

MACCLESFIELD METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales · Charity number 1145485

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2012-01-17

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Activities

Objects: 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 THE 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.

Activities: Care of 8 churches and assisting in their religious activities under the auspices of the Methodist Church of the United Kingdom

Classification

- **How:** Provides Other Finance, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Cheshire East

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£238,724	£182,958	-	-
2024-08-31	£230,059	£257,663	-	-
2023-08-31	£244,675	£261,017	-	-
2022-08-31	£520,801	£243,654	£2,124,087	2
2021-08-31	£306,087	£261,095	-	-
2020-08-31	£645,334	£242,210	£1,807,221	2

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ALAN JOHN CHAPMAN		2012-02-07
Alan Rashleigh		2022-07-06
Alexander John Price		2020-09-17
Angela Bourne		2019-09-01
BRENDA BAILEY		2006-09-01
BRENDA MARY CHAPMAN		2012-02-07
Barbara Christine Ogle		2023-03-08
CHRISTINE JANE DING		2023-09-13
Carolyn Boden		2019-09-01
DAVID ARTHUR BULLOCK BA		2012-02-06
DONALD IAN WARDLE BA		2012-01-26
Deborah Margaret Lucas		2025-09-15
ELIZABETH HAMMOND		2014-09-01
Edward Chandler Jones		2015-10-16
Heather Anne Cann		2020-09-01
JILLIAN LONGSON MBE		2012-02-07
JOAN GREEN		2012-09-01
JOAN HELENA PRITCHARD MED		2012-01-30
JOHN MICHAEL BIRD BSC		2012-02-07
JOYCE MARGERY WILSON		2016-09-01
Jane Claire Walker		2014-09-01
Jane Wendy Robson		2019-09-01
MARGARET CHRISTINE PARKIN		2012-02-07
MARGARET JOAN HAWKYARD		2019-09-01
Pamela Rosemary Edith Childs		2017-07-20
RUTH LINDE		2012-01-17
Rev SHEILA MARY BISHOP		2012-02-07

Name	Role	Appointed
Richard Jonathan Baker		2024-09-01
Ruth Thomason Gunning		2018-09-01
Stephen Michael Dallin		2025-09-15
Susan Elizabeth Mellor		2021-09-23
Valerie Margaret Jones		2020-02-01

Accounts

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2025

Charity Registration Number 1145485

MINISTERS	Rev Deborah Lucas Rev Stephen Dallin
TRUSTEES	See main body of the report
CIRCUIT STEWARDS	Mrs Ruth Linde Mrs Barbara Ogle Mr Alex Price
CIRCUIT TREASURER	Mrs Jane Walker
ADDRESS	c/o Langley Methodist Church Main Road Langley Macclesfield SK11 0BU
BANKERS	Barclays Bank
INVESTMENT MANAGERS	Central Finance Board TMCP
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Peter Smith BA FCA DChA Peter Smith Accountancy Services 9 Polruan Road Chorlton Cum Hardy Manchester M21 9NR

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TRUSTEES REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2025.

The Circuit consists of six active churches of varying sizes and locations within East Cheshire from Gawsorth in the south to Poynton in the north. The circuit also has two graveyards at Over Alderley and Rainow and is dealing with the closed churches at Walker Barn and Green Close.

REPORTING FRAMEWORK

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, and 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 (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019), referred to as the Charities SORP (FRS 102) (second edition – October 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Charitable Objectives

The Circuit shares the charitable objectives of the Methodist Church, which are set out as follows:

“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 the 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.”

Circuit Mission Statement

Our mission statement is as follows...

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



CIRCUIT MISSION STATEMENT

We seek to find and fulfil our place in the mission of God to the world.

The role of the Circuit is to develop approaches to staffing and the use of the resources in supporting the churches as we live out our calling.

The mission of Macclesfield Methodist Circuit is to seek to order our life so that we engage fully with the *Five Marks of Mission* in everything we do. The circuit will give attention to these marks as it considers the complex issues of staffing, grant making and overseeing Circuit initiatives.

1 Tell. *To Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom*

Our priorities:

- To offer a variety of worship styles, accessible to all, including areas not currently reached by the circuit
- To make effective use of our Children & Families Mission Teams to explore work with demographic 'gaps' across the circuit
- To ensure adequate and sustainable lay and ordained ministry across the circuit.

How?

- ❖ To encourage and develop new and existing varieties of worship styles (e.g. Contemporary, taize, café, breakfast, proclaim, afternoon tea church, midweek services, quiet/sacred spaces, traditional)
- ❖ To develop effective communication through appropriate channels including social media (e.g. Facebook), websites and internal and external publications and places (e.g. Messenger, Local People, Libraries)
- ❖ To enable and equip volunteers in order to address the needs and opportunities for ministry
- ❖ To make best use of financial resources to support ministry across the circuit

2. Teach. *To teach, baptise and nurture believers*

Our priorities:

- To explore ways the circuit might resource the nurture and spiritual development of believers and seekers
- To equip those involved in the preparing and leading of worship including Worship Leaders, Local Preachers, musicians, stewards, IT, those involved in 'Own Arrangements' and leaders of children and young people
- To support the churches' and circuit's evangelistic outreach into the local communities

How?

- ❖ Provide seasonal reflections, quiet days and study groups at circuit level and explore potential for others
- ❖ Provide and signpost opportunities for training and development, allocating appropriate funding
- ❖ To provide/signpost to resources and tools for equipping evangelistic outreach into local communities

3. Tend. *To respond to Human need by loving service*

Our priorities

- To ensure the churches of the circuit are welcoming, inclusive and safer spaces for all people
- To recruit, train and support all those involved in pastoral care (including Pastoral Visitors, Class Leaders and others) at Circuit and Church level
- To increase awareness of human need and possible responses and resources available

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



How?

- ❖ To enact and review Safeguarding policies and procedures at Circuit and Church level
- ❖ To provide training/signposting for those involved in pastoral care
- ❖ To celebrate and publicise existing work in response to human need and help churches identify other needs not being addressed (e.g. local church initiatives and partnerships like MHA Live at Home, Cancer Care)

4. Transform. *To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation*

Our priorities

- To encourage engagement with political processes locally and nationally, and to support those active in this work.
- To advise and support churches as they consider their place and role in addressing the unjust structures of society, challenge violence and pursue peace and reconciliation
- To root out prejudice in ourselves.

How?

- ❖ To play our part in the activities and governance of ecumenical and interfaith work, including supporting the work of Hope in North East Cheshire
- ❖ To highlight and support the work of organisations at home and abroad, which help us keep an outward focus (e.g. JPIT, All We Can, Mission in Britain, OneMission, Action for Children)

5. Treasure. *To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, to sustain and renew the life of the world.*

Our priorities

- To strive to reduce the carbon footprint across the circuit
- To promote fair trade in the life of the circuit
- To be aware of how best we use our resources (buildings, people, finances) across the circuit

How?

- ❖ To up awareness and share best practice on reducing our carbon footprint
- ❖ To encourage circuit led events, activities and groups to strive to be Fair Trade
- ❖ To promote good stewardship of circuit resources

Contribution of Volunteers

The Circuit is heavily dependent upon, and extremely grateful for, the contribution of volunteers as it seeks to carry out its objectives. With the exception of the stipendiary Ministers, Children & Families Coordinator and Circuit Administrator, all members of the Circuit Leadership Team and all other Charity trustees are unpaid volunteers.

ACHIEVEMENT & PERFORMANCE

It has been an exceptional year for the circuit with a substantially reduced ministerial resource and uncertainty over future provision. With Rev Dr Graham Edwards appointed to a teaching role at Cliff College, initially on a part time basis with effect from September 2024, the circuit resource was reduced to one part time Superintendent Minister time for the year.

We are fortunate within the circuit to have two Supernumerary ministers in Frank & Sheila Bishop and they have been a constant source of help and support for our ministry, especially over this last year. We thank them both for the contribution they make to the life of the circuit. Thanks also to Angela Bourne and Jane Walker for their work during the year in support of the circuit as Graham could only be available for part-time duties. Lay staff had to carry extra duties during the year and the Circuit is grateful for their additional contributions.

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



The circuit entered into the stationing process with the hope of securing two ministers to cover the six churches, whilst recognising the general lack of ministerial resource across the connexion. Fortunately, we were matched with two ministers and we have been particularly delighted in receiving the two new ministers into the circuit during the summer of 2025. We look forward to their guidance and leadership as we journey together over the coming years.

This period of reduced resource, has however, required creativity and autonomy from all six churches within the circuit and we have seen an increase in varied own arrangement and circuit services.

Following the retirement of Rev Rosalind Watson, and without imminent occupation, the circuit manse in Poynton has been unoccupied during the year, with the circuit stewards busy ensuring the property would be ready for occupation as soon as required. Whilst no significant maintenance work was required, general upkeep and repair work has been carried out as necessary and we are grateful to the church members of Poynton church who have assisted by keeping an eye on the property for us during this period.

The circuit manse occupied by the Superintendent also required maintenance to the extension roof which had been an issue for a number of years. The circuit stewards were able to use the period of changeover for the required building work and this should ensure the property remains in a good state of repair for the foreseeable future. Although the circuit had been aware of the issue for some time, this work did require a sizeable amount of funding. Quinquennial reports were also carried out on the two manses, identifying other areas of minor work. The circuit aims to provide its ministers with good quality living accommodation and we appreciate their reciprocal care of the properties.

The circuit trustees are also tasked with caring for the chapels at Walker Barn and Green Close with a view to disposal of the properties once the necessary approvals have been given. We remain extremely grateful to those who continue helping with management of the buildings and finances in this interim period.

As the change in ministerial provision occurred close to the start of the next financial year and with uncertainty over resources, the circuit budget was not changed from the agreed level and we have been fortunate that once again all our churches have been able to meet their assessment commitments over the year. We remain extremely grateful to our church treasurers for the hard work they do in managing their church finances and we support them as required.

Within our churches our many weekday groups and events have continued apace with initiatives reaching out to those in need. The dementia café at Broken Cross continues to thrive, and has led to some dementia friendly church services. This community outreach provides much needed support to sufferers and carers alike. Across all the churches coffee mornings in particular remain a popular outreach activity, touching those who perhaps would not otherwise come into church. Fundraising and social events such as concerts, fairs and afternoon teas also continue.

Our churches continue to be used by external community groups and our church treasurers continually look for ways in which to grow in this competitive area. Our buildings continue to offer excellent letting facilities for groups at reasonable rates of rental and we are keen for them to be used as a community resource.

Younger members of our church community are well catered for with our toddler groups continuing to reach an increasing number of children and their families on a regular basis with this valuable work. For families who have children year 6 and above, we offer our Circuit Youth group, a small community of young people who meet (usually monthly) for games, snacks and fun. This offers somewhere for those who have been involved with our family church to move onto as they grow and over the year we have also shared with other ecumenical groups in events aimed at this age group.

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Our work with Children and Families – ‘Methodist Families Together’ continues to be a particular focus for the circuit. Our Coordinator, Angela has run many events of the year such as monthly Messy sessions, Chippy Church, Breakfast Church and Holiday Clubs whilst continuing work with local schools.

During the year, the circuit trustees agreed to continue focussing resources on our work with families and children and as a result, the contract of our Coordinator was extended for a further three years from 1 September 2025. We are so grateful to our dedicated group of volunteers from across all our churches who support this work and without whose help it could not continue.

The Circuit believes we are fulfilling a need within the community in providing this essential outreach to children and families within the area and has allocated resources from reserves accordingly. Each year, the circuit asks individual churches to contribute financially to this work in order to help fund equipment and supplies. We are very grateful for this financial support from our churches.

We also continue to receive support for MFT (Methodist Families Together - the name of our children and families community) by way of a multi year grant from the Caleb Community, along with practical guidance and advice from our assigned Caleb Community Coach.

Having allocated existing reserves towards our work with Children and Families, the circuit will once again be reviewing its reserves policy as part of our ongoing financial management.

Financial accounts for the circuit have been prepared on an Accruals basis in line with the previous year.

Income trends

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment paid by the circuit churches and the level of assessments had been increased in anticipation of a two full time ministerial complement as part of the budgeting process.

Total income rose in 2024/25 by just over £8,000, with modest increases in both assessment contributions and income from investment properties. Grant funding of £6,000 was received for Methodist Families Together, our designated Children and Families community.

The circuit retains two former manses which are let and their contribution to income is recognised when setting the level of assessments, however this latter element is always uncertain due to the risk of tenants leaving/defaulting. During the year, one of the properties was unoccupied for a short while between tenancies. Our other investment property (former manse) has been continually occupied during the year, the property is let to a family in housing need and they may be rehoused by the Local Authority at any time, subject to the circuit being given one month's notice. From a risk management point of view, a cautious approach is used when preparing the circuit budget.

The circuit has seen a fall in income from monetary investments as interest rates have fallen over the period.

During the year quinquennial reports were carried out on the two manses that were to be occupied by the new ministers. The report findings were used to ensure the properties remain in good repair as suitable ministerial housing and to protect the circuit assets. Ongoing maintenance work will be carried out as and when required.

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Progress on the disposal of Walker Barn and Green Close has been slow with the need to focus on other matters has taken circuit steward priority, however these matters are now starting to move forward. The Circuit is proposing to dispose of both chapel sites through sale on the open market. It is intended to focus more on these properties during 2025/2026 but timing of completion of this process remains uncertain.

Income from the two Graveyards remains steady with generally low demand for plots but with expenditure on upkeep still required. We continue to receive ad-hoc donations for the graveyards which are much appreciated and these are all used towards the cost of ongoing gardening and maintenance work.

No church quinquennials were due over the last twelve months. During 2025/26 quinquennial reports are due on the two circuit graveyards.

