

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

North West Durham	Circuit
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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2025**

Newcastle	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**

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(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 David Lees
Rev Jenny Gill (P/T)

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 2025 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 *S. Carroll* Date *7/1/26*

Name and address of treasurer *GOLIO CARROLL*

..... *10 THE AVENUE, GOSSETT, CO. DURHAM* Post Code *DH8 6QR*

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 were/will be* presented to the Circuit meeting held on

Signature of the Chair of the meeting *Stuart Earl*

Name of the Chair of the meeting *STUART EARL* Date *07/01/26*

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 2025 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.



B J Straughan
B J Straughan and Co
Chartered Accountants



Date

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

Name of Circuit

North West Durham Circuit

Circuit No

022

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2025

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024-2025 £
Income							
1 Donations and legacies	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 Income from monetary investments	7	10,052.54	11,683.95	-	192.07	-	21,928.56
3 Income from investment properties	5	8,917.55	-	-	-	-	8,917.55
4 Assessments on Churches		152,598.80	-	-	-	-	152,598.80
5 Capital Receipts		-	-	-	-	-	-
6 Grants received		33,830.27	-	-	18,545.27	-	52,375.54
7 Other charitable income	6	16,957.21	-	-	-	-	16,957.21
8 Total income		222,356.37	11,683.95	-	18,737.34	-	252,777.66
Expenditure							
9 Grants and donations	17	10,380.00	103,700.00	2,000.00	-	-	116,080.00
10 Salaries and associated costs	10	94,771.61	-	-	56,192.92	-	150,964.53
11 Property maintenance	12 to 14	16,830.48	-	-	-	-	16,830.48
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy		-	-	-	-	-	-
13 District Assessment & Levy		44,972.00	18,315.74	-	-	-	63,287.74
14 Depreciation		-	-	-	-	-	-
15 Ministers expenses etc	11	7,922.10	-	-	-	-	7,922.10
16 Other outgoings	16	8,679.00	1,172.85	-	7,080.78	-	16,932.63
17 Total charitable expenditure		183,555.19	123,188.59	2,000.00	63,273.70	-	372,017.48
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		0.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20 Net income/(expenditure)		38,801.18	(111,499.64)	(2,000.00)	(44,536.36)	0.00	(119,234.82)
21 Transfers between funds		5,211.10	(45,511.10)	-	40,300.00	-	0.00
22 Other gains/(losses)		-	-	-	-	-	-
23 Net movement in funds		44,012.28	(157,010.74)	(2,000.00)	(4,236.36)	0.00	(119,234.82)
24 Total funds brought forward		584,698.21	360,876.55	23,500.00	14,205.77	0.00	983,280.53
25 Total funds carried forward		628,710.49	203,865.81	21,500.00	9,969.41	0.00	864,045.71

For Information only Money received and passed on to External Organisations

Balance brought Forward from 2023-24	-
Offerings/Gifts - received for External Organisations	586
Offerings/Gifts - paid to External Organisations	586
Balance carried forward	-

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2024

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023-2024
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
1 Donations and legacies	4	1,742.40	-	-	-	-	1,742.40
2 Income from monetary investments	7	12,039.42	19,253.22	-	206.95	-	31,499.59
3 Income from investment properties	5	8,419.94	-	-	-	-	8,419.94
4 Assessments on Churches		147,863.00	-	-	-	-	147,863.00
5 Capital Receipts		-	-	-	-	-	-
6 Grants received		-	-	-	18,000.00	-	18,000.00
7 Other charitable income	6	3,097.04	-	-	2,418.00	-	5,515.04
8 Total income		173,161.80	19,253.22	-	20,624.95	-	213,039.97
Expenditure							
9 Grants and donations	17	1,000.00	-	6,500.00	-	-	7,500.00
10 Salaries and associated costs	10	76,344.72	-	-	51,829.68	-	128,174.40
11 Property maintenance	12 to 14	22,401.14	-	-	-	-	22,401.14
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy		-	-	-	-	-	-
13 District Assessment & Levy		41,498.00	21,568.81	-	-	-	63,066.81
14 Depreciation		-	-	-	-	-	-
15 Ministers expenses etc	11	8,554.64	-	-	-	-	8,554.64
16 Other outgoings	16	22,517.24	1,152.12	-	8,601.00	-	32,270.36
17 Total charitable expenditure		172,315.74	22,720.93	6,500.00	60,430.68	-	261,967.35
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		-	194.50	-	-	-	194.50
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties		-	-	-	-	-	-
20 Net income/(expenditure)		846.06	- 3,273.21	- 6,500.00	- 39,805.73	-	48,732.88
21 Transfers between funds		14,501.10	40,101.10	-	25,600.00	-	-
22 Other gains/(losses)		-	-	-	-	-	-
23 Net movement in funds		15,347.16	- 43,374.31	- 6,500.00	- 14,205.73	-	48,732.88
24 Total funds brought forward		569,351.05	404,250.86	30,000.00	28,411.50	-	1,032,013.41
25 Total funds carried forward		584,698.21	360,876.55	23,500.00	14,205.77	-	983,280.53

