

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS**

North West Durham	Circuit
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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2023**

District	Circuit no	20/22
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1140258

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

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

Ministers:

Rev Stuart Earl
Rev Anne Jeffrey

Circuit Stewards:

See Appendix A of the Trustees Report

Treasurer:

Colin Carroll

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Accruals accounts for the year to 31 August 2023 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit meeting.

Signature of treasurer *G. Carroll* Date *17th April 2024*

Name and address of treasurer *MR. G. CARROLL*

10 THE AVENUE, CONSETT, CO. DURHAM Post Code *DH8 6AB*

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 ~~were~~ will be*
presented to the Circuit meeting held on *6/6/24*

Signature of the Chair of the meeting *Stuart Earl*

Name of the Chair of the meeting *STUART EARL* Date *18/4/24*

North West Durham Circuit

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of North West Durham Circuit

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st August 2023 which are set out on pages 4 to 15.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

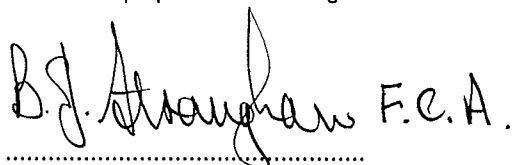
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

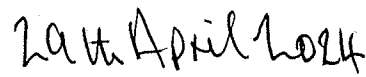
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

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 applicable requirements concerning the form and content of 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 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.


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B J Straughan
B J Straughan and Co
Chartered Accountants


.....

Date

Epworth House
7 Lucy Street
Chester le Street
County Durham
DH3 3UP

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022-2023 £
Income							
1 Donations and legacies	4	-	-	-	667	-	667
2 Income from monetary investments	7	7,282	12,484	-	119	-	19,885
3 Income from investment properties	5	8,208	-	-	-	-	8,208
4 Assessments on Churches		140,676	-	-	-	-	140,676
5 Capital Receipts		-	-	-	-	-	-
6 Grants received		-	-	-	13,180	-	13,180
7 Other charitable income	6	5,008	-	-	-	-	5,008
8 Total Income		161,174	12,484	-	13,966	-	187,624
Expenditure							
9 Grants and donations	17	3,000	-	21,000	-	-	24,000
10 Salaries and associated costs	10	87,397	-	-	47,396	-	134,793
11 Property maintenance	12 to 14	17,252	44,050	-	-	-	61,302
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy		-	19,094	-	-	-	19,094
13 District Assessment & Levy		38,102	15,936	-	-	-	54,038
14 Depreciation		-	-	-	-	-	-
15 Office expenses	11	5,923	-	-	-	-	5,923
16 Other outgoings	16	10,087	938	-	8,609	-	19,634
17 Total charitable expenditure		161,761	80,018	21,000	56,005	-	318,784
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		-	(112)	-	-	-	112
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties		-	1,292	-	-	-	1,292
20 Net income/(expenditure)		(587)	(66,354)	(21,000)	(42,039)	0	(129,980)
21 Transfers between funds		(119,757)	141,455	(44,648)	22,950	-	0
22 Other gains/(losses)		-	-	-	-	-	-
23 Net movement in funds		(120,344)	75,101	(65,648)	(19,089)	0	(129,980)
24 Total funds brought forward		689,696	329,150	95,648	47,501	-	1,161,995
25 Total funds carried forward		569,352	404,251	30,000	28,412	-	1,032,015

For Information only Money received and passed on to External Organisations

Balance brought Forward from 2021-22	-
Offerings/Gifts - received for External Organisations	874
Offerings/Gifts - paid to External Organisations	874
Balance carried forward	-