Once again, it is hoped that our remaining churches will continue to meet their assessment contributions for the 2025/2026 financial year and we are not aware of any current financial difficulties. In 2024/25 the level of assessments was increased slightly and we recognise our churches are faced with their own challenges and have to manage their finances accordingly. We are fortunate in the contribution of the rented properties to the circuit finances and prudently recognise the contribution they make to finances when looking at the church assessment contributions.

All these issues will be ongoing considerations of Circuit Leadership Team and Circuit Meeting where appropriate.

Expenditure trends

The circuit finances are concentrated on allowing the paid staff (ministers, mission workers and administrator) to be paid and maintaining the residences of the ministers in good order. Stipend expenditure has increased each financial year in line with conference approved increases. Lay worker salaries are based on the role specification and move in line with the annual percentage stipend increase.

As mentioned previously, the circuit budget had been based on two full time ministers (including a superintendent) but in reality, expenditure related to one part time superintendent minister for the year.

Office expenses increased by over £10,000 and includes the removal costs of the two incoming ministers. Under Methodist procedures, the circuit is responsible for this expense.

Our work with Children & Families remains a thriving area of focus for the circuit and funding for this work has been extended until 2028. The circuit meeting committed surplus funds for the year 2024/25 towards the cost of this. Additionally, the original provision of £30,000 earmarked in reserves for youth work opportunities will be redesignated for Children & Families. This represents a significant investment by the circuit into this area of work.

Over £54,000 of expenditure is the Circuit contribution to the District and Connexion, of which a significant part is used to fund the work of the wider Methodist Church. This figure has remained steady as the District transitions into its new wider self. Other expenditure includes staff costs and maintenance of the manses and the closed churches at Walker Barn and Green Close.

No circuit grants were made during the year.

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



As agreed at circuit meeting, the circuit will use reserves held within the Circuit Model Trust Fund to cover the cost of the roof work to the manse. As at year end, this money has been moved from CMT into bank funds in anticipation of payment, however, due to timings the bank payment will go through in September, the 2025/26 financial year.

During the year, churches made contributions of £1,385 (2023-24 £1,235) to the circuit which were subsequently paid over to the Connexion to be split between the Property fund £910 and Fund for Presbyters/Deacons £475.

During the forthcoming year, 2025/26, Quinquennial reports are two on the two rental properties, previously manses and the circuit will need to consider provision for repairs as necessary.

Risk management

The Circuit Meeting continues to develop procedures for identifying and addressing the risks facing the charity. The circuit properties are monitored regularly to ensure they are maintained to a good standard and attention is given to the financial situation of our churches and their ability to meet their financial commitments. We have developed robust procedures for safeguarding children, young people, and vulnerable adults including the appointment of a Circuit Safeguarding Officer.

The circuit faced a considerable risk in not being able to secure ministerial support and remains extremely appreciative of the help of all involved in securing this provision for 2025/26 onwards.

Falling member numbers, the age profile of the Circuit churches, lack of volunteers and the effect of loss of rental income are the major risk factors to our churches. This may impact on their ability to meet their circuit assessment which is a major risk factor for the circuit. We ask our churches to let us know immediately if they have concerns about meeting their commitments.

Our Circuit Leadership Team meet on a regular basis and report as necessary to the circuit trustees at the bi-annual circuit meetings.

Principal Funding Sources

Contributions from the Churches by way of Circuit Assessment continues to be the main source of funding, accounting for 81% (2024: 77%) of normal unrestricted income. The letting of both former manses reflects improvement in rental income, with this accounting for 14% (2024:11% 2023:5%) of normal unrestricted income.

Fund balances

Over the year fund balances decreased by £9,234 to stand at £2,070,723.

Reserves

The Circuit seeks to use all its assets for its charitable purposes, whilst continuing to secure and maintain the Circuit's financial viability. It seeks to set a balanced revenue budget, in order that the ongoing normal costs of ministry, mission and management are met from investment income, grants and donations, and Circuit Assessment.

In order to meet its ongoing financial obligations - including the payment of stipends and of District and Connexional assessments quarterly in advance - and to meet unforeseen circumstances, the Circuit needs to maintain sufficient free reserves. These reserves would enable the Circuit to maintain its mission and ministry in the short term if, for whatever reason, individual Churches encounter difficulties in paying their assessments. Free reserves are defined as unrestricted reserves less the investment in tangible fixed assets.

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



1. General reserves

At 31st August 2025 general reserves totalled £1,833,307 of which £1,384,340 are tied up in fixed assets (properties), and £175,000 in the assets of Walker Barn and Green Close churches, which are some time off converting fully into cash, leaving liquid reserves of £273,967.

Our policy is to maintain 6 months of general expenditure in reserves (excluding fixed assets). Expenditure in 2024/25 was exceptional due to the limited ministerial resource and as we are now at full complement, it would not be accurate to use 2024/25 expenditure when calculating reserves. Using 2025/26 budgeted expenditure of £202,000, a figure of £101,000 is considered appropriate, which is also similar to the 2023/24 level.

In addition, we have four manses which need to be maintained and always carry a risk of significant repair or needing significant renewal. Two quinquennial surveys are also due in the current year. A reserve of about £75,000 is considered prudent for this purpose.

On this basis total general reserves required are approximately £176,000 compared to £273,966 available. The trustees will consider how the 'excess' general reserves of £98,000 might be used in due course. No decisions as to how the funds from the Walker Barn and Green Close churches will be taken until those assets convert fully into cash once buyers are found for each property.

2. Circuit Model Trust Fund

This totals £52,088 and represents a further unrestricted fund, held with TMCP. These funds may be used for mission purposes. Funds within Model Trust can be used to meet the shortfall in general reserves with the remainder considered as a contingency. Each year it attracts a 2.5% District levy.

3. Designated funds

These total £117,474 and represent unrestricted funds that the Circuit trustees have agreed to set aside towards funding the children and families co-ordinator role for a further three years. £51,500 of surplus funding from this year's income over expenditure has been designated for the role and is included in the total of £117,474. The circuit will continue to ask churches to contribute to CFW overheads on an annual basis and any donations received from CFW events will also be used towards funding.

4. Restricted funds

The Circuit owns two graveyards which originally belonged to the former chapels at Over Alderley and Rainow Methodist churches. Access difficulties at Rainow mean the graveyard is rarely used for new graves but the one located at the former Methodist Chapel in Over Alderley is in reasonable demand, particularly as the graveyard at the nearby Prestbury Parish church is full. Income from funerals is added to the fund and the expenditure of funerals and upkeep of the grounds is taken from the fund. The balance of the fund is restricted in its use against the graveyards.

5. Endowment funds

Only one endowment fund is held. This is where the capital cannot be accessed and it relates to Over Alderley. The income however, can be used towards the upkeep of the Over Alderley graveyard.

Going Concern

The Trustees have reviewed the circumstances of the Circuit and consider that adequate resources continue to be available to fund its activities for the foreseeable future. The Trustees are therefore of the view that the charity is a going concern.

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Plans for 2025/2026

Circuit budgets for the coming year assumed a staffing level of 2 ministers, one full time lay employee (Children and Families Coordinator), and a part time lay employee (Administrator). These were agreed at the Circuit Meeting in March 2025.

With the arrival of new ministerial support, plans for the coming year will see the circuit take a period of adjustment and settling in. It is expected some circuit services will continue as an opportunity for the ministers to get to know people from across the circuit and strengthen ecumenical links.

As assessments were increased in 2024/25 based on two ministers, and as stipend increases have returned to lower levels, it was felt the assessments for 2025/26 could be left unchanged, but these will once again be reviewed as part of the budgeting process for 2026/27. Discussions will be held with church treasurers in line with our usual procedure.

District assessment has fallen slightly for 2025/26 and going forward, NWED are considering the calculation of the assessment formula.

The circuit plans to continue renting the former manses.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

As the circuit is part of the Methodist Church of Great Britain the managing trustees operate within the Methodist Church Connexion and as such, their governing document is the Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Methodist Church. The document is available for inspection via the Superintendent. Macclesfield Circuit is registered as a separate charity, number 1145485.

Connected charities

The Churches forming the Circuit are themselves charities and, as they are responsible for their own financial affairs, they are not reported in these statements.

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Macclesfield Circuit Meeting constitution [S.O. 510]
September 2024 [37 members – *currently 2 with multiple qualifications]

(i) The ex officio members (S.O. 552) [6 members]

The Superintendent Minister

The Revd Dr Graham Edwards

All ministers, probationers and persons authorised to serve the church as Presbyters or Deacons:

The circuit stewards

Mrs Ruth Linde
Mr Alex Price
Mrs Barbara Ogle
Mrs Jane Walker (Treasurer)

(ii) Any other persons stationed or residing for the purposes of the stations in, or whose names appear under the number of, the Circuit in accordance with clause (4) of Standing Order 785, and who have informed the Superintendent of their wish to be members of the Circuit Meeting for the ensuing connexional year, except that any person stationed in one circuit but residing in another for the purposes of the stations is eligible to be a member, under this head, of the Circuit Meeting of the latter Circuit only; **[1 member]**

Supernumerary Presbyters or Deacons [S.O. 785 (4) (a) (vi)]

The Revd Sheila Bishop

(iv) such persons, if any, as the Circuit Meeting judges it appropriate to appoint from among those employed by the meeting under Standing Order 510; **[1 member]**

Mrs Angela Bourne (Circuit Children and Families Coordinator)

(v) the Secretary of the Meeting **[1 member]**

Miss Susan Mellor

(vi) the Secretary of the Local Preachers Meeting **[1 member]**

Mr Alan Rashleigh

(vii) from each Local Church one church steward and the church treasurer,

(viii) representatives elected by the church council of each local church from its own members in numbers specified by the circuit meeting. **[Membership under 100 = 1 representative, membership over 100 = 2 representatives.] 20 members**

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Broken Cross Methodist Church [3]

Church Steward	Mrs Liz Hammond
Treasurer	Mr John Bird
1 representative	Mrs Joan Green

Gawsworth Methodist Church [3]

Church Steward	Mrs Jillian Longson
Treasurer	Mrs Margaret Parkin
1 representative	Mrs Carolyn Boden

Langley Methodist Church [3]

Church Steward	Mr Alan Chapman
Treasurer	Mr David Bullock
1 representative	Mrs Brenda Chapman

Macclesfield Methodist Church [4]

Church Steward	Mrs Margery Wilson
Treasurer	Mrs Ruth Linde*
2 representatives	Mr Ian Wardle
	**Vacant

Poynton Methodist Church [4]

Church Steward	Mrs Christine Ding
Treasurer	Mrs Jane Robson
2 representatives	Mr Richard Baker
	Mrs Mandy Hawkyard

Prestbury Methodist Church [3]

Church Steward	Mrs Heather Cann
Treasurer	Mrs Valerie Jones
1 representative	Mr Eddie Jones

(ix) Additional Persons as the Circuit Meeting may desire and appoint to ensure that all areas of the life of the circuit are adequately represented, provided that the total number appointed under this head shall not exceed the total of the numbers specified by the circuit meeting for the purposes of head (viii). **[8 Members]**

Circuit Safeguarding Officer	Mrs Pam Childs
Circuit Admin	Mrs Jane Walker*
MWiB	Mrs Brenda Chapman
CFW Advisor	Mrs Joan Pritchard
MHA	Mrs Ruth Gunning
Missions	Miss Brenda Bailey
Action for Children	**Vacant
Hope in NE Cheshire	**Vacant

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Trustee recruitment, induction and training

As outlined above, the appointment of the majority of the members of the Circuit Meeting is outside the control of the Meeting. We encourage all trustees to undertake Governance training when available and participate in Charity Commission webinars and other training sessions as appropriate. In appointing the Circuit Leadership Team and other officers, the Meeting has regard to the balance of skills and gifts that are needed to further the work of the Church. New members of the Leadership Team are inducted by the Leadership Team.

Organisation

The Circuit Meeting is convened biannually usually in September and March. The Circuit Leadership Team, appointed by the Circuit Meeting, is responsible for acting on behalf of the Circuit Meeting at other times. The Leadership Team usually meets at least six times per year. The Circuit Meeting retains responsibility for setting the mission priorities of the Circuit, the overall strategy to deliver those priorities, the invitation of ministers, the oversight of local churches, the admission of people to the office of Local Preacher, and decisions on formal explorations of calls to ministry and candidates for the ordained ministry.

The Leadership Team is assisted in the task of financial oversight by the Circuit Treasurer and the Assistant Treasurer.

The Methodist Church appoints a minister to be the Superintendent Minister of the Circuit, whose duties are set out in the Standing Orders of the Church.

Pay and Remuneration

Stipends and allowances for presbyters and deacons (collectively ministers) are set annually by the Methodist Conference, and the Circuit is responsible for meeting those costs for all ministers appointed by the Conference to the Circuit. Fuller disclosure is contained in Note 4 to the accounts. Lay employee remuneration is set by the Circuit based on the role specification and pay moves in line with the annual percentage stipend increase.

FUTURE PLANS

The circuit is looking forward to a period of ministerial stability following a period of uncertainty and this heralds an exciting time for mission. The circuit will continue to provide a supporting role to its churches and will consider any issues arising through the appropriate channels of Circuit Leadership Team and Circuit Meeting as necessary.

Our churches have become more resourceful in worship and the increased number of circuit services has allowed us to share more in worship together.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Circuit Meeting to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the Charity and of the surplus or deficit of the Charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Circuit Meeting has to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102) (second edition – October 2019);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis

The Circuit Meeting is responsible for keeping records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with applicable regulations. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS

As it is now necessary to undertake accruals accounting, Peter Smith, of Peter Smith Accountancy Services has been appointed as Independent Examiner.

REV DEBORAH LUCAS

DATE 9 MARCH 2026

ON BEHALF OF CIRCUIT MEETING

D M. Lucas

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Macclesfield Methodist Circuit for the year ended August 31 2025

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended August 31 2024 which are set out on pages 14 to 26.