For Information only Money received and passed on to External Organisations

Balance brought Forward from 2022-23	-
Offerings/Gifts - received for External Organisations	1,484
Offerings/Gifts - paid to External Organisations	1,484
Balance carried forward	-

Name of Circuit

North West Durham Circuit

Circuit No 022

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2025

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Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2024/25	Totals 2023/24
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£

Fixed Assets

Circuit Manses & Equipment	15	158,457.00				158,457.00	158,457.00	R
Investment properties	15	215,000.00				215,000.00	215,000.00	R
Investments						0.00	0.00	
Total fixed assets		373,457.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	373,457.00	373,457.00	

Current Assets

Debtors	19	9,384.82				9,384.82	8,730.57	S
Loans by the Circuit			7,000.00			7,000.00	0.00	
Investments with TMCP	18		196,865.81		4,205.51	201,071.32	364,903.08	
Central Finance Board Deposits		189,707.69		21,500.00	5,763.90	216,971.59	220,533.56	T
Cash at Bank and in hand	19	108,207.86				108,207.86	72,235.30	
Total current assets		307,300.37	203,865.81	21,500.00	9,969.41	542,635.59	666,402.51	

Current liabilities

Creditors (due in under 1 year)	20	52,046.88				52,046.88	56,578.98	U
						0.00	0.00	V
Total current liabilities		52,046.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	52,046.88	56,578.98	
Net current assets/liabilities		255,253.49	203,865.81	21,500.00	9,969.41	490,588.71	609,823.53	


Total assets less current liabilities		628,710.49	203,865.81	21,500.00	9,969.41	0.00	864,045.71	983,280.53
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Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)								
Grants payable after 2018-19						0.00		0.00
Loans to the Circuit						0.00		0.00
						0.00		0.00
Net assets		628,710.49	203,865.81	21,500.00	9,969.41	0.00	864,045.71	983,280.53

Funds of the Circuit

General Fund (Unrestricted)		628,710.49				628,710.49	584,698.21	
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			203,865.81			203,865.81	360,876.55	W
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)				21,500.00		21,500.00	23,500.00	
Total Unrestricted Funds						854,076.30	969,074.76	
Restricted Funds					9,969.41	9,969.41	14,205.77	
Endowment Funds						0.00	0.00	
Total Funds		628,710.49	203,865.81	21,500.00	9,969.41	0.00	864,045.71	983,280.53

Circuit Treasurer


 7/1/26

North West Durham Circuit

Notes to the accounts

1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 as amended by Charities act 2022 and in accordance with the 2019 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).

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. 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	Restricted	Endowment	2024-25	2023-24
£	Trust Fund	£	£	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,742.40

Donations and gifts

5. Income from investment properties

Unrestricted	Circuit Model	Restricted	Endowment	2024-25	2023-24
£	Trust Fund	£	£	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
8,917.55	-	-	-	8,917.55	8,419.94

Lettings

6. Other charitable income

Prayer handbooks/diaries	-	-	-	-	44.00
Other purchases reimbursed	-	-	-	-	30.00
Grant	-	-	-	-	51.34
Pension reserve fund refund	-	-	-	12,339.92	-
Energy refund	-	-	-	-	-
Other receipts	-	-	-	-	2,418.00
LP refund	-	-	-	4,617.29	2,250.00
Stationing refund	-	-	-	-	353.01
Total	-	-	-	16,957.21	5,515.04

7. Income from monetary investments

Unrestricted	Circuit Model	Restricted	Endowment	2024-25	2023-24
£	Trust Fund	£	£	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
10,052.54	11,626.80	192.07	-	21,871.41	31,423.64
	57.15		-	57.15	75.95
-	-	-	-	-	-
10,052.54	11,683.95	192.07	-	21,928.56	31,499.59