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2022

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2021-2022
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
1 Donations and legacies	4	20,000	-	-	-	-	20,000
2 Income from monetary investments	7	904	1,613	-	17	-	2,534
3 Income from investment properties	5	8,423	-	-	-	-	8,423
4 Assessments on Churches		136,825	-	-	-	-	136,825
5 Capital Receipts		-	-	-	-	-	-
6 Grants received		-	-	-	18,422	-	18,422
7 Other charitable income	6	384	-	-	-	-	384
8 Total income		166,536	1,613	-	18,439	-	186,588
Expenditure							
9 Grants and donations	17	11,367	-	-	422	-	11,789
10 Salaries and associated costs	10	83,138	-	-	28,862	-	112,000
11 Property maintenance	12 to 14	19,790	-	-	-	-	19,790
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy		-	-	-	-	-	-
13 District Assessment & Levy		41,696	19,108	-	-	-	60,804
14 Depreciation		-	-	-	-	-	-
15 Office expenses	11	5,135	-	-	1,106	-	6,241
16 Other outgoings	16	7,320	1,058	-	11	-	8,389
17 Total charitable expenditure		168,446	20,166	-	30,401	-	219,013
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		-	177	-	-	-	177
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties		221,109	-	-	-	-	221,109
20 Net income/(expenditure)		219,199	(18,730)	0	(11,962)	0	188,507
21 Transfers between funds		1,559	(23,559)	0	22,000	-	-
22 Other gains/(losses)		-	-	-	-	-	-
23 Net movement in funds		220,758	(42,289)	0	10,038	0	188,507
24 Total funds brought forward		468,938	371,439	95,648	37,461	-	973,486
25 Total funds carried forward		689,696	329,150	95,648	47,499	-	1,161,993

For Information only Money received and passed on to External Organisations

Balance brought Forward from 2021-22	-
Offerings/Gifts - received for External Organisations	211
Offerings/Gifts - paid to External Organisations	211
Balance carried forward	-

Name of Circuit

North West Durham Circuit

Circuit No 022

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023

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Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2022/23	Totals 2021/22
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£

Fixed Assets

Circuit Manses & Equipment	15	158,457				158,457	158,457	R
Investment properties	15	215,000				215,000	420,000	R
Investments						0	0	
Total fixed assets		373,457	0	0	0	373,457	578,457	

Current Assets

Debtors	19	7,978				7,978	7,721	S
Loans by the Circuit						0	0	
Investments with TMCP	18		404,251		3,831	408,082	332,871	
Central Finance Board Deposits		170,319		30,000	24,581	224,900	227,155	T
Cash at Bank and in hand	19	44,062				44,062	39,450	
Total current assets		222,359	404,251	30,000	28,412	685,022	607,197	

Current liabilities

Creditors (due in under 1 year)	20	26,464				26,464	23,661	U
						0	0	V
Total current liabilities		26,464	0	0	0	26,464	23,661	
Net current assets/liabilities		195,895	404,251	30,000	28,412	658,558	583,536	

Total assets less current liabilities		569,352	404,251	30,000	28,412	0	1,032,015	1,161,993
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Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)									
Grants payable after 2018-19							0		0
Loans to the Circuit							0		0
							0		0
Net assets		569,352	404,251	30,000	28,412	0	1,032,015		1,161,993

Funds of the Circuit

General Fund (Unrestricted)		569,352				569,352	689,696	
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			404,251			404,251	329,150	W
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)				30,000		30,000	95,648	
Total Unrestricted Funds						1,003,603	1,114,494	
Restricted Funds					28,412	28,412	47,499	
Endowment Funds						0	0	
Total Funds		569,352	404,251	30,000	28,412	0	1,032,015	1,161,993

Circuit Treasurer


 17th April 2024

North West Durham Circuit

Notes to the accounts

1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2014 version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 - the Charities SORP (FRS102) - and reflecting the content of Update Bulletin 1 issued in 2016.

2 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 are held for a narrower purpose. There were also Endowment funds in 2019 as listed. Details of each material fund are disclosed in the final note to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by different classes of assets less liabilities.