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

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the ICAEW which is one of the listed bodies.

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 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.

Peter Smith BA FCA DChA
Peter Smith Accountancy Services
9 Polruan Road
Chorlton-cum-Hardy
Manchester M21 9NR

Date: 19 April 2026

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Statement of Financial Activities

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 2024-25
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
1 Donations and legacies					4,935		4,935
2 Income from monetary investments		10,629	1,503	5,491	2,737	5	20,366
3 Income from investment properties		29,395					29,395
4 Assessments on Churches		172,275					172,275
5 Capital Receipts							0
6 Grants received				6,000			6,000
7 Other charitable income	12	1,452		4,302			5,754
8 Total income		213,750	1,503	15,793	7,672	5	238,724
Expenditure							
9 Grants and donations							0
10 Salaries and associated costs		27,682		34,647			62,329
11 Property maintenance		19,239			5,254		24,493
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy							0
13 District Assessment & Levy		52,818	1,553				54,371
14 Depreciation		9,715					9,715
15 Office expenses		23,855		6,562			30,417
16 Other outgoings		1,633					1,633
17 Total charitable expenditure		134,942	1,553	41,209	5,254	0	182,958
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments							0
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties							
20 Net income/(expenditure)		78,809	-50	-25,416	2,418	5	55,766
21 Transfers between funds	13	- 41,500	- 10,000	51,500			0
22 Other gains/(losses)		- 65,000					-65,000
23 Net movement in funds		-27,691	-10,050	26,084	2,418	5	-9,234
24 Total funds brought forward		1,860,997	62,138	91,390	62,592	2,840	2,079,957
25 Total funds carried forward		1,833,306	52,088	117,474	65,010	2,845	2,070,723

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



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 2023-24
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
1 Donations and legacies							0
2 Income from monetary investments		16,248	3,051		3,101		22,400
3 Income from investment properties		24,247					24,247
4 Assessments on Churches		167,256					167,256
5 Capital Receipts		255					255
6 Grants received							0
7 Other charitable income	12	7,130		3,776	4,995		15,901
8 Total income		215,136	3,051	3,776	8,096	-	230,059
Expenditure							
9 Grants and donations		10,000					10,000
10 Salaries and associated costs		89,288		32,022			121,310
11 Property maintenance		40,504					40,504
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy							0
13 District Assessment & Levy		49,956	2,117				52,073
14 Depreciation		9,715					9,715
15 Office expenses		13,449	241	5,359			19,049
16 Other outgoings					5,004	8	5,012
17 Total charitable expenditure		212,912	2,358	37,381	5,004	8	257,663
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments			1,754			280	2,034
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties							
20 Net income/(expenditure)		2,224	2,447	-33,605	3,092	272	-25,570
21 Transfers between funds	13	25,000	- 25,000		73	- 73	0
22 Other gains/(losses)							
23 Net movement in funds		27,224	-22,553	-33,605	3,165	199	-25,570
24 Total funds brought forward		1,833,773	84,691	124,995	59,427	2,641	2,105,527
25 Total funds carried forward		1,860,997	62,138	91,390	62,592	2,840	2,079,957
				Note 14			

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Balance Sheet

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2025								
	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		1,384,340					1,384,340	1,394,055
Investment properties							0	0
Investments			52,088		63,108	2,845	118,041	125,349
Total fixed assets		1,384,340	52,088	0	63,108	2,845	1,502,381	1,519,404
Current Assets								
Debtors	7	7,781					7,781	2,297
Loans by the Circuit							0	0
Property Investments	7	175,000					175,000	240,000
Central Finance Board Deposits		294,674		117,474			412,148	344,122
Cash at Bank and in hand		17,698			1,902		19,600	18,053
Total current assets		495,152	0	117,474	1,902	0	614,528	604,472
Current liabilities								
Creditors (due in under 1 year)		46,186					46,186	43,919
Grants payable within 2024-25							0	0
Total current liabilities		46,186	0	0	0	0	46,186	43,919
Net current assets/liabilities		448,966	0	117,474	1,902	0	568,342	560,553
Total assets less current liabilities		1,833,306	52,088	117,474	65,010	2,845	2,070,724	2,079,957
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)								
Grants payable after 2024-25							0	0
Loans to the Circuit							0	0
Net assets		1,833,306	52,088	117,474	65,010	2,845	2,070,724	2,079,957
Funds of the Circuit								
General Fund (Unrestricted)		1,833,306					1,833,306	1,860,997
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			52,088				52,088	62,138
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)				117,474			117,474	91,390
Total Unrestricted Funds							2,002,869	2,014,525
Restricted Funds					65,010		65,010	62,592
Endowment Funds						2,845	2,845	2,840
Total Funds		1,833,306	52,088	117,474	65,010	2,845	2,070,724	2,079,957

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024								
	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2023/24	Totals 2022/23
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets								
Circuit Manses & Equipment		1,394,055					1,394,055	1,403,770
Investment properties							0	0
Investments			62,138		60,371	2,840	125,349	144,692
Total fixed assets		1,394,055	62,138	0	60,371	2,840	1,519,404	1,548,462
Current Assets								
Debtors	7	2,297					2,297	7,361
Loans by the Circuit							0	0
Property Investments	7	240,000					240,000	271,541
Central Finance Board Deposits		252,732		91,390			344,122	303,346
Cash at Bank and in hand		15,832			2,221		18,053	17,507
Total current assets		510,861	0	91,390	2,221	0	604,472	599,755
Current liabilities								
Creditors (due in under 1 year)		43,919					43,919	42,690
Grants payable within 2018-19							0	0
Total current liabilities		43,919	0	0	0	0	43,919	42,690
Net current assets/liabilities		466,942	0	91,390	2,221	0	560,553	557,065
Total assets less current liabilities		1,860,997	62,138	91,390	62,592	2,840	2,079,957	2,105,527
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)								
Grants payable after 2018-19							0	0
Loans to the Circuit							0	0
Net assets		1,860,997	62,138	91,390	62,592	2,840	2,079,957	2,105,527
Funds of the Circuit								
General Fund (Unrestricted)		1,860,997					1,860,997	1,833,773
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			62,138				62,138	84,691
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)				91,390			91,390	124,995
Total Unrestricted Funds							2,014,525	2,043,459
Restricted Funds					62,592		62,592	59,427
Endowment Funds						2,840	2,840	2,641
Total Funds		1,860,997	62,138	91,390	62,592	2,840	2,079,957	2,105,527

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Cash Flow Statement

						2025		2024
						£		£
Cash used in operating activities			Note 10			82,071		(33,915)
Cashflows from investing activities								
Interest and dividends						20,366		22,400
Proceeds of disposal of fixed assets						-		-
Transfer in of tangible fixed assets						-		-
Proceeds of sale of investments						-		-
Reclassification as Current Assets								
Purchase of investments						(3,250)		(3,705)
Cash provided by/(used in) investing activities						17,116		18,695
Cashflows from financing activities								
Proceeds from new borrowings						-		-
Repayment of borrowing						-		-
Cash used in financing activities						-		-
Increase/(decrease) in cash & cash equivalents in the year						99,187		(15,220)
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward						294,962		310,182
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward						394,149		294,962

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Notes to the Financial Statements

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items, which are considered material in relation to the charity's financial statements.

Scope of the financial statements

The financial statements relate solely to Macclesfield Methodist Circuit.

Basis of preparation

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with: the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) effective January 1 2019 (second edition – October 2019); and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102); and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

Income

Total Incoming Resources as shown in the Statement of Financial Activities represents the net amounts from all sources.

Income is recognised in the accounting period in which it is receivable, except in the following circumstances, when the income is deferred and included in creditors:

- The income relates to a future accounting period
- A sales invoice has been raised ahead of the work being carried out and the charity is not contractually entitled to the income until the work has been done
- Not all the terms and conditions of the grant have been met, including the incurring of expenditure and the grant conditions are such that unspent grant must be refunded.

Income includes grants in respect of revenue and capital items.

Income recognition

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. The following applies to particular types of income:

Grants, whether of a capital or revenue nature, are recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions have been met and it is probable that the income will be received.

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



General donations from individuals and other bodies (not being of the nature of a grant) are recognised when receivable.

Church Assessments are recognised in the period for which they have been given and any advance payments are deferred in line with the policy below.

Deferred income

Income is only deferred and included in creditors when:

- The income relates to a future accounting period
- A sales invoice has been raised ahead of the work being carried out and there is no contractual entitlement to the income until the work has been done
- Not all the terms and conditions of the grant have been met, including the incurring of expenditure and the grant conditions are such that unspent grant must be refunded

Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

Costs of raising funds, including those associated with fundraising activities and investment management cost.

Charitable activities - costs of undertaking the work of the charity.

The charity is not registered for VAT and cannot recover any input tax charged. Costs are stated inclusive of VAT where charged.

Taxation

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit is exempt from Corporation Tax by reason of its charitable status. Income tax suffered on deeds of covenant and gift aid or investment income is reclaimed in full.

Fixed assets and depreciation

The Circuit has capitalised the freehold properties for which it acts as the Managing Trustees at the Trustees' valuation in 2018 or at subsequent purchase price. Depreciation has been provided at the rate of 0.67% per annum. The Circuit has no other fixed assets.

Investments, gains and losses

Fixed asset investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recorded at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The SoFA includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and on disposals throughout the year.

Gains and losses on are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between sale proceeds (net of transaction costs) and the opening carrying value or cost, if acquired during the year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated on the difference between opening and closing fair values.

Financial instruments

The charity has only basic financial instruments which are initially recorded at cost, and with the exception of investments (as set out above) subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Methodist Ministers' Pension Fund

The Circuit is a member of the Connexional pension scheme (MMPS) which covers presbyters and deacons of the Methodist Church. The contribution rates are set each year by the Methodist Conference, and for the year under review the employer contributions were 26.9% of stipend (2024: 26.9%).

The MMPS is a multi-employer scheme, and in accordance with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission, the Circuit accounts for those contributions as if it were a defined contribution scheme. It has done so because it is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities on a consistent and reasonable basis. Contributions are charged to the SoFA in the period in which they are payable.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Notes 2 – 4

				Macclesfield Methodist Circuit			
						This year	Last year
2. Payments to Trustees							
Payments made to trustees for additional services provided to				£		None	None
Number of trustees who were paid expenses						None	None
Nature of the expenses							
Total amount paid				£		Nil	Nil
3. Fees for examination or audit of the accounts							
Independent examiner's or auditors' fees for reporting on the accounts				£		800	850
Other fees (eg: advice, accountancy services) paid to the examiner/auditor				£		None	None

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



4 STAFF INFORMATION						2025				2024
						£				£
a Staff costs										
Stipends and salaries						56,110				90,890
Employer's NI contributions						5,914				8,117
Pension contributions - Methodist Ministers Scheme						4,427				16,238
						66,451				115,246
No staff member was paid more than £60,000 p.a. in either year.										
b Key management personnel										
The key management of the charity comprise the trustees, which includes the ordained members of staff who are <i>ex officio</i> members of the Circuit Meeting but do not receive any payment specifically for acting as trustees.										
Both lay staff also serve as trustees, one as treasurer, but do not receive any payment specifically for acting as trustees.										
The other trustees do not receive any remuneration for their services.										
						£				£
The total remuneration benefits of the key management						66,451				115,246
c Average staff numbers										
The average number of members of staff whether full or part time was as follows:-										
						2025				2024
						Average				Average
						number				number
Ordained staff (office holders not employees) (50% in 2025, full time in 2024)						1				2
Lay employees						2				2
						3				4

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Note 5 – fixed assets

										Macclesfield Methodist Circuit	
5. Tangible Fixed Assets											

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Notes 6 – 9

6. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS							2025					2024
							£					£
Market value brought forward							125,349					144,692
Income re-invested							3,250					3,704
Additions at cost							-					-
Disposals at carrying value							-					-
Transfers							(10,000)					(25,000)
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation							(558)					1,953
Market value carried forward							118,041					125,349
Investments at fair value comprise:												
Cash held within investment portfolio							118,041					125,349
							118,041					125,349
	Unrestricted funds (CMTF)			Restricted funds (Graveyards)						Endowment funds		
	2025		2024		2025		2024			2025		2024
	£		£		£		£			£		£
Market value brought forward	62,138		84,691		60,371		57,360			2,840		2,641
Income re-invested	513		693		2,737		3,011					
Additions at cost												
Disposals at carrying value												
Transfers	(10,000)		(25,000)									
Reclassification as Current Assets												
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation	(563)		1,754							5		199
Market value carried forward	52,088		62,138		63,108		60,371			2,845		2,840

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



		Macclesfield Methodist Circuit	
		This year	Last year
		£	£
7.	Analysis of current assets		
	Debtors and prepayments		
	Prepayments	7,781	2,297
	Property Investments		
	At 31st August 2022, Walker Barn and Green Close Methodist Churches had ceased to worship and come under the control of the Circuit. Residual remaining net assets were included in the 2022 accounts as a capital receipt in income and other debtors on the balance sheet. In the current year, the remaining cash has been transferred to the Circuit bank account and at year end estimated property values were reconfirmed. The year end balances are:		
	Green Close building at estimated sale proceeds net of levy and other costs	£125,000	£220,000
	Walker Barn building at estimated sale proceeds net of levy and other costs	£50,000	£20,000
	Cash and cash equivalents	£0	£0
	Total	175,000	240,000
8.	Analysis of current liabilities and long term creditors		
	Trade Creditors	2,212	Nil
	Other Creditors (principally assessments received in advance)	43,974	43,919
	Total Current Liabilities	46,186	43,919
9.	Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities		
	At the 31st August 2025 the Circuit has no capital commitments (2024: none).		
	No Contingent liabilities were identified at either year end.		