Interest
Dividend
Other
Total

North West Durham Circuit

8. Payment to Trustees

	2025	2024
	£	£
Payments made to trustees for additional services provided to the Circuit by agreement with the Circuit Meeting	nil	nil
Number of trustees who were paid expenses	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

1,188.00 1,038.00

10. Paid employees

Staff Costs paid during the year were:

Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind

125,931.21 109,445.21

Employer's National Insurance costs

12,076.56 7,876.53

Pension costs

12,956.76 10,852.66

Total staff costs

150,964.53 128,174.40

Average number of staff employed during the year

5.0 4.5

North West Durham Circuit

11. Ministers expenses

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	Endowment	2024-25 Total	2023-24 Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Minister's Tel & Broadband	1,651.24	-	-	-	1,651.24	1,655.30
Minister's mileage	4,677.82	-	-	-	4,677.82	4,463.25
Minister's parking	47.00	-	-	-	47.00	37.62
Resources etc	284.35	-	-	-	284.35	79.50
Stationery	79.37	-	-	-	79.37	65.47
Preaching appointments	1,173.20	-	-	-	1,173.20	-
Local Preacher transport	-	-	-	-	-	1,727.47
Postage	-	-	-	-	-	24.00
Preaching resources	-	-	-	-	-	370.13
Other	9.12	-	-	-	9.12	131.90
Total	7,922.10	-	-	-	7,922.10	8,554.64

12. Insurance & Utilities

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	Endowment	2024-25 Total	2023-24 Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Water rates	1,831.99	-	-	-	1,831.99	1,700.99
Insurance	2,042.95	-	-	-	2,042.95	2,001.91
Council tax	3,725.01	-	-	-	3,725.01	3,565.64
Utilities	31.99	-	-	-	31.99	1,384.15
Total	7,631.94	-	-	-	7,631.94	8,652.69

13. Manse Maintenance

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	Endowment	2024-25 Total	2023-24 Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Blackhill Manse	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leadgate Manse	4,043.54	-	-	-	4,043.54	7,750.24
Lanchester Manse	1,728.00	-	-	-	1,728.00	1,649.98
White le Head Manse	667.00	-	-	-	667.00	2,896.23
Total	6,438.54	-	-	-	6,438.54	12,296.45

14. Expenditure on other circuit property

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	Endowment	2024-25 Total	2023-24 Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Quinquennials	2,760.00	-	-	-	2,760.00	1,452.00
Sale of blackhill manse costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sale of Burnhope chapel costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Methodist levy on property sales	-	-	-	-	-	-
Refund of grant	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2,760.00	-	-	-	2,760.00	1,452.00

North West Durham Circuit

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.

	Manse properties	Unused properties	Investment property	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Payments on account assets - under construction	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance brought forward	158,457.00	-	215,000.00	-	-	373,457.00
Additions	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluations (+/-)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals (-)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers* (+/-)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance carried forward	158,457.00	-	215,000.00	-	-	373,457.00
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	158,457.00	-	215,000.00	-	-	373,457.00
Carried forward	158,457.00	-	215,000.00	-	-	373,457.00

* 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	2024-25 Total	2023-24 Total
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Lay employee Telephone and broadband	-	-	-	913.23	-	913.23	704.04
Lay employee Mileage	-	-	-	785.39	-	785.39	696.06
Contribution to home costs	-	-	-	500.00	-	500.00	500.00
Lay employee stationary	-	-	-	165.54	-	165.54	60.24
Puddlers Garth	-	-	-	3,075.60	-	3,075.60	-
Lay employee training	-	-	-	130.00	-	130.00	150.00
Lay employee Resources	-	-	-	-	-	-	131.39
3 Generate	-	-	-	765.60	-	765.60	2,880.00
Beacon project	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,962.00
Initiatives	-	-	-	549.07	-	549.07	1,410.45
Sundry	-	-	-	183.26	-	183.26	2,366.45
Office broadband	660.84	-	-	-	-	660.84	669.58
Office training	152.40	-	-	-	-	152.40	161.00
Office Stationery	477.24	-	-	-	-	477.24	394.47
Office Rent (Leadgate)	800.00	-	-	-	-	800.00	800.00
Office Photocopying	1,731.58	-	-	-	-	1,731.58	2,041.25
Office postage	60.71	-	-	-	-	60.71	128.25
Sundry Office costs	112.41	-	-	-	-	112.41	77.99
Charge for Payroll	480.00	-	-	-	-	480.00	480.00
Apprentice Levy	723.27	-	-	-	-	723.27	553.53
P11D	5.24	-	-	-	-	5.24	5.24
Website cost	243.00	-	-	-	-	243.00	243.00
Office equipment	780.45	-	-	-	-	780.45	1,622.00
Resources	-	-	-	-	-	-	279.70
Stationing	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,025.24
Gifts	-	-	-	-	-	-	170.00
Circuit Choir	197.45	-	-	-	-	197.45	155.80
Expenses Claimed	-	-	-	-	-	-	38.00
Bank Charges	65.75	-	-	-	-	65.75	68.25
Mission disbursements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Circuit office holders expenses	280.65	-	-	-	-	280.65	575.39
Tenant management fee	720.01	-	-	-	-	720.01	720.00
Alpha Course	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Independent Examiners fees	1,188.00	-	-	-	-	1,188.00	1,038.00
TMCP Fees	-	1,172.85	-	13.09	-	1,185.94	1,163.04
Total	8,679.00	1,172.85	-	7,080.78	-	16,932.63	32,270.36