3 Accounting policies

Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost (except that investments are shown at their market value at the end of the year), using the accruals basis in order to show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

Income Recognition

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

Resources Expended

Expenditure 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.

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. When the grant is to recur over more than one year the balance payable in future years is treated as a provision for future commitments in the Balance Sheet against the appropriate fund, the provision being released in future years as instalments are paid in accordance with the originally agreed terms.

VAT

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

North West Durham Circuit

Notes to the accounts

Accounting policies continued

Properties

The manses used for the activities of the circuit are shown in the accounts at their cost; the land value is deemed to be 25% of the total cost. The White le Head manse is shown separately as an investment property and is revalued annually by the Trustees as this manse is currently let. No depreciation is provided on buildings because the trustees consider the current residual fair value of the manse buildings to be not less than their cost; any depreciation would not be material. The properties have been reviewed for impairment.

Investments

Investments are valued in the balance sheet at market value at the year end. Investment income is included in the accounts when receivable and any gains or losses on revaluation at the year end are shown in the SOFA.

Debtors and Prepayments

Debtors relate to the payment of the September stipend in August, together with sundry items due to be received at the year end.

Creditors

Creditors include both sundry expenses and specifically the 1st quarter assessment received in August.

North West Durham Circuit

4. Donations and legacies

Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	Endowment	2022-23 Total	2021-22 Total
£	£	£	£	£	£
0	-	667	-	667	20,000

Donations and gifts

5. Income from investment properties

Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	Endowment	2022-23 Total	2021-22 Total
£	£	£	£	£	£
8,208	-	-	-	8,208	8,423

Lettings

6. Other charitable income

Reimbursed phone use	-	-	-	-	-
Other purchases reimbursed	30	-	-	30	-
Photocopying	27	-	-	27	-
Circuit choir	175	-	-	175	-
Energy refund	178	-	-	178	-
Other receipts	4,598	-	-	4,598	384
Corona Virus Job Retention Scheme	-	-	-	-	-
Total	5,008	-	-	5,008	384

7. Income from monetary investments

Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	Endowment	2022-23 Total	2021-22 Total
£	£	£	£	£	£
7,282	12,407	119	-	19,808	2,466
-	77	-	-	77	68
-	-	-	-	-	-
7,282	12,484	119	-	19,885	2,534

Interest

Dividend

Other

Total

North West Durham Circuit

8. Payment to Trustees

Payments made to trustees for additional services provided to the Circuit by agreement with the Circuit Meeting

Number of trustees who were paid expenses

	2023	2022
£	£	
	nil	nil
	nil	nil

9. Fees for examination or audit of the accounts (included in other outgoings)

Independent examiner's or auditors fees for reporting on the accounts

1,044	720
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10. Paid employees

Staff Costs paid during the year were:

Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind

108,367	88,712
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Employer's National Insurance costs

8,851	7,346
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Pension costs

17,575	15,942
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Total staff costs

134,793	112,000
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Average number of staff employed during the year

4.5	3.5
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North West Durham Circuit

11. Ministers expenses						
Unrestricted	Circuit Model	Restricted	Endowment	2022-23	2021-22	
£	Trust Fund	£	£	Total	Total	£
Minister's Tel & Broadband	-	-	-	1,474	2,381	
Minister's mileage	-	-	-	2,299	2,421	
Minister's parking	8	-	-	8	14	
Resources etc	334	-	-	334	305	
Training	-	-	-	-	160	
Preaching appointments	235	-	-	235	-	
Local Preacher transport	1,531	-	-	1,531	947	
Postage	38	-	-	38	8	
3 Generate	-	-	-	-	-	
Other	4	-	-	4	5	
Total	-	0	-	5,923	6,241	

12. Insurance & Utilities						
Unrestricted	Circuit Model	Restricted	Endowment	2022-23	2021-22	
£	Trust Fund	£	£	Total	Total	£
Water rates	-	-	-	1,796	1,739	
Insurance	-	-	-	1,958	1,952	
Council tax	3,592	-	-	3,592	4,786	
Utilities	0	-	-	0	876	
Total	-	-	-	7,346	9,353	