Notes 10 – 13

10 RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASHFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES								
						2025		2024
						£		£
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers						55,766		(25,570)
Deduct/(add) gains/(losses) on investments						(558)		(1,953)
Add back depreciation on fixed assets						9,715		9,715
Deduct interest income shown in investing activities						20,366		(22,400)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors						(5,484)		5,064
Increase/(decrease) in creditors						2,267		1,229
Net cash generated from/(used in) operating activities						82,071		(33,915)

11 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Stipends and allowances for presbyters and deacons (collectively known as ministers) are set out annually by the Methodist Conference, and the Circuit is responsible for meeting those costs for all Ministers appointed annually by the Conference to serve the Circuit.

The following Minister received 50% of the basic stipend £31,020 (2023/24 - £29,040) and were provided with living accommodation in 2024/25: The Revd Dr Graham Edwards. The Revd Graham Edwards also received the Connexionally agreed additional superintendents' allowance of 10% of stipend, pro rata.

12 OTHER CHARITABLE INCOME

Other charitable income in 2024/25 of £1,452 2023/24 (2023/24 £7,130) included contributions from churches subsequently paid out as other outgoings. Donations and graveyard fees are included in the appropriate fund. Rental income from the former manses is included as income from investment properties.

13 CIRCUIT MODEL TRUST MONEY

Over the year, it was necessary to withdraw an amount of £10,000 to fund the roof renewal work to the manse at Tytherington. Other changes to the fund total relate to the effect of the District contribution deduction, revaluation and admin charges. These Funds form part of our general reserves and as such may be called upon as necessary.

14 DESIGNATED FUNDS

At 31 August 2025 designated funds totalled £117,474, this includes the balance remaining in the Circuit Family Worker fund and the £30,000 originally intended for youth related work but which has now been redesignated for children and families. Additionally, a transfer of £51,500 from 2024/25 income was made into this fund as agreed at the March 2025 Circuit Meeting. This fund will be used to support the Children and Families Coordinator expenditure for the next three years.

Accounts

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2024

Charity Registration Number 1145485

MINISTER	Rev Dr Graham Edwards
TRUSTEES	See main body of the report
CIRCUIT STEWARDS	Mrs Ruth Linde Mrs Barbara Ogle Mr Alex Price
CIRCUIT TREASURER	Mrs Jane Walker
ADDRESS	c/o Langley Methodist Church Main Road Langley Macclesfield SK11 0BU
BANKERS	Barclays Bank
INVESTMENT MANAGERS	Central Finance Board TMCP
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Peter Smith BA FCA DChA Peter Smith Accountancy Services 9 Polruan Road Chorlton Cum Hardy Manchester M21 9NR

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TRUSTEES REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2024.

The Circuit consists of six active churches of varying sizes and locations within East Cheshire from Gawsorth in the south to Poynton in the north. The circuit also has two graveyards at Over Alderley and Rainow and is dealing with the closed churches at Walker Barn and Green Close.

REPORTING FRAMEWORK

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, and 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 (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019), referred to as the Charities SORP (FRS 102) (second edition – October 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Charitable Objectives

The Circuit shares the charitable objectives of the Methodist Church, which are set out as follows:

“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 the 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.”

Circuit Mission Statement

Our mission statement is as follows...

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



CIRCUIT MISSION STATEMENT

We seek to find and fulfil our place in the mission of God to the world.

The role of the Circuit is to develop approaches to staffing and the use of the resources in supporting the churches as we live out our calling.

The mission of Macclesfield Methodist Circuit is to seek to order our life so that we engage fully with the *Five Marks of Mission* in everything we do. The circuit will give attention to these marks as it considers the complex issues of staffing, grant making and overseeing Circuit initiatives.

1 Tell. *To Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom*

Our priorities:

- To offer a variety of worship styles, accessible to all, including areas not currently reached by the circuit
- To make effective use of our Children & Families Mission Teams to explore work with demographic 'gaps' across the circuit
- To ensure adequate and sustainable lay and ordained ministry across the circuit.

How?

- ❖ To encourage and develop new and existing varieties of worship styles (e.g. Contemporary, taize, café, breakfast, proclaim, afternoon tea church, midweek services, quiet/sacred spaces, traditional)
- ❖ To develop effective communication through appropriate channels including social media (e.g. Facebook), websites and internal and external publications and places (e.g. Messenger, Local People, Libraries)
- ❖ To enable and equip volunteers in order to address the needs and opportunities for ministry
- ❖ To make best use of financial resources to support ministry across the circuit

2. Teach. *To teach, baptise and nurture believers*

Our priorities:

- To explore ways the circuit might resource the nurture and spiritual development of believers and seekers
- To equip those involved in the preparing and leading of worship including Worship Leaders, Local Preachers, musicians, stewards, IT, those involved in 'Own Arrangements' and leaders of children and young people
- To support the churches' and circuit's evangelistic outreach into the local communities

How?

- ❖ Provide seasonal reflections, quiet days and study groups at circuit level and explore potential for others
- ❖ Provide and signpost opportunities for training and development, allocating appropriate funding
- ❖ To provide/signpost to resources and tools for equipping evangelistic outreach into local communities

3. Tend. *To respond to Human need by loving service*

Our priorities

- To ensure the churches of the circuit are welcoming, inclusive and safer spaces for all people
- To recruit, train and support all those involved in pastoral care (including Pastoral Visitors, Class Leaders and others) at Circuit and Church level
- To increase awareness of human need and possible responses and resources available

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How?

- ❖ To enact and review Safeguarding policies and procedures at Circuit and Church level
- ❖ To provide training/signposting for those involved in pastoral care
- ❖ To celebrate and publicise existing work in response to human need and help churches identify other needs not being addressed (e.g. local church initiatives and partnerships like MHA Live at Home, Cancer Care)

4. Transform. *To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation*

Our priorities

- To encourage engagement with political processes locally and nationally, and to support those active in this work.
- To advise and support churches as they consider their place and role in addressing the unjust structures of society, challenge violence and pursue peace and reconciliation
- To root out prejudice in ourselves.

How?

- ❖ To play our part in the activities and governance of ecumenical and interfaith work, including supporting the work of Hope in North East Cheshire
- ❖ To highlight and support the work of organisations at home and abroad, which help us keep an outward focus (e.g. JPIT, All We Can, Mission in Britain, OneMission, Action for Children)

5. Treasure. *To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, to sustain and renew the life of the world.*

Our priorities

- To strive to reduce the carbon footprint across the circuit
- To promote fair trade in the life of the circuit
- To be aware of how best we use our resources (buildings, people, finances) across the circuit

How?

- ❖ To up awareness and share best practice on reducing our carbon footprint
- ❖ To encourage circuit led events, activities and groups to strive to be Fair Trade
- ❖ To promote good stewardship of circuit resources

Contribution of Volunteers

The Circuit is heavily dependent upon, and extremely grateful for, the contribution of volunteers as it seeks to carry out its objectives. With the exception of the stipendiary Minister, Children & Families Coordinator and Circuit Administrator, all members of the Circuit Leadership Team and all other Charity trustees are unpaid volunteers.

ACHIEVEMENT & PERFORMANCE

The year has seen a period of readjustment, having reduced ministerial complement from three to two. Over the year, the circuit was led by Superintendent Rev Dr Graham Edwards as minister for Gawsorth, Langley and Macclesfield churches, supported by Rev Ros Watson as minister for Broken Cross, Poynton and Prestbury.

In addition to his Macclesfield churches, due to a shortage of ministers across the district, Graham has been assisting the Stretford & Urmston circuit, an arrangement which began in October 2023. The duties finished at the end of the financial year and Stretford & Urmston have been contributing towards ministerial costs during this period.

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We are fortunate within the circuit to have two Supernumerary ministers in Frank & Sheila Bishop and they have been a constant source of help and support for our ministerial team. We thank them both for the contribution they make to the life of the circuit. This has been a special year for Frank in particular, with the circuit recognising Frank's 60 years as an ordained minister at a circuit service in July.

With the reduction in ministerial numbers, the circuit was left with a vacant manse. It was agreed by the circuit trustees that as the property would not be occupied by a minister, it should be let on the open market. The property had been occupied continually since 2013 and required significant refurbishment to be brought up to letting standard. Whilst some funds had been built into the circuit budget for this purpose, it was soon clear this would be insufficient and additional funds would be required. The circuit drew on funds from its circuit Model Trust fund in order to complete the necessary work. Once all work was completed however, such is the demand for rental property in the area, it was let quickly and has been producing a steady income stream since February 2024. This project has been a time consuming process for the Circuit Stewards and we are grateful for their assistance in managing this through.

The circuit trustees are also tasked with caring for the chapels at Walker Barn and Green Close with a view to disposal of the properties once the necessary approvals have been given. We remain extremely grateful to those who continue helping with management of the buildings and finances in this interim period.

The Methodist Conference of 2021 directed that certain groups of people are now required to undertake Equality Diversity and Inclusion Training. In November, the Circuit ran a training event which was open to everyone within the church family, in addition to those for who training is compulsory. The event was well attended.

At church level, we have been fortunate that once again all our churches have been able to meet their assessment commitments. We remain extremely grateful to our church treasurers for the hard work they do in managing their church finances and we support them as required.

Fundraising has now returned fully post covid and this gives opportunity for social events whilst raising much needed funds to rebuild reserves and also supporting a range of other charities. Macclesfield church have needed a new boiler which necessitated a planned fundraising schedule and all the required funds have now been raised. The church was also supported with a Circuit Grant of £10,000 which was approved by the trustees. Grants from external sources were also obtained.

Our many weekday groups and events have continued apace with initiatives reaching out to those in need. The dementia café at Prestbury has stopped as it was not generally well supported but the Broken Cross one is doing well. Across all the churches coffee mornings in particular remain a popular outreach activity, touching those who perhaps would not otherwise come into church.

Our buildings continue to be used by external community groups and our church treasurers continually look for ways in which to grow in this competitive area. Our churches continue to offer excellent letting facilities for groups at reasonable rates of rental and we are keen for them to be used as a community resource.

Our 'Women's Wellbeing' events continue to be popular and our toddler groups continue to reach an increasing number of children and their families on a regular basis with this valuable work. For families who have children year 6 and above, we offer our Circuit Youth group, a small community of young people who meet (usually monthly) for games, snacks and fun. This offers somewhere for those who have been involved with our family church to move onto as they grow and over the year we have also shared with other ecumenical groups in events aimed at this age group.

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Our work with Children and Families – ‘Methodist Families Together’ continues to be a particular focus for the circuit. Our Coordinator, Angela has run many events of the year such as monthly Messys, Chippy Church, Breakfast Church and Holiday Clubs whilst continuing work with local schools. We are so grateful to our dedicated group of volunteers from across all our churches who support this work and without whose help it could not continue.

The Circuit believes we are fulfilling a need within the community in providing this essential outreach to children and families within the area and has allocated resources from reserves accordingly. Each year, the circuit asks individual churches to contribute financially to this work in order to help fund equipment and supplies. We are very grateful for this financial support from our churches.

New Places for New People is a key component of the national Methodist Church’s *God for All* strategy. Over the next few years, each district across the connexion will be challenged to start several new faith communities. *Caleb* is the name chosen for the Manchester & Stockport District’s response to this national church strategy. As this initiative develops, a special emphasis will be given to supporting churches on the social and economic margins of society.

About 12 – 18 months ago, Methodist Families Together started looking into the possibilities of becoming a Caleb Community. After various meetings and training on ‘how to start a new community’, it was decided MFT would apply to become a Caleb Community.

We are pleased to announce that we were accepted as a Caleb Community in August just before the merger of the Manchester and Stockport District into the new North West England District (‘NWED’). The initiative will continue under NWED. MFT will receive a grant over the next 5 years, and we will be assigned a Caleb Community Coach, who will support us on this new journey.

Having allocated existing reserves towards our work with Children and Families, the circuit will once again be reviewing its reserves policy as part of our ongoing financial management.

Financial accounts for the circuit have been prepared on an Accruals basis in line with the previous year.

Income trends

Total income fell in 2023/24 when compared to 2022/23. Despite a reduction in income from assessments of over £30,000, reflecting the reduction in ministerial complement, increased income from investment properties and monetary investments meant total income fell just over £14,000 for the year.

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment paid by the circuit churches. Once again, it is hoped that our remaining churches will continue to meet their assessment contributions for the 2024/2025 financial year and we are not aware of any financial difficulties. In 2023/24 the level of assessments was adjusted to reflect the decrease in ministers from three to two and recognise the contribution of the rented properties although this latter element is always uncertain due to the risk of tenants leaving/defaulting. From a risk management point of view, a cautious approach is used when preparing the circuit budget.

Income from monetary investments increased due to the market environment of higher interest rates. With the agreement of the Circuit Meeting, the rental of the vacant manse commenced part way through the financial year. Our other investment property (former manse) has been continually occupied during the year, the property is let to a family in housing need and they may be rehoused by the Local Authority at any time, subject to the circuit being given one month’s notice.

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Additionally, as Graham has been spending part of his time assisting the Stretford & Urmston circuit, we have been pleased to receive a proportionate contribution towards stipend and other costs from them.

Progress on the disposal of Walker Barn and Green Close has been slow with the need to focus on Moss Brow and its associated work taking priority. The Circuit is proposing to dispose of both chapel sites through sale on the open market. It is intended to focus on these properties during 2024/2025 but timing of completion of this process is uncertain.

Falling member numbers, lack of volunteers and the effect of loss of rental income are the major risk factors to our churches. This may impact on their ability to meet their circuit assessment. We ask our churches to let us know immediately if they have concerns about meeting their commitments.

Income from the two Graveyards remains steady with generally low demand for plots but with expenditure on upkeep still required. We continue to receive ad-hoc donations for the graveyards which are much appreciated and these are all used towards the cost of ongoing gardening and maintenance work.

