

4. INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION FEES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Fees payable to the independent examiner for:		
Independent examination of the financial statements	<u>1,920</u>	<u>1,800</u>

ROCHDALE AND LITTLEBOROUGH METHODIST CIRCUIT
Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	2024 £	2023 £
Market value at 1st September 2023	1,080,000	1,390,000
Disposal	-	(310,000)
Realised gain/(loss) in revaluation of manse	50,000	-
Market value at 31st August 2024	<u><u>1,130,000</u></u>	<u><u>1,080,000</u></u>

6. INVESTMENTS

	Cash or cash equivalents £	Listed investments £	Total 2024 £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 September 2023	236,591	44,321	280,912
Additions	424,734	-	424,734
Disposals	(172,449)	-	(172,449)
Fair value movements	5,894	2,698	8,592
At 31 August 2024	<u><u>494,770</u></u>	<u><u>47,019</u></u>	<u><u>541,789</u></u>
Impairment			
At 1 September 2023 and 31 August 2024	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>
Carrying amount			
At 31 August 2024	<u><u>494,770</u></u>	<u><u>47,019</u></u>	<u><u>541,789</u></u>
At 31 August 2023	<u><u>236,591</u></u>	<u><u>44,321</u></u>	<u><u>280,912</u></u>

7. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024 £	2023 £
Debtors	<u><u>10,397</u></u>	<u><u>10,079</u></u>

8. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024 £	2023 £
Accruals and Deferred Income	<u><u>34,270</u></u>	<u><u>26,000</u></u>

ROCHDALE AND LITTLEBOROUGH METHODIST CIRCUIT
Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 01.09.2023	Net movements in funds	At 31.08.2024
	£	£	£
Unrestricted fund	1,386,560	297,883	1,684,443
Restricted fund	17,505	873	18,378
Endowment fund	27,780	16,875	44,655
TOTAL FUNDS	1,431,845	315,631	1,747,476

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	Movement in funds
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted fund	630,758	(382,875)	50,000	297,883
Restricted fund	914	(502)	461	873
Endowment fund	15,898	(803)	1,780	16,875
TOTAL FUNDS	647,570	(384,180)	52,241	315,631

Comparatives for movement in funds	At 01.09.2022	Net movements in funds	At 31.08.2023
	£	£	£
Unrestricted fund	1,514,832	(128,272)	1,386,560
Restricted fund	17,252	253	17,505
Endowment fund	28,043	(263)	27,780
TOTAL FUNDS	1,560,127	(128,282)	1,431,845

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	Movement in funds
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted fund	193,068	(328,340)	7,000	(128,272)
Restricted fund	527	(48)	(226)	253
Endowment fund	837	(80)	(1,021)	(263)
TOTAL FUNDS	194,432	(328,468)	5,754	(128,282)