13. Manse Maintenance						
Unrestricted	Circuit Model	Restricted	Endowment	2022-23	2021-22	
£	Trust Fund	£	£	Total	Total	£
Blackhill Manse	-	-	-	686	2,665	
Leadgate Manse	-	-	-	1,248	3,169	
Lanchester Manse	233	-	-	233	629	
White le Head Manse	2,101	-	-	2,101	1,229	
Total	0	0	0	4,268	7,692	

14. Expenditure on other circuit property						
Unrestricted	Circuit Model	Restricted	Endowment	2022-23	2021-22	
£	Trust Fund	£	£	Total	Total	£
Quinquennials	-	-	-	2,820	1,980	
Sale of blackhill manse costs	-	-	-	-715	715	
Sale of Burnhope chapel costs	3,533	-	-	3,533	50	
Methodist levy on property sales	-	44,050	-	44,050	-	
Refund of grant	-	-	-	-	-	
Total	44,050	0	0	49,688	2,745	

15 Tangible Fixed Assets

The Circuit holds 4 manse, three of which are currently occupied by staff, whilst the fourth is let on a temporary basis pending decisions about future clergy numbers and deployment.

Cost or valuation	Manse properties	Unused properties	Investment property	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Payments on account assets - under construction	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance brought forward	158,457	-	420,000	-	-	578,457
Additions						-
Revaluations (+/-)						-
Disposals (-)	-	-	205,000	-	-	205,000
Transfers* (+/-)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance carried forward	158,457	-	215,000	-	-	373,457
Accumulated depreciation						
	SL See note 3 £	SL See note 3 £	SL or RB See note 3 £	SL or RB See note 3 £	See note 3 £	£
Balance brought forward	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation charge for year (-)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluations (+/-)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals (-)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers* (+/-)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance carried forward	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net book value						
Brought forward	158,457	-	420,000	-	-	578,457
Carried forward	158,457	-	215,000	-	-	373,457

* The "transfers" row is for movements between fixed asset categories.

North West Durham Circuit

16. Other expenditure	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2022-23		2021-22	
						£	£	Total	Total
Lay employee Telephone and boardband	-	-	-	1,046	-	-	1,046	-	-
Lay employee Mileage	-	-	-	657	-	-	657	-	-
Contribution to home costs	-	-	-	500	-	-	500	-	-
Lay employee stationary	-	-	-	251	-	-	251	-	-
Lay employee parking	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Lay employee training	-	-	-	140	-	-	140	-	-
Lay employee Resources	-	-	-	176	-	-	176	-	-
3 Generate	-	-	-	4,130	-	-	4,130	-	-
Initiatives	-	-	-	1,003	-	-	1,003	-	-
Sundry	-	-	-	28	-	-	28	-	-
Office broadband	618	-	-	-	-	-	618	-	555
Office training	188	-	-	-	-	-	188	-	-
Office Stationery	549	-	-	-	-	-	549	-	533
Office Rent (Leadgate)	700	-	-	-	-	-	700	-	400
Office Photocopying	2,567	-	-	-	-	-	2,567	-	1,280
Office postage	90	-	-	-	-	-	90	-	133
Sundry Office costs	666	-	-	-	-	-	666	-	95
Charge for Payroll	480	-	-	-	-	-	480	-	480
Apprentice Levy	542	-	-	-	-	-	542	-	454
P11D	12	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-
Website cost	243	-	-	-	-	-	243	-	243
Office equipment	215	-	-	-	-	-	215	-	-
Resources	6	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	308
Ministerial relocation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,158
Gifts	99	-	-	667	-	-	766	-	-
Circuit Choir	557	-	-	-	-	-	557	-	-
Expenses Claimed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	125
Bank Charges	67	-	-	-	-	-	67	-	97
Mission disbursements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Circuit office holders expenses	482	-	-	-	-	-	482	-	-
Tenant management fee	780	-	-	-	-	-	780	-	739
Alpha Course	182	-	-	-	-	-	182	-	-
Independent Examiners fees	1,044	-	-	-	-	-	1,044	-	720
TMCP Fees	-	938	-	10	-	-	948	-	1,069
Total	10,087	938	-	8,609	-	-	19,634	-	8,389