(note 9)

17. Grants and donations

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2024-25 Total	2023-24 Total
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Mission disbursements	10,380.00	103,700.00	2,000.00	-	-	116,080.00	7,500.00
Grants	10,380.00	103,700.00	2,000.00	-	-	116,080.00	7,500.00
Total							

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

	2024-25	2023-24
Investments held in common investment funds - CFB Managed Mixed Fund	2,713.50	2,708.50
Trustees Interest Fund	194,152.31	358,168.05
Trustees Interest Fund (Lucy Prynne)	4,205.51	4,026.53
	<u>201,071.32</u>	<u>364,903.08</u>

Analysis of investment movements CFB Managed Mixed Fund

Carrying (market) value at beginning of year	2,708.50	2,514.00
Add: additions to investments at cost	-	-
Less: disposals at carrying value	-	-
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation	5.00	194.50
Carrying (market) value at end of year	<u>2,713.50</u>	<u>2,708.50</u>
Total		

North West Durham Circuit

19. Analysis of current assets

	2024-25 £	2023-24 £
<u>a. Debtors and prepayments</u>		
Stipends Pre-paid	7,448.03	6,774.24
Loan to South Moor United Church (see Below)	7,000.00	0.00
Other debtors	1,936.79	1,956.33
Total debtors and prepayments	16,384.82	8,730.57
<u>Loans</u>		
Loan Due within one year	1,200.00	0.00
Loan Due after more than 1 year	5,800.00	0.00
	7,000.00	0.00
No interest is being charged on the loan		

b. Cash and bank balances

CAF Bank	108,188.85	72,230.59
Office cash & cheques awaiting paying in	0.00	0.00
Petty cash	19.01	4.71
Total Cash and Bank	108,207.86	72,235.30

20. Analysis of current liabilities and longterm creditors

	2024-25	2023-24
Assessments in advance	38,489.10	36,005.70
Other Creditors	13,557.78	20,573.28
Total Current Liabilities	52,046.88	56,578.98

21. Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

At 31st August 2025 the Circuit has no capital commitments

No Contingent liabilities were identified at 31st August 2025.

22. Restricted Funds

	Opening balance	Incoming resources	Resources Expended	Transfer from general Funds	Closing Balance
Children's Young People and Families Lay worker Fund	4,210.68	10,345.27	34,112.20	20,300.00	743.75
Street Friends	5,089.18	-	-	-	5,089.18
Community engagement enabler	879.38	8,200.00	29,148.41	20,000.00	69.03
Mission disbursements	-	-	-	-	-
Lucy Prynne Bequest (Catchgate Church)	4,026.53	192.07	13.09	-	4,205.51
	14,205.77	18,737.34	63,273.70	40,300.00	9,969.41

**North West Durham Circuit
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

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

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.

The Circuit has continued to support the initiatives of the local Churches through the availability of Church Growth Grants.

The Children, Young People and Families Worker has continued to develop and build upon links with local schools (extending the Open the Book Project and after school clubs) 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.

An extension to the contract of the Children, Young People and Families Worker has been agreed to August 2027.

The Community Engagement Enabler has continued to develop links with the local church, community groups and the local community itself to explore opportunities within the area: develop links with local schools to implement the Kid's Matter project: and work alongside Blackhill & Shotley Bridge Uniting Methodist Church and the Newcastle District of the Methodist Church to initiate and further develop a New Places for New People project.

An extension to the contract of the Community Engagement Enabler has been agreed to July 2027.