During the year quinquennial reports were carried out on Gawsworth, Langley and Prestbury churches. The report findings have been passed on in order for them to deal with areas requiring attention. We are grateful for the care and diligence of those involved in the maintenance of our church buildings.

All these issues will be ongoing considerations of Circuit Leadership Team and Circuit Meeting where appropriate.

Expenditure trends

The circuit finances are concentrated on allowing the paid staff (ministers, mission workers and administrator) to be paid and maintaining the residences of the ministers in good order. Stipend expenditure has increased each financial year in line with conference approved increases. Lay worker salaries are based on the role specification and move in line with the annual percentage stipend increase.

As the circuit complement reduced from three ministers to two, salaries and associated costs have also reduced. Financially, the circuit is able to support two ministers and going forward, we would like to appoint accordingly.

Our work with Children & Families remains a thriving area of focus for the circuit and funding for this work has been provided until 2025. This work will be reviewed as the budget process commences and proposals will be made to Circuit Meeting for consideration. Funds are also available for youth work opportunities, both areas are provided for by reserves and this mission will form another area of our expenditure.

Over £52,000 of expenditure is the Circuit contribution to the District and Connexion, of which a significant part is used to fund the work of the wider Methodist Church. This figure has remained steady as the District transitions into its new wider self. Other expenditure includes staff costs and maintenance of the manses and the closed churches at Walker Barn and Green Close.

The circuit meeting had agreed, at the meeting in March 2023, to make a grant of up to £10,000 to Macclesfield Methodist Church towards the purchase of a new boiler. This grant was paid during the financial year for the full sum.

During the year, churches made contributions of £1,235 (2022-23 £1,235) to the circuit which were subsequently paid over to the Connexion to be split between the Property fund £810 and Fund for Presbyters/Deacons £425.

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Risk management

The Circuit Meeting continues to develop procedures for identifying and addressing the risks facing the charity. The circuit properties are monitored regularly to ensure they are maintained to a good standard and attention is given to the financial situation of our churches and their ability to meet their financial commitments. We have developed robust procedures for safeguarding children, young people, and vulnerable adults including the appointment of a Circuit Safeguarding Officer. Going forward, the circuit faces a considerable risk in not being able to secure ministerial support after the end of Graham's stationing in August. This will be a considerable focus for the circuit invitations committee and circuit meeting trustees early in the new financial year.

Principal Funding Sources

Contributions from the Churches by way of Circuit Assessment continues to be the main source of funding, accounting for 77% (2023: 85%) of normal unrestricted income. The letting of both former manse reflects improvement in rental income, with this accounting for 11% (2023:5% 2022: 5%) of normal unrestricted income.

Fund balances

Over the year fund balances fell slightly by £25,570 to stand at £2,079,957.

Reserves

The Circuit seeks to use all its assets for its charitable purposes, whilst continuing to secure and maintain the Circuit's financial viability. It seeks to set a balanced revenue budget, in order that the ongoing normal costs of ministry, mission and management are met from investment income, grants and donations, and Circuit Assessment.

In order to meet its ongoing financial obligations - including the payment of stipends and of District and Connexional assessments quarterly in advance - and to meet unforeseen circumstances, the Circuit needs to maintain sufficient free reserves. These reserves would enable the Circuit to maintain its mission and ministry in the short term if, for whatever reason, individual Churches encounter difficulties in paying their assessments. Free reserves are defined as unrestricted reserves less the investment in tangible fixed assets.

1. General reserves

At 31st August 2024 general reserves totalled £1,860,997 of which £1,394,055 are tied up in fixed assets (properties), and £240,000 in the assets of Walker Barn and Green Close churches, which are some time off converting fully into cash, leaving liquid reserves of £226,942.

Our policy is to maintain 6 months of general expenditure in reserves (excluding fixed assets). Expenditure in 2023/24 was £203k thus requiring a reserve of approximately £102k. In addition, we have four manse which need to be maintained and always carry a risk of significant repair or needing significant renewal, as in the case of Moss Brow in 2023/24. A reserve of about £50k is considered prudent for this purpose.

On this basis total general reserves required are approximately £152,000 compared to £226,942 available. No decisions as to how the funds from the Walker Barn and Green Close churches will be taken until those assets convert fully into cash once buyers are found for each property.

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2. Circuit Model Trust Fund

This totals £62,138 and represents a further unrestricted fund, held with TMCP. These funds may be used for mission purposes. Funds within Model Trust can be used to meet the shortfall in general reserves with the remainder considered as a contingency. Each year it attracts a 2.5% District levy.

3. Designated funds

These total £91,390 and represent unrestricted funds that the Circuit trustees have agreed to set aside for funding a children and families co-ordinator role for a further year along with an allocation of funding for potential youth work. Funds from circuit trust funds that were previously designated for mission purposes form part of this sum.

4. Restricted funds

The Circuit owns two graveyards which originally belonged to the former chapels at Over Alderley and Rainow Methodist churches. Access difficulties at Rainow mean the graveyard is rarely used for new graves but the one located at the former Methodist Chapel in Over Alderley is in reasonable demand, particularly as the graveyard at the nearby Prestbury Parish church is full. Income from funerals is added to the fund and the expenditure of funerals and upkeep of the grounds is taken from the fund. The balance of the fund is restricted in its use against the graveyards.

5. Endowment funds

Only one endowment fund is held. This is where the capital cannot be accessed and it relates to Over Alderley. The income however, can be used towards the upkeep of the Over Alderley graveyard.

Going Concern

The Trustees have reviewed the circumstances of the Circuit and consider that adequate resources continue to be available to fund its activities for the foreseeable future. The Trustees are therefore of the view that the charity is a going concern.

Plans for 2024/2025

Circuit budgets for the coming year assumed a staffing level of 2 ministers, one full time lay employee (Children and Families Coordinator), and a part time lay employee (Administrator). These were agreed at the Circuit Meeting in March 2024.

As part of the budgeting process, assessments were increased evenly across all churches to reflect the proposed increase in stipends and District contributions, with offset applied to reflect the additional rental income being generated by the former manse.

In March, after agreement of the budgets had taken place, the Rev Ros Watson made known her intention to retire and requested permission to be released from her stationing earlier than originally intended. This permission was granted. The circuit was, at that point too late to be considered within the stationing process for that year and although efforts were made to obtain replacement ministerial support, this was not forthcoming. Ros was due to be stationed within the circuit until 2026 and Graham until 2025. Additionally, Rev Graham Edwards secured a ministerial teaching role over the summer, meaning the circuit ministerial complement would be 0.5 with effect from 1 September 2024. Graham will undertake the teaching role full time once his time with the Macclesfield Circuit finishes in the summer of 2025.

This year will therefore be a difficult time from a resource point of view and plans are in place for an increase in circuit services and opportunities to welcome more visiting preachers to help cover preaching appointments.

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The situation provides churches with the potential opportunity to join together across the circuit with each other and also ecumenically. Churches are also encouraged to become more creative in worship, using technology or changing the time of service. Gawsorth for instance, have been trialling holding one service per month in an afternoon rather than the morning.

It is recognised the budget agreed will no longer be representative of actual spend, although at the present time, true costs remain unknown. Whilst the circuit will request appointment of two ministers to start in September 2025, until the stationing process has been completed the situation will remain uncertain. The circuit will be considering finances as part of the budgeting process and this will be discussed with church treasurers.

Although the District has been subject to the same inflationary increases, some underspends have enabled it to keep the Circuit assessments more or less flat year on year. With effect from 1 September 2024 Manchester & Stockport District to which the circuit belongs will merge and become the new North West England District. It is currently unknown how this will affect District assessments going forward although it is not expected that assessments will increase significantly.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

As the circuit is part of the Methodist Church of Great Britain the managing trustees operate within the Methodist Church Connexion and as such, their governing document is the Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Methodist Church. The document is available for inspection via the Superintendent. Macclesfield Circuit is registered as a separate charity, number 1145485.

Connected charities

The Churches forming the Circuit are themselves charities and, as they are responsible for their own financial affairs, they are not reported in these statements.

Macclesfield Circuit Meeting constitution [S.O. 510]
September 2023 [38 members – *currently 2 multiple with qualifications]

(i) The ex officio members (S.O. 552) [7 members]

The Superintendent Minister

The Revd Dr Graham Edwards

All ministers, probationers and persons authorised to serve the church as Presbyters or Deacons:

The Revd Ros Watson

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The circuit stewards

Mrs Ruth Linde
Mr Alex Price
Mrs Barbara Ogle
Mrs Jane Walker (Treasurer)

(ii) Any other persons stationed or residing for the purposes of the stations in, or whose names appear under the number of, the Circuit in accordance with clause (4) of Standing Order 785, and who have informed the Superintendent of their wish to be members of the Circuit Meeting for the ensuing connexional year, except that any person stationed in one circuit but residing in another for the purposes of the stations is eligible to be a member, under this head, of the Circuit Meeting of the latter Circuit only; **[1 member]**

Supernumerary Presbyters or Deacons [S.O. 785 (4) (a) (vi)]

The Revd Sheila Bishop

(iv) such persons, if any, as the Circuit Meeting judges it appropriate to appoint from among those employed by the meeting under Standing Order 510; **[1 member]**

Mrs Angela Bourne (Circuit Children and Families Coordinator)

(v) the Secretary of the Meeting **[1 member]**

Miss Susan Mellor

(vi) the secretary of the Local Preachers Meeting **[1 member]**

Mr Alan Rashleigh

(vii) from each Local Church one church steward and the church treasurer,

(viii) representatives elected by the church council of each local church from its own members in numbers specified by the circuit meeting. **[Membership under 100 = 1 representative, membership over 100 = 2 representatives.] 20 members**

Broken Cross Methodist Church [3]

Church Steward	Mrs Liz Hammond
Treasurer	Mr John Bird
1 representative	Mrs Joan Green

Gawsworth Methodist Church [3]

Church Steward	Mrs Jillian Longson
Treasurer	Mrs Margaret Parkin
1 representative	Mrs Carolyn Boden

Langley Methodist Church [3]

Church Steward	Mr Alan Chapman
Treasurer	Mr David Bullock
1 representative	Mrs Mavis Nixon

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Macclesfield Methodist Church [4]

Church Steward	Mrs Margery Wilson
Treasurer	Mrs Ruth Linde*
2 representatives	Mr Ian Wardle
	**Vacant

Poynton Methodist Church [4]

Church Steward	Mrs Christine Ding
Treasurer	Mrs Jane Robson
2 representatives	Mrs Jean Drinkwater
	Mrs Mandy Hawkyard

Prestbury Methodist Church [3]

Church Steward	Mrs Heather Cann
Treasurer	Mrs Valerie Jones
1 representative	Mr Eddie Jones

(ix) Additional Persons as the Circuit Meeting may desire and appoint to ensure that all areas of the life of the circuit are adequately represented, provided that the total number appointed under this head shall not exceed the total of the numbers specified by the circuit meeting for the purposes of head (viii). [\[9 Members\]](#)

Circuit Safeguarding Officer	Mrs Pam Childs
Circuit Admin	Mrs Jane Walker*
MWiB	Mrs Brenda Chapman
CFW Advisor	Mrs Joan Pritchard
MHA	Mrs Ruth Gunning
Missions	Miss Brenda Bailey
Action for Children	**Vacant
Hope in NE Cheshire	**Vacant
Former Circuit Steward	David Dippie

Trustee recruitment, induction and training

As outlined above, the appointment of the majority of the members of the Circuit Meeting is outside the control of the Meeting. We encourage all trustees to undertake Governance training when available and participate in Charity Commission webinars and other training sessions as appropriate. In appointing the Circuit Leadership Team and other officers, the Meeting has regard to the balance of skills and gifts that are needed to further the work of the Church. New members of the Leadership Team are inducted by the Leadership Team.

Organisation

The Circuit Meeting is convened biannually usually in September and March. The Circuit Leadership Team, appointed by the Circuit Meeting, is responsible for acting on behalf of the Circuit Meeting at other times. The Leadership Team usually meets at least six times per year. The Circuit Meeting retains responsibility for setting the mission priorities of the Circuit, the overall strategy to deliver those priorities, the invitation of ministers, the oversight of local churches, the admission of people to the office of Local Preacher, and decisions on formal explorations of calls to ministry and candidates for the ordained ministry.

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The Leadership Team is assisted in the task of financial oversight by the Circuit Treasurer and the Assistant Treasurer.

The Methodist Church appoints a minister to be the Superintendent Minister of the Circuit, whose duties are set out in the Standing Orders of the Church.

Pay and Remuneration

Stipends and allowances for presbyters and deacons (collectively ministers) are set annually by the Methodist Conference, and the Circuit is responsible for meeting those costs for all ministers appointed by the Conference to the Circuit. Fuller disclosure is contained in Note 4 to the accounts. Lay employee remuneration is set by the Circuit based on the role specification and pay moves in line with the annual percentage stipend increase.

FUTURE PLANS

The circuit will continue to provide a supporting role to its churches and will consider any issues arising through the appropriate channels of Circuit Leadership Team and Circuit Meeting as necessary.

A major focus for the start of the new financial year will be stationing and hopefully the appointment of a Superintendent Minister and a presbyter. The circuit faces challenges with limited resources for the year and we encourage church participation in the planning and organising of worship. We look forward to more circuit services as an opportunity to share worship with grow in unity with others.

Online services will be produced as resources allow and we encourage the revisiting and sharing of the substantial catalogue of services available on the circuit YouTube channel.

Ongoing maintenance and management of the manses and graveyards will be the focus of the Circuit Stewards with responsibility for property. Ongoing issues relate to dealing with Walker Barn and Green Close churches.

We accept the demand for Sunday evening services has reduced substantially since the pandemic and this remains an area to consider going forward once new ministerial appointments have been made.