(note 9)

17. Grants and donations	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2022-23		2021-22	
						£	£	Total	Total
Mission disbursements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	422
Grants	3,000	-	21,000	-	-	-	24,000	-	11,367
Total	3,000	-	21,000	-	-	-	24,000	-	11,789

North West Durham Circuit

18. Investments

The majority of funds that support the Circuit Model Trust, are held by Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) in the 'Trustees Interest Funds' on which interest is credited to the accounts each month. These are effectively deposit accounts, and are treated as current assets.

Within the TMCP Funds the Circuit also holds relatively small amounts in a managed fund, the 'Managed Mixed Fund'.

The investment movements of these funds are recorded below as "common investment funds".

TMCP is the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds. Trust property is held for and on behalf of local Managing Trustees who are responsible for the day to day management of trust property. TMCP ensure that, through providing guidance and acting under their direction, the Managing Trustees comply with charity law and Methodist law and polity as determined by the Methodist Conference.

Investments

	2022-23	2021-22
Investments held in common investment funds - CFB Managed Mixed Fund	2,514	2,626
Trustees Interest Fund	401,737	326,524
Trustees Interest Fund (Lucy Prynne)	3,831	3,721
	<u>408,082</u>	<u>332,871</u>

Analysis of investment movements CFB Managed Mixed Fund

Carrying (market) value at beginning of year	2,626	2,802
Add: additions to investments at cost	-	-
Less: disposals at carrying value	-	-
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation	-	112
Carrying (market) value at end of year	<u>2,514</u>	<u>2,626</u>
Total		

North West Durham Circuit

19. Analysis of current assets

	2022-23 £	2021-22 £
<u>a. Debtors and prepayments</u>		
Stipends Pre-paid	3,576	6,424
Accrued income	-	-
Other debtors	4,402	1,297
Total debtors and prepayments	<u>7,978</u>	<u>7,721</u>

b. Cash and bank balances

CAF Bank	44,028	39,397
Office cash & cheques awaiting paying in	-	-
Petty cash	34	53
Total Cash and Bank	<u>44,062</u>	<u>39,450</u>

20. Analysis of current liabilities and longterm creditors

	2022-23	2021-22
Assessments in advance	21,842	21,256
Other Creditors	4,622	2,405
Total Current Liabilities	<u>26,464</u>	<u>23,661</u>

21. Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

At 31st August 2022 the Circuit has no capital commitments

No Contingent liabilities were identified at 31st August 2022.

22. Restricted Funds

	Opening balance	Incoming resources	Resources Expended	Transfer from general Funds	Closing Balance
Children's Young People and Families Lay worker Fund	34,020	13,180	33,362	5,950	19,788
Street Friends	5,089	-	-		5,089
Community engagement enabler	4,670		21,966	17,000 -	296
Mission disbursements	-	667	667	-	-
Lucy Prynne Bequest (Catchgate Church)	3,722	119	10	-	3,831
	<u>47,501</u>	<u>13,966</u>	<u>56,005</u>	<u>22,950</u>	<u>28,412</u>

North West Durham Circuit
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Introduction

Welcome to the report of the North West Durham Methodist Circuit, the umbrella body for the Methodist churches within the immediate area, led by representatives of those churches to work with them in their work of spreading the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Aims and organisation

The circuit is constituted to advance the effective deployment of the resources of ministry, which include people, property and finance as they relate to the Methodist churches in North West Durham, and to participate in the life of the communities served by the circuit.