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 CAF Bank and The Central Finance Board.

Children, Young People and Families' Worker (Restricted), Community Engagement Enabler (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, £152,599, paid by the circuit churches.

Other significant items of income are:

General Fund: Interest received £10,053: Investment Income £8,918: Other Charitable Income includes Grant Refunds from Churches £33,830 and Connexion PRF Refund £12,340.

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

Restricted Fund: the Community Engagement Enable includes £8,000 grant from the Newcastle District.

Model Trust; Interest/Dividend and Gain received - TMCP £11,684

The total assets of the circuit have decreased.

Expenditure trends

Stipend expenditure, £82,146, has increased in line with Conference approved increases.

Other significant items of expenditure are:

General Fund: Circuit Assessment to the District £44,972: Grants & Donations to Churches £88,000: Manse Costs £14,070: Circuit Administrator Salary and associated costs, £12,626.

Designated Fund: Church Growth Grants £2,000.

Restricted Funds: the Children, Young People and Families' Worker includes Salaries and associated costs of £31,141.

Restricted Fund: the Community Engagement Enabler includes Salaries and associated costs of £25,052.

Model Trust: levy to the District Advance Fund, based on the balance in the Model Trust Fund, of £18,316: Grants to Churches £103,700.

Fund balances

At 31st August 2025 the total funds carried forward are £483,589, (net of Circuit Manses & Equipment and Investments). The funds comprise General Fund £255,253; Designated Fund Church Growth £21,500; Restricted Funds Children, Young People & Families Worker £744, Community Engagement Enabler (£69), Street Friends £5,089; Model Trust Fund £196,866 and Lucy Prynne Permanent Endowment Fund £4,206.

Plans for 2025-26

Circuit financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that there are 2 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 (balance of £21,500) to encourage continued growth in and outreach to their local community.

As the Circuit Meeting, held in June 2025, approved an extension to the term of contract for the Community Engagement Enabler until July 2027, this position shall continue to develop the NPNP project with Blackhill & Shotley Bridge Uniting Methodist Church as well as developing existing and further programmes.

The Children, Young People and Families' Worker and Community Engagement Enabler will continue to build upon their work with the local churches; schools; and develop outreach initiatives within the local community.

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 D Lees
 Rev J Gill (P/T)

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

Community Engagement Enabler: Mr Clive Gray

Circuit Stewards: Mr Kenneth Thynne
 Mrs Pamela Murphy
 Mr Colin Carroll
 Mrs Tracey Carr
 Mr Philip Holroyd

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 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

It is the Methodist Church's intention to value every human being as part of God's creation and the whole people of God. At the heart of the Methodist community is a deep sense of the place of welcome, hospitality and openness, which demonstrates the nature of God's grace and love for all. Our church communities are called to be places where the transformational love of God is embodied and life in all its fullness is a gift, which is offered to all people

Safeguarding is about the action the Church takes to promote a safer culture.

The North West Durham Methodist Circuit will:

- promote the welfare of children, young people and adults
- work to prevent abuse from occurring
- seek to protect and respond well to those that have been abused.

The North West Durham Methodist Circuit is committed to:

- 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.

The North West Durham Methodist Circuit 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 checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).
- 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 social services in any investigation.

- Seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
- Seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.

Working with the Circuit 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.

In all these principles, the North West Durham methodist Circuit will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice

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 2025

Mr David Arbon
Mrs Janet Arbon
Mr David Armstrong
Mrs Margaret Beck
Mrs Tracey Carr
Mr William Carr
Mr Colin Carroll
Mrs Eileen Elaine Chambers
Rev Stuart Earl
Mr Melvin Elliott
Mrs Sonia Filmer
Rev Jennifer Gill
Mrs Hazel Sylvia Graham
Mr Clive Gray
Mrs Margaret Hall
Mrs Wendy Harrison
Mrs Angela Hird
Mr Philip Holroyd
Mr Andrew Howe
Mrs Jill Hurst
Mrs Elizabeth Jane Jobburns
Mrs Kath Jones

Mrs Sylvia King
Mr Paul Knowles
Rev David Lees
Mr Trevor McAdoo
Mr Ivan Metcalfe
Mrs Pamela May Murphy
Mrs Gail Philipson
Mr Paul Pine
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 Elizabeth Temple
Mr Kenneth Thynne
Mrs Diane Lesley Tute
Mrs Brenda Elisabeth Walker
Mrs Lynn Whitehead