The circuit is delighted that following a very successful stationing process, the circuit will have Superintendent and presbyter ministers joining us in September. These appointments are however, still subject to Conference approval at this stage.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Circuit Meeting to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the Charity and of the surplus or deficit of the Charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Circuit Meeting has to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102) (second edition – October 2019);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis

The Circuit Meeting is responsible for keeping records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with applicable regulations. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS

As it is now necessary to undertake accruals accounting, Peter Smith, of Peter Smith Accountancy Services has been appointed as Independent Examiner.

REV GRAHAM EDWARDS



DATE 10 MARCH 2025

ON BEHALF OF CIRCUIT MEETING

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Macclesfield Methodist Circuit for the year ended August 31 2024

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended August 31 2024 which are set out on pages 14 to 26.

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

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

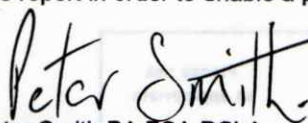
I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the ICAEW which is one of the listed bodies.

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 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.



Peter Smith BA FCA DChA
Peter Smith Accountancy Services
9 Polruan Road
Chorlton-cum-Hardy
Manchester M21 9NR

Date: 23/05/25

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Statement of Financial Activities

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 2022-23
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
1 Donations and legacies							0
2 Income from monetary investments		16,248	3,051		3,101		22,400
3 Income from investment properties		24,247					24,247
4 Assessments on Churches		167,256					167,256
5 Capital Receipts		255					255
6 Grants received							0
7 Other charitable income	12	7,130		3,776	4,995		15,901
8 Total income		215,136	3,051	3,776	8,096	-	230,059
Expenditure							
9 Grants and donations		10,000					10,000
10 Salaries and associated costs		89,288		32,022			121,310
11 Property maintenance		40,504					40,504
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy							0
13 District Assessment & Levy		49,956	2,117				52,073
14 Depreciation		9,715					9,715
15 Office expenses		13,449	241	5,359			19,049
16 Other outgoings					5,004	8	5,012
17 Total charitable expenditure		212,912	2,358	37,381	5,004	8	257,663
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments			1,754			280	2,034
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties							
20 Net income/(expenditure)		2,224	2,447	-33,605	3,092	272	-25,570
21 Transfers between funds	13	25,000	- 25,000		73	- 73	0
22 Other gains/(losses)							
23 Net movement in funds		27,224	-22,553	-33,605	3,165	199	-25,570
24 Total funds brought forward		1,833,773	84,691	124,995	59,427	2,641	2,105,527
25 Total funds carried forward		1,860,997	62,138	91,390	62,592	2,840	2,079,957
				Note 14			

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



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 2022-23
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
1 Donations and legacies							0
2 Income from monetary investments		10,669	2,397		1,861	81	15,008
3 Income from investment properties		13,136					13,136
4 Assessments on Churches		199,285					199,285
5 Capital Receipts	7						0
6 Grants received							0
7 Other charitable income	12	11,000		4,508	1,738		17,246
8 Total income		234,090	2,397	4,508	3,599	81	244,675
Expenditure							
9 Grants and donations		40					40
10 Salaries and associated costs		120,380		30,795			151,175
11 Property maintenance		20,090					20,090
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy							0
13 District Assessment & Levy		50,298	2,173				52,471
14 Depreciation		9,715					9,715
15 Office expenses		12,548	248	5,218			18,014
16 Other outgoings		4,764			4,553	195	9,512
17 Total charitable expenditure		217,835	2,421	36,013	4,553	195	261,017
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		-	2,218				-2,218
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties							
20 Net income/(expenditure)		16,255	-2,242	-31,505	-954	-114	-18,560
21 Transfers between funds	13						0
22 Other gains/(losses)							
23 Net movement in funds		16,255	-2,242	-31,505	-954	-114	-18,560
24 Total funds brought forward		1,817,518	86,933	156,500	60,381	2,755	2,124,087
25 Total funds carried forward		1,833,773	84,691	124,995	59,427	2,641	2,105,527

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Balance Sheet

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024								
	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2023/24	Totals 2022/23
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets								
Circuit Manses & Equipment		1,394,055					1,394,055	1,403,770
Investment properties							0	0
Investments			62,138		60,371	2,840	125,349	144,692
Total fixed assets		1,394,055	62,138	0	60,371	2,840	1,519,404	1,548,462
Current Assets								
Debtors	7	2,297					2,297	7,361
Loans by the Circuit							0	0
Property Investments	7	240,000					240,000	271,541
Central Finance Board Deposits		252,732		91,390			344,122	303,346
Cash at Bank and in hand		15,832			2,221		18,053	17,507
Total current assets		510,861	0	91,390	2,221	0	604,472	599,755
Current liabilities								
Creditors (due in under 1 year)		43,919					43,919	42,690
Grants payable within 2018-19							0	0
Total current liabilities		43,919	0	0	0	0	43,919	42,690
Net current assets/liabilities		466,942	0	91,390	2,221	0	560,553	557,065
Total assets less current liabilities		1,860,997	62,138	91,390	62,592	2,840	2,079,957	2,105,527
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		1,860,997	62,138	91,390	62,592	2,840	2,079,957	2,105,527
Funds of the Circuit								
General Fund (Unrestricted)		1,860,997					1,860,997	1,833,773
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			62,138				62,138	84,691
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)				91,390			91,390	124,995
Total Unrestricted Funds							2,014,525	2,043,459
Restricted Funds					62,592		62,592	59,427
Endowment Funds						2,840	2,840	2,641
Total Funds		1,860,997	62,138	91,390	62,592	2,840	2,079,957	2,105,527

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Cash Flow Statement

							2024				2023
							£				£
Cash used in operating activities	Note 10						(33,996)				(26,601)
Cashflows from investing activities											
Interest and dividends							22,680				15,008
Proceeds of disposal of fixed assets							-				
Transfer in of tangible fixed assets							-				
Proceeds of sale of investments							-				
Reclassification as Current Assets											
Purchase of investments							(3,904)				(1,679)
Cash provided by/(used in) investing activities							18,776				13,329
Cashflows from financing activities											
Proceeds from new borrowings							-				
Repayment of borrowing							-				
Cash used in financing activities							-				
Increase/(decrease) in cash & cash equivalents in the year							(15,220)				(13,272)
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward							310,182				323,454
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward							294,962				310,182

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Notes to the Financial Statements

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items, which are considered material in relation to the charity's financial statements.

Scope of the financial statements

The financial statements relate solely to Macclesfield Methodist Circuit.

Basis of preparation

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with: the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) effective January 1 2019 (second edition – October 2019); and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102); and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

Income

Total Incoming Resources as shown in the Statement of Financial Activities represents the net amounts from all sources.

Income is recognised in the accounting period in which it is receivable, except in the following circumstances, when the income is deferred and included in creditors:

- The income relates to a future accounting period
- A sales invoice has been raised ahead of the work being carried out and the charity is not contractually entitled to the income until the work has been done
- Not all the terms and conditions of the grant have been met, including the incurring of expenditure and the grant conditions are such that unspent grant must be refunded.

Income includes grants in respect of revenue and capital items.

Income recognition

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. The following applies to particular types of income:

Grants, whether of a capital or revenue nature, are recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions have been met and it is probable that the income will be received.

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



General donations from individuals and other bodies (not being of the nature of a grant) are recognised when receivable.

Church Assessments are recognised in the period for which they have been given and any advance payments are deferred in line with the policy below.

Deferred income

Income is only deferred and included in creditors when:

- The income relates to a future accounting period
- A sales invoice has been raised ahead of the work being carried out and there is no contractual entitlement to the income until the work has been done
- Not all the terms and conditions of the grant have been met, including the incurring of expenditure and the grant conditions are such that unspent grant must be refunded

Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

Costs of raising funds, including those associated with fundraising activities and investment management cost.

Charitable activities - costs of undertaking the work of the charity.

The charity is not registered for VAT and cannot recover any input tax charged. Costs are stated inclusive of VAT where charged.

Taxation

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit is exempt from Corporation Tax by reason of its charitable status. Income tax suffered on deeds of covenant and gift aid or investment income is reclaimed in full.

Fixed assets and depreciation

The Circuit has capitalised the freehold properties for which it acts as the Managing Trustees at the Trustees' valuation in 2018 or at subsequent purchase price. Depreciation has been provided at the rate of 0.67% per annum. The Circuit has no other fixed assets.

Investments, gains and losses

Fixed asset investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recorded at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The SoFA includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and on disposals throughout the year.

Gains and losses on are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between sale proceeds (net of transaction costs) and the opening carrying value or cost, if acquired during the year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated on the difference between opening and closing fair values.

Financial instruments

The charity has only basic financial instruments which are initially recorded at cost, and with the exception of investments (as set out above) subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Methodist Ministers' Pension Fund

The Circuit is a member of the Connexional pension scheme (MMPS) which covers presbyters and deacons of the Methodist Church. The contribution rates are set each year by the Methodist Conference, and for the year under review the employer contributions were 26.9% of stipend (2023: 26.9%).

The MMPS is a multi-employer scheme, and in accordance with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission, the Circuit accounts for those contributions as if it were a defined contribution scheme. It has done so because it is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities on a consistent and reasonable basis. Contributions are charged to the SoFA in the period in which they are payable.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Notes 2 – 4

				Macclesfield Methodist Circuit			
						This year	Last year
2. Payments to Trustees							
Payments made to trustees for additional services provided to				£		None	None
Number of trustees who were paid expenses						None	None
Nature of the expenses							
Total amount paid				£		Nil	Nil
3. Fees for examination or audit of the accounts							
Independent examiner's or auditors' fees for reporting on the accounts				£		850	800
Other fees (eg: advice, accountancy services) paid to the examiner/auditor				£		None	None

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



4 STAFF INFORMATION							2024			2023
							£			£
a Staff costs										
Stipends and salaries							90,890			114,330
Employer's NI contributions							8,117			10,456
Pension contributions - Methodist Ministers Scheme							16,238			22,760
							115,246			147,546
No staff member was paid more than £60,000 p.a. in either year.										
b Key management personnel										
The key management of the charity comprise the trustees, which includes the ordained members of staff who are <i>ex officio</i> members of the Circuit Meeting but do not receive any payment specifically for acting as trustees.										
Both lay staff also serve as trustees, one as treasurer, but do not receive any payment specifically for acting as trustees.										
The other trustees do not receive any remuneration for their services.										
							£			£
The total remuneration benefits of the key management							115,246			147,546
c Average staff numbers										
The average number of members of staff whether full or part time was as follows:-										
							2024			2023
							Average			Average
							number			number
Ordained staff (office holders not employees)							2			3
Lay employees							2			2
							4			5

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit

Note 5 – fixed assets



5. Tangible Fixed Assets		Detail of assets held:						
		4 Manses - at Marlborough Drive, Tytherington, Moss Brow, Bollington, Atholl Close, Macclesfield and Ivy Road, Poynton						
Cost or valuation								
		Land £	Manses £	Other buildings £	Other fixed assets including motor vehicles £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Payments on account and assets under construction £	Total £
Balance brought forward		0	1,450,000	0	0	0	0	1,450,000
Additions								0
Revaluations & Gain/Loss on Disposal (+/-)								0
Disposals (-)								0
Transfers (+/-)								0
Balance carried forward		0	1,450,000	0	0	0	0	1,450,000
Accumulated depreciation								
Balance brought forward			46,230					46,230
Depreciation charge for year (-)			9,715					9,715
Revaluations (+/-)								0
Disposals (-)								0
Transfers* (+/-)								0
Balance carried forward		0	55,945	0	0	0	0	55,945
Net book value								
Brought forward		-	1,403,770	-	-	-	-	1,403,770
Carried forward		-	1,394,055	-	-	-	-	1,394,055

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Notes 6 – 9

6. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS								2024				2023
								£				£
Market value brought forward								144,692				145,346
Income re-invested								3,704				1,678
Additions at cost								-				-
Disposals at carrying value								-				-
Transfers								(25,000)				-
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation								1,953				(2,332)
Market value carried forward								125,349				144,692
<i>Investments at fair value comprise:</i>												
Cash held within investment portfolio								125,349				144,692
								125,349				144,692
	Unrestricted funds (CMTF)			Restricted funds (Graveyards)				Endowment funds				
	2024		2023		2024		2023		2024		2023	
	£		£		£		£		£		£	
Market value brought forward	84,691		86,933		57,360		55,658		2,641		2,755	
Income re-invested	693		(24)		3,011		1,702					
Additions at cost												
Disposals at carrying value												
Transfers	(25,000)											
Reclassification as Current Assets												
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation	1,754		(2,218)						199		(114)	
Market value carried forward	62,138		84,691		60,371		57,360		2,840		2,641	

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



7.	Analysis of current assets		This year	Last year
	Debtors and prepayments		£	£
	Prepayments		2,297	7,361
	Property Investments			
	At 31st August 2022, Walker Barn and Green Close Methodist Churches had ceased to worship and come under the control of the Circuit. Residual remaining net assets were included in the 2022 accounts as a capital receipt in income and other debtors on the balance sheet. In the current year, the remaining cash has been transferred to the Circuit bank account and at year end estimated property values were reconfirmed. The year end balances are:			
	Green Close building at estimated sale proceeds net of levy and other costs		£220,000	£220,000
	Walker Barn building at estimated sale proceeds net of levy and other costs		£20,000	£20,000
	Cash and cash equivalents		£0	£31,541
	Total		240,000	271,541
8.	Analysis of current liabilities and long term creditors			
	Trade Creditors		Nil	Nil
	Other Creditors (principally assessments received in advance)		43,919	42,690
	Total Current Liabilities		43,919	42,690
9.	Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities			
	At the 31st August 2024 the Circuit has no capital commitments (2023: none).			
	No Contingent liabilities were identified at either year end.			