Review of the year

Amidst the challenges that have continued to face all communities during the year, the churches of the North West Durham Methodist Circuit have continued to serve their communities, both by proclaiming the Gospel and loving the communities in which they live.

The circuit has continued to work at developing its vision for its future direction and structure.

A fund of £30,000 over 3 years has been set up to assist churches in the development of their Growth Strategies.

The Children, Young People and Families Worker has continued to develop and build upon links with local schools and communities; broadened the work with children, young people and families in church; and encouraged the opportunity for young people to meet at a national level.

The Community Engagement Enabler commenced appointment in July 2022. Throughout the year developing links with the local church, community groups and the local community itself to explore opportunities within the area: and working alongside the Newcastle District of the Methodist Church to explore New Places for New People.

The sale of Blackhill Manse and Burnhope Methodist Chapel were concluded during the financial year.

Income and asset trends

The General Fund (Unrestricted) comprises accounts held at Cash, CAF Bank and The Central Finance Board.

The Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) is held by and investments made via The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

The Designated Fund (Unrestricted) comprise accounts held at The Central Finance Board.

Children, Young People and Families' Worker (Restricted), and Street Friends (Restricted), comprise accounts held at CAF Bank and The Central Finance Board: Lucy Prynne (Restricted) is held by The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment, £140,676, paid by the circuit churches.

Other significant items of income are interest received £7,282; Investment Income £8,208.

Within Restricted Funds, the Children, Young People and Families' Worker includes £10,000 grant from the Newcastle District.

The total assets of the circuit have increased.

Expenditure trends

Stipend expenditure has increased in line with Conference approved increases.

Other significant items of expenditure on the General Fund include the Circuit Assessment to the District of £38,102.

Within Restricted Funds the main expenditure includes Children, Young People and Families' Worker salaries and associated costs of £26,604 and Community Engagement Enabler of £20,792.

Within the Model Trust Fund, income includes the Sale of Blackhill Manse £153,960 and Burnhope Chapel £52,333. Expenditure includes payment of Property Levy on the two sales of £37,584 and £6,467 respectively; a levy to the District Advance Fund, based on the balance in the Model Trust Fund, of £15,936; and a CPF Levy Repayment of £19,094.

Fund balances

At 31st August 2023 the total funds carried forward are £658,558, (net of Circuit Manses & Equipment and Investments). The funds comprise General Fund £195,895; designated Fund Church Growth £30,000; Restricted Funds Children, Young People & Families Worker £19,788, Community Engagement Enabler £296, Street Friends £5,089; Model Trust Fund £404,251 and Lucy Prynne Permanent Endowment Fund £3,831.

Plans for 2023-24

Circuit financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that there are 1.79 equivalent full time ordained staff; 1 Children, Young People and Families' Worker full time; 1 Community Engagement Enabler part time; and 1 Administrative Staff part time; with anticipated cost of living stipend/salary increases combined with an increase in the assessment paid to the district.

Churches will be encouraged to seek assistance from the Growth Strategy Fund (£30,000 over 3 years) to encourage continued growth in their local community.

The Circuit will seek to approve an extension to the term of contract for the Children, Young People and Families' Worker.

The Children, Young People and Families' Worker and Community Engagement Enabler will continue to build upon the work with the local churches, schools and community groups.

Trustees' Annual Report on Finance and Governance

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2014 version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 - the Charities SORP (FRS102) and taking note of the Update Bulletin 1 issued in 2016.

Full Name of Charity: North West Durham Methodist Circuit Registration Charity Number: 1140258

Date of registration: February 7 2011

Main communication address (Circuit office)
Leadgate Methodist Church
Tyne Avenue
Consett
DH8 6EL

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

Full membership is shown as Appendix A to this report.