Notes 10 - 13

10 RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASHFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES												
								2024		2023		
								£		£		
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers								(25,570)		(18,560)		
Deduct/(add) gains/(losses) on investments								(1,754)		2,332		
Add back depreciation on fixed assets								9,715		9,715		
Deduct interest income shown in investing activities								(22,680)		(15,008)		
Decrease/(increase) in debtors								5,064		2,851		
Increase/(decrease) in creditors								1,229		(7,931)		
Net cash generated from/(used in) operating activities								(33,996)		(26,601)		

11 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Stipends and allowances for presbyters and deacons (collectively known as ministers) are set out annually by the Methodist Conference, and the Circuit is responsible for meeting those costs for all Ministers appointed annually by the Conference to serve the Circuit.

The following Ministers received the basic stipend £29,040 (2022/23 - £26,928) and were provided with living accommodation in 2023/24: The Revd Dr Graham Edwards and The Revd Ros Watson. The Revd Graham Edwards received the Connexionally agreed additional superintendents' allowance of 10% of stipend.

12 OTHER CHARITABLE INCOME

Other charitable income in 2023/24 of £7,130 (2022/23 £11,000) included income from another circuit as a proportionate contribution towards the Superintendent's cost. Donations and graveyard fees are included in the appropriate fund. Rental income from the former manses is included as income from investment properties.

13 CIRCUIT MODEL TRUST MONEY

Over the year, it was necessary to withdrawn an amount of £25,000 to fund the renovation work to the manse at Moss Brow. Other changes to the fund total relate to the effect of the District contribution deduction, revaluation and admin charges. These Funds form part of our general reserves and as such may be called upon as necessary.

14 DESIGNATED FUNDS

At 31 August 2024 designated funds totalled £91,390, this represents the balance of funding set aside for the Circuit Family Worker totalling £61,390 and £30,000 to support future youth related work.

At 31 August 2024 designated funds totalled £91,390, this represents sufficient for two further years of funding for the Circuit Family Worker totalling £61,390 and £30,000 to support future youth related work. The contractual commitment in place for the Circuit Family Worker is currently for one year to 31st August 2025, a formal decision whether to extend beyond that date will be confirmed by the Circuit Meeting in due course.

Accounts

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023

Charity Registration Number 1145485

MINISTERS	Rev Graham Edwards Rev Ros Watson
TRUSTEES	See main body of the report
CIRCUIT STEWARDS	Mrs Ruth Linde Mrs Barbara Ogle Mr Alex Price
CIRCUIT TREASURER	Mrs Jane Walker
ADDRESS	c/o Langley Methodist Church Main Road Langley Macclesfield SK11 0BU
BANKERS	Barclays Bank
INVESTMENT MANAGERS	Central Finance Board TMCP
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Peter Smith BA FCA DChA Peter Smith Accountancy Services 9 Polruan Road Chorlton Cum Hardy Manchester M21 9NR

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TRUSTEES REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2023.

The Circuit consists of six active churches of varying sizes and locations within East Cheshire from Gawsorth in the south to Poynton in the north. The circuit also has two graveyards at Over Alderley and Rainow and is dealing with the closed churches at Walker Barn and Green Close.

REPORTING FRAMEWORK

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, and 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 (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019), referred to as the Charities SORP (FRS 102) (second edition – October 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Charitable Objectives

The Circuit shares the charitable objectives of the Methodist Church, which are set out as follows:

“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 the 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.”

Circuit Mission Statement

Our mission statement is as follows...

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



CIRCUIT MISSION STATEMENT

We seek to find and fulfil our place in the mission of God to the world.

The role of the Circuit is to develop approaches to staffing and the use of the resources in supporting the churches as we live out our calling.

The mission of Macclesfield Methodist Circuit is to seek to order our life so that we engage fully with the *Five Marks of Mission* in everything we do. The circuit will give attention to these marks as it considers the complex issues of staffing, grant making and overseeing Circuit initiatives.

1 Tell. *To Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom*

Our priorities:

- To offer a variety of worship styles, accessible to all, including areas not currently reached by the circuit
- To make effective use of our Children & Families Mission Teams to explore work with demographic 'gaps' across the circuit
- To ensure adequate and sustainable lay and ordained ministry across the circuit.

How?

- ❖ To encourage and develop new and existing varieties of worship styles (e.g. Contemporary, taize, café, breakfast, proclaim, afternoon tea church, midweek services, quiet/sacred spaces, traditional)
- ❖ To develop effective communication through appropriate channels including social media (e.g. Facebook), websites and internal and external publications and places (e.g. Messenger, Local People, Libraries)
- ❖ To enable and equip volunteers in order to address the needs and opportunities for ministry
- ❖ To make best use of financial resources to support ministry across the circuit

2. Teach. *To teach, baptise and nurture believers*

Our priorities:

- To explore ways the circuit might resource the nurture and spiritual development of believers and seekers
- To equip those involved in the preparing and leading of worship including Worship Leaders, Local Preachers, musicians, stewards, IT, those involved in 'Own Arrangements' and leaders of children and young people
- To support the churches' and circuit's evangelistic outreach into the local communities

How?

- ❖ Provide seasonal reflections, quiet days and study groups at circuit level and explore potential for others
- ❖ Provide and signpost opportunities for training and development, allocating appropriate funding
- ❖ To provide/signpost to resources and tools for equipping evangelistic outreach into local communities

3. Tend. *To respond to Human need by loving service*

Our priorities

- To ensure the churches of the circuit are welcoming, inclusive and safer spaces for all people
- To recruit, train and support all those involved in pastoral care (including Pastoral Visitors, Class Leaders and others) at Circuit and Church level
- To increase awareness of human need and possible responses and resources available

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



How?

- ❖ To enact and review Safeguarding policies and procedures at Circuit and Church level
- ❖ To provide training/signposting for those involved in pastoral care
- ❖ To celebrate and publicise existing work in response to human need and help churches identify other needs not being addressed (e.g. local church initiatives and partnerships like MHA Live at Home, Cancer Care)

4. Transform. *To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation*

Our priorities

- To encourage engagement with political processes locally and nationally, and to support those active in this work.
- To advise and support churches as they consider their place and role in addressing the unjust structures of society, challenge violence and pursue peace and reconciliation
- To root out prejudice in ourselves.

How?

- ❖ To play our part in the activities and governance of ecumenical and interfaith work, including supporting the work of Hope in North East Cheshire
- ❖ To highlight and support the work of organisations at home and abroad, which help us keep an outward focus (e.g. JPIT, All We Can, Mission in Britain, OneMission, Action for Children)

5. Treasure. *To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, to sustain and renew the life of the world.*

Our priorities

- To strive to reduce the carbon footprint across the circuit
- To promote fair trade in the life of the circuit
- To be aware of how best we use our resources (buildings, people, finances) across the circuit

How?

- ❖ To up awareness and share best practice on reducing our carbon footprint
- ❖ To encourage circuit led events, activities and groups to strive to be Fair Trade
- ❖ To promote good stewardship of circuit resources

Contribution of Volunteers

The Circuit is heavily dependent upon, and extremely grateful for, the contribution of volunteers as it seeks to carry out its objectives. With the exception of the three stipendiary Ministers, Children & Families Coordinator and Circuit Administrator, all members of the Circuit Leadership Team and all other Charity trustees are unpaid volunteers.

ACHIEVEMENT & PERFORMANCE

This has been a year of adjusting to 'new normals'. Whilst our congregation levels have not completely recovered, we seek to serve the community around us and have been delighted to welcome new faces in many of our churches.

We have been fortunate that throughout the turbulence of the last few years our churches were able to continue the payment of the assessments to the circuit. This has been due to the generosity of our congregations and also by our churches having sufficient reserves for which we are extremely grateful. As a circuit we appreciate the hard work of our church Treasurers and we will support them wherever possible.

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



New challenges continue to arise though, a slow global recovery from the pandemic, the war in Ukraine and its effect on food and energy cost, rising interest rates in the UK, all factors combining to make this a difficult time for so many. Our churches are acutely aware of the cost of living crisis.

Our many weekday groups and events have continued apace with new initiatives such as dementia cafes and warm spaces helping to reach out to those in need. Coffee mornings in particular remain a popular outreach activity. General fundraising activities have and continue to take place both for own funds in helping to rebuild reserves and also supported charities. Macclesfield church's current campaign to raise funds for a new boiler being a particular feature of activity across the circuit.

Our buildings are again being used by external community groups and our church treasurers continually look for ways in which to grow in this competitive area. Since lockdown some groups have gone online or disbanded but our churches continue to offer excellent letting facilities for groups at reasonable rates of rental.

During the year, Poynton achieved Eco church status as part of their commitment to climate change. Langley and Prestbury have had solar panels in place for some time and are seeing the benefits from this investment. Macclesfield will be replacing their boiler, subsequently improving their energy efficiency.

The circuit trustees are tasked with caring for the chapels at Walker Barn and Green Close with a view to disposal of the properties once the necessary approvals have been given. Although relatively few in number, we have been delighted to welcome former members of Walker Barn and Green Close to some of our other churches across the circuit and remain extremely grateful to those who continue helping with management of the buildings and finances in this interim period.

During the course of 2022-2023 we have been supported by a complement of three full time ministers. However, due to a reduction in the number of active churches and member numbers, the Circuit Trustees made the decision to not seek a replacement minister at the end of Rev Helen Byrne's stationing.

2023-2024 will therefore see the circuit led by Superintendent Rev Dr Graham Edwards as minister for Gawsorth, Langley and Macclesfield churches, supported by Rev Ros Watson as minister for Broken Cross, Poynton and Prestbury. Graham and Ros do however work closely to operate a 'team ministry' and are able to mix and match time across congregations as appropriate.

At the end of the 2023 financial year Graham finished his support for the Altrincham circuit as they were successful in recruiting a minister to their circuit. Ministers generally remain in short supply though and following on from his experiences in Altrincham, Graham has been asked to assist the Stretford & Urmston circuit over the coming year, starting in October. It is anticipated this will take one sixth of Graham's time and financial arrangements will be put in place to contribute pro rata to Superintendent stipend and manse cost accordingly. Rev Ros Watson will assist in covering Graham's Macclesfield's responsibilities as necessary.

Our work with Children and Families continues a particular focus for the circuit. Our Coordinator, Angela has run many events of the year such as monthly Messy's, Chippy Church, Breakfast Church and Holiday Clubs whilst continuing work with local schools. We are so grateful to our dedicated group of volunteers who support this work and without whose help it could not continue. Over the year Angela hosted a thank you lunch in recognition of the vital role our volunteers play.

Our 'Women's Wellbeing' events continue to be popular and our toddler groups continue to reach an increasing number of children and their families on a regular basis with this valuable work. For families who have children year 6 and above, we offer our Circuit Youth group, a small community of young people who

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



meet (usually monthly) for games, snacks and fun. This offers somewhere for those who have been involved with our family church to move onto as they grow.

Taking inspiration from an online training course, Angela has also been spending time working on branding, vision and values for our children and families work so that our Family Church Community feels that they belong to something or somewhere.



After further discussion and playing with words, it was decided to use **'Methodist Families Together' 'MFT.'** MFT can also be an abbreviation of **'My Favourite Things'** and has resulted in a new logo and the next stage is to form our Values and Vision to ensure our families feel like they belong.

The Circuit believes we are fulfilling a need within the community in providing essential outreach to children and families within the area and has allocated resources from reserves accordingly. This year we asked individual churches to contribute financially to fund equipment and supplies and their support has been much appreciated.

Having allocated existing reserves to fund the work detailed above, the circuit will once again be reviewing its reserves policy as part of our ongoing financial management.

Financial accounts for the circuit have been prepared on an Accruals basis in line with the previous year.

Income trends

Total income fell substantially in 2022/23 when compared to 2021/22. This was due to the earlier year's figure being inflated by the bringing in of Walker Barn and Green Close properties to Circuit control. This also meant there was a reduction in the level of assessment income over the year as only six churches were contributing. The remaining churches had agreed to small increases in assessments for 2022/23 to cover the loss of Walker Barn's assessment. Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment paid by the circuit churches. Once again, it is hoped that our remaining churches will continue to meet their assessment contributions for the 2023/2024 financial year.

Additionally, as Graham has been spending part of his time assisting the Altrincham circuit, we have been pleased to receive a proportionate contribution towards stipend and other costs from them and this helped to offset the loss of Green Close's assessment contribution.

We have been fortunate to see increases in the level of rental income received. The rental income relates to the rental of a manse and with agreement of the Circuit Meeting, the tenancy was renewed for a 12-month period in March 2023 subject to a small uplift in the monthly rental. The property is let to a family in housing need and they may be rehoused by the Local Authority at any time, subject to the circuit being given one month's notice.

Progress on the disposal of Walker Barn and Green Close has been slow with the need to focus on Moss Brow and its associated work taking priority. The Circuit is proposing to dispose of both chapel sites through sale on the open market. It is intended to focus on these properties during 2024 but timing of completion of this process is uncertain.

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



are

Falling member numbers, lack of volunteers and the effect of loss of rental income the major risk factors to our churches. This may impact on their ability to meet their circuit assessment. We have asked our churches to let us know immediately if they have concerns about meeting their commitments.

During the year interest rates have increased substantially and the Circuit has benefitted from this with income from monetary investments rising from just over £1,000 in 2021-22 to over £10,000 in 2022-23.

Income from the two Graveyards has been lower than in recent years with less demand for plots but with expenditure on upkeep still required. We continue to receive ad-hoc donations for the graveyards which are much appreciated and these are all used towards the cost of ongoing gardening and maintenance work.

During the year a quinquennial report was carried out on Poynton church. The report findings have been passed on in order for them to deal with areas requiring attention.

All these issues will be ongoing considerations of Circuit Leadership Team and Circuit Meeting where appropriate.