Circuit Ministers and officers

Active Circuit Ministers: Rev S Earl
 Rev A Jeffrey

Children, Young People and Families' Worker: Mrs Kath Jones

Community Engagement Enabler: Mr Clive Gray

Circuit Stewards 2021/22: Mrs Sylvia King
 Mr Edward Spears
 Mrs Jean Carr
 Mr Kenneth Thynne
 Mrs Pamela Murphy
 Mr Colin Carroll

Administrator: Mrs J Littlefair

Mr C Carroll acted as the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the circuit during the year.

Independent examiner: B J Straughan & Co
Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors
Epworth House
7 Lucy Street
Chester le Street
Co Durham
DH3 3UP

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

Aims and organisation

Our charity objective is to act as a resource provider for the Methodist Church within the area of North West Durham.

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 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.

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).

Day to day management of the circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team along with the Local Preachers' meeting.

Trustee Training

A range of guidance 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

The Circuit is part of the Newcastle District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference. The following Methodist Churches are linked to the circuit:

Annfield Plain Central Methodist Church
Blackhill and Shotley Bridge Uniting Methodist Church
Consett Methodist Church
Delves Lane Methodist Church
The Grove Methodist Church
Lanchester Methodist Church
Leadgate Methodist Church
Medomsley Methodist Church
South Moor United Methodist Church
White le Head Methodist Church

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Leadership Team with professional advice taken as required.

Regular review is undertaken and minuted.

Income and Expenditure is being monitored in total and is compared with the approved annual budget on a monthly 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 re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults
- safeguarding and protecting all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- establishing 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 safeguarding concern which suggests that a child, young person or adult may have been harmed, working in partnership 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.

- Working with the District Safeguarding Officer, we will support risk assessment of those who present a safeguarding risk within a church environment. We will ensure appropriate pastoral care is offered and measures are taken to address identified risks including referral to statutory agencies, suspension and the use of safeguarding contracts. We will recognise and apply the restrictions to appointment laid down in Standing Order 010 of the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church.
- In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

The North West Durham Methodist Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches. The North West Durham 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.

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy for the Circuit is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to six months' average expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on manses and/or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full Circuit Assessment from churches.

Capital receipts have resulted in the circuit holding capital reserves in excess of those it intends to hold. The circuit continues to develop policy in relation to the use of this money in relation to its circuit vision.

Appendix A

Managing Trustees as at 31st August 2023

Mr David Arbon
Mrs Janet Arbon
Mr David Armstrong
Mr David Charles Beck
Mrs Margaret Beck
Mrs Isabell Boon
Mrs Joyce Brown
Mr Harry Carr
Mrs Jean Carr
Mr William Carr
Mr Colin Carroll
Mrs Eileen Elaine Chambers
Rev Stuart Earl
Mr Melvin Elliott
Mrs Sonia Filmer
Mrs Meg Gilks
Mrs Hazel Sylvia Graham
Mr Clive Gray
Mrs Margaret Hall
Mrs Wendy Harrison
Mrs Angela Hird
Mr Andrew Howe
Mrs Jill Hurst
Rev Anne Jeffrey
Mrs Elizabeth Jane Jobburns
Mrs Kath Jones
Mrs Sylvia King

Mr George King
Mr Paul Knowles
Mr Trevor McAdoo
Mr Ivan Metcalfe
Mrs Pamela May Murphy
Mrs Susan Newton
Mrs Gail Philipson
Mr Paul Pine
Mrs Maureen Heather Pinkney
Mrs Janet Quinlan
Mrs Heather Reilly
Mrs Joyce Ridley
Mrs Janice Elizabeth Rutherford
Mrs Christine Slatcher
Mrs Beryl Spears
Mr Edward Spears
Mr Owen Leighton Temple
Mrs Nora Thompson
Mr Kenneth Thynne
Mrs Diane Lesley Tute
Mrs Brenda Elisabeth Walker
Mr Ivan Wilson
Mrs Lynn Whitehead