Expenditure trends

The circuit finances are concentrated on allowing the paid staff (ministers, mission workers and administrator,) to be paid and maintaining the residences of the ministers in good order. Stipend expenditure has increased each financial year in line with conference approved increases. Lay worker salaries are based on the role specification and move in line with the annual percentage stipend increase.

As mentioned in last years' report, it was the Circuit's desire to reduce to 2 ministers from 01.09.23. Rev Helen Byrne made known her intention to leave the circuit at the end of her appointment in August 2023 and was successful in securing a role in Cornwall. We thank Helen for all her help during her period of ministry with us and wish her all the best in her new role. We were delighted both the Rev Dr Graham Edwards agreed to extend his current appointment as Superintendent until 2025 and Rev Ros Watson agreed to extend until 2026. This allows the Circuit a staggered period of potential change going forward.

Our work with Children & Families remains a thriving area of focus for the circuit and funding for this work has been provided until 2025. Funds are also available for youth work opportunities, both areas are provided for by reserves and this mission will form another area of our expenditure.

Over £52,000 of expenditure is the Circuit contribution to the District and Connexion, of which a significant part is used to fund the work of the wider Methodist Church. Our District contribution will decrease slightly for the coming year. The other expenditure includes staff costs and maintenance of the manses.

No Circuit grants were made during the year.

During the year, churches made contributions of £1,235 (2021-22 £1,235) to the circuit which were subsequently paid over to the Connexion to be split between the Property fund £810 and Fund for Presbyters/Deacons £425.

Risk management

The Circuit Meeting continues to develop procedures for identifying and addressing the risks facing the charity. The circuit properties are monitored regularly to ensure they are maintained to a good standard and attention

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



is given to the financial situation of our churches and their ability to meet their financial commitments. We have developed robust procedures for safeguarding children, young people, and vulnerable adults including the appointment of a Circuit Safeguarding Officer.

Principal Funding Sources

Contributions from the Churches by way of Circuit Assessment continue to be the main source of funding, accounting for 85% (2022: 93%) of normal unrestricted income. The letting of the manse at Atholl Close is reviewed annually with rental income accounting for 5% (2022: 5%) of normal unrestricted income.

Fund balances

Over the year fund balances fell slightly by £18,560 to stand at £2,105,527.

Reserves

The Circuit seeks to use all its assets for its charitable purposes, whilst continuing to secure and maintain the Circuit's financial viability. It seeks to set a balanced revenue budget, in order that the ongoing normal costs of ministry, mission and management are met from investment income, grants and donations, and Circuit Assessment.

In order to meet its ongoing financial obligations - including the payment of stipends and of District and Connexional assessments quarterly in advance - and to meet unforeseen circumstances, the Circuit needs to maintain sufficient free reserves. These reserves would enable the Circuit to maintain its mission and ministry in the short term if, for whatever reason, individual Churches encounter difficulties in paying their assessments. Free reserves are defined as unrestricted reserves less the investment in tangible fixed assets.

1. General reserves

At 31st August 2023 general reserves totalled £1,833,773 of which £1,403,770 are tied up in fixed assets (properties), and £271,541 in the assets of Walker Barn and Green Close churches, which are some time off converting fully into cash, leaving liquid reserves of £158,462.

Our policy is to maintain 6 months of general expenditure in reserves (excluding fixed assets). Expenditure in 2022/23 was £208k thus requiring a reserve of approximately £104k. In addition, we have four manses which need to be maintained and always carry a risk of significant repair or needing significant renewal, as in the case of Moss Brow in 2023/24. A reserve of about £50k is considered prudent for this purpose.

On this basis total general reserves required are approximately £154,000 compared to £158,462 available. No decisions as to how the reserve of £282,210 from the Walker Barn and Green Close churches will be taken until those assets convert fully into cash once buyers are found for each property.

2. Circuit Model Trust Fund

This totals £84,691 and represents a further unrestricted fund, held with TMCP. These funds may be used for mission purposes. Funds within Model Trust can be used to meet the shortfall in general reserves with the remainder considered as a contingency. Each year it attracts a 2.5% District levy.

3. Designated funds

These total £124,995 and represent unrestricted funds that the Circuit trustees have agreed to set aside for funding a children and families co-ordinator role for a further two years along with an allocation of funding for

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



for

potential youth work. Funds from circuit trust funds that were previously designated mission purposes form part of this sum.

4. Restricted funds

The Circuit owns two graveyards which originally belonged to the former chapels at Over Alderley and Rainow Methodist churches. Access difficulties at Rainow mean the graveyard is rarely used for new graves but the

one located at the former Methodist Chapel in Over Alderley is in reasonable demand, particularly as the graveyard at the nearby Prestbury Parish church is full. Income from funerals is added to the fund and the expenditure of funerals and upkeep of the grounds is taken from the fund. The balance of the fund is restricted in its use against the graveyards.

5. Endowment funds

Only one endowment fund is held. This is where the capital cannot be accessed and it relates to Over Alderley. The income however, can be used towards the upkeep of the Over Alderley graveyard.

Going Concern

The Trustees have reviewed the circumstances of the Circuit and consider that adequate resources continue to be available to fund its activities for the foreseeable future. The Trustees are therefore of the view that the charity is a going concern.

Plans for 2023/2024

Circuit budgets for the coming year assumed a staffing level of 2 ministers, one full time lay employee (Children and Families Coordinator), and a part time lay employee (Administrator).

We live in difficult times. Having emerged from long periods of lockdown and the associated loss of rental income this brought, global wars, climate change and the ongoing cost of living crisis impacts our churches. All experience increased running costs and potential loss of income whilst facing increasing need in the communities in which they serve. Additionally, our ministers themselves are impacted by cost of living rises and as such, stipends have been increased by a much larger rise than we have seen in recent times. This figure is set by the Methodist Church to ensure our ministers maintain their living standards.

Although the District has been subject to the same inflationary increases, some underspends have enabled it to keep the Circuit assessments more or less flat year on year.

As part of the budgeting process, with the reduction in staffing levels, we have been able to reduce the level of assessments for our churches. It was felt the impact of reduced staffing numbers would affect the churches equally and as such, the reduction in assessment was applied evenly across the churches.

We will also receive income from the Stretford & Urmston Circuit and from the continued letting of one of the manses.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

As the circuit is part of the Methodist Church of Great Britain the managing trustees operate within the Methodist Church Connexion and as such, their governing document is the Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Methodist Church. The document is available for inspection via the Superintendent.

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit

Macclesfield Circuit is registered as a separate charity, number 1145485.



Connected charities

The Churches forming the Circuit are themselves charities and, as they are responsible for their own financial affairs, they are not reported in these statements.

Macclesfield Circuit Meeting constitution [S.O. 510]
September 2022 [46 members – *currently 2 multiple with qualifications]

(i) The ex officio members (S.O. 552) [8 members]

The Superintendent Minister

The Revd Dr Graham Edwards

All ministers, probationers and persons authorised to serve the church as Presbyters or Deacons:

The Revd Helen Byrne
The Revd Ros Watson

The circuit stewards

Mr David Dippie
Mrs Ruth Linde
Mr Alex Price
Mrs Jane Walker (Treasurer)

(ii) Any other persons stationed or residing for the purposes of the stations in, or whose names appear under the number of, the Circuit in accordance with clause (4) of Standing Order 785, and who have informed the Superintendent of their wish to be members of the Circuit Meeting for the ensuing connexional year, except that any person stationed in one circuit but residing in another for the purposes of the stations is eligible to be a member, under this head, of the Circuit Meeting of the latter Circuit only; **[1 member]**

Supernumerary Presbyters or Deacons [S.O. 785 (4) (a) (vi)]

The Revd Sheila Bishop

(iv) such persons, if any, as the Circuit Meeting judges it appropriate to appoint from among those employed by the meeting under Standing Order 510; [1 member]

Mrs Angela Bourne (Circuit Children and Families Coordinator)

(v) the Secretary of the Meeting [1 member]

Miss Susan Mellor

(vi) the secretary of the Local Preachers Meeting [1 member]

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Mr Alan Rashleigh

(vii) from each Local Church one church steward and the church treasurer,
(viii) representatives elected by the church council of each local church from its own members in numbers specified by the circuit meeting. **[Membership under 100 = 1 representative, membership over 100 = 2 representatives.]** 20 members

Broken Cross Methodist Church [3]

Church Steward	Mrs Liz Hammond
Treasurer	Mr John Bird
1 representative	Mrs Joan Green

Gawsworth Methodist Church [3]

Church Steward	Mrs Jillian Longson
Treasurer	Mrs Margaret Parkin
1 representative	Mrs Carolyn Boden

Langley Methodist Church [3]

Church Steward	Mr Alan Chapman
Treasurer	Mr David Bullock
1 representative	Mrs Mavis Nixon

Macclesfield Methodist Church [4]

Church Steward	Mrs Margery Wilson
Treasurer	Mrs Ruth Linde*
2 representatives	Mr Ian Wardle
	**Vacant

Poynton Methodist Church [4]

Church Steward	Mrs Judy Gibbons
Treasurer	Mrs Jane Robson
2 representatives	Mrs Jean Drinkwater
	Mrs Mandy Hawkyard

Prestbury Methodist Church [3]

Church Steward	Mrs Heather Cann
Treasurer	Mrs Valerie Jones
1 representative	Mr Eddie Jones

(ix) Additional Persons as the Circuit Meeting may desire and appoint to ensure that all areas of the life of the circuit are adequately represented, provided that the total number appointed under this head shall not exceed the total of the numbers specified by the circuit meeting for the purposes of head (viii). **[8 Members]**

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Circuit Safeguarding Officer
Circuit Admin
MWiB
CFW Advisor
MHA
Missions
Action for Children
Hope in NE Cheshire

Mrs Pam Childs
Mrs Jane Walker*
Mrs Brenda Chapman
Mrs Joan Pritchard
Mrs Ruth Gunning
Miss Brenda Bailey
**Vacant
**vacant

Trustee recruitment, induction and training

As outlined above, the appointment of the majority of the members of the Circuit Meeting is outside the control of the Meeting. We encourage trustees to undertake Governance training when available. In appointing the Circuit Leadership Team and other officers, the Meeting has regard to the balance of skills and gifts that are needed to further the work of the Church. New members of the Leadership Team are inducted by the Leadership Team. During the year David Dippie resigned as Circuit Steward having completed his six year term as a member of the Circuit Leadership Team. David continues on circuit meeting as part of his one year hand over period. We were delighted to welcome back Barbara Ogle as a Circuit Steward to take over from David.

We thank David for his contribution over the years.

Organisation

The Circuit Meeting is convened biannually usually in September and March. The Circuit Leadership Team, appointed by the Circuit Meeting, is responsible for acting on behalf of the Circuit Meeting at other times. The Leadership Team usually meets at least six times per year. The Circuit Meeting retains responsibility for setting

the mission priorities of the Circuit, the overall strategy to deliver those priorities, the invitation of ministers, the oversight of local churches, the admission of people to the office of Local Preacher, and decisions on formal explorations of calls to ministry and candidates for the ordained ministry.

The Leadership Team is assisted in the task of financial oversight by the Circuit Treasurer.

The Methodist Church appoints a minister to be the Superintendent Minister of the Circuit, whose duties are set out in the Standing Orders of the Church.

Pay and Remuneration

Stipends and allowances for presbyters and deacons (collectively ministers) are set annually by the Methodist Conference, and the Circuit is responsible for meeting those costs for all ministers appointed by the Conference to the Circuit. Fuller disclosure is contained in Note 4 to the accounts. Lay employee remuneration is set by the Circuit based on the role specification and pay moves in line with the annual percentage stipend increase.

FUTURE PLANS

We look to the future with a smaller, but still strong ministerial resource.

The circuit will continue to provide a supporting role to its churches and will consider any issues arising through the appropriate channels of Circuit Leadership Team and Circuit Meeting as necessary.

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Ongoing maintenance and management of the manses and graveyards will be the focus of the Circuit Stewards with responsibility for property. Ongoing issues relate to dealing with Walker Barn and Green Close churches.

Following the reduction in staffing numbers, the circuit has a vacant manse in Bollington. Circuit meeting agreed that once general repair and renovations have been completed, the property should be let on the open market. The property has been occupied continually for the last ten years, with only essential maintenance being carried out in order to minimise disruption for the minister. In order to bring it up to letting standards it is envisaged considerable expenditure will be necessary with funds being used from the Circuit Model Trust.

With the reduction in ministerial resource, the online Sunday services continue on a fortnightly basis. They remain a link to those not able to reach us in other ways and we also hope develop relationships with those viewers outside of the circuit. Online services are posted on Youtube and can be accessed via the Circuit website.

Sunday evening services have been mostly 'in person' and the ministers continually review the worship styles we offer. The popularity of zoom evening prayers has fallen proportionately as attendance at church has resumed.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Circuit Meeting to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the Charity and of the surplus or deficit of the Charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Circuit Meeting has to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102) (second edition – October 2019);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis

The Circuit Meeting is responsible for keeping records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with applicable regulations. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS

As it is now necessary to undertake accruals accounting, Peter Smith, of Peter Smith Accountancy Services has been appointed as Independent Examiner.

REV GRAHAM EDWARDS

DATE 13 MARCH 2024

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit

ON BEHALF OF CIRCUIT MEETING



Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Macclesfield Methodist Circuit for the year ended August 31 2023

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended August 31 2023 which are set out on pages 14 to 26.

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

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the ICAEW which is one of the listed bodies.

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 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.

Peter Smith BA FCA DChA
Peter Smith Accountancy Services

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit

9 Polruan Road
Chorlton-cum-Hardy
Manchester M21 9NR

Date: April 13 2024



Statement of Financial Activities

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



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 2022-23
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
1 Donations and legacies							0
2 Income from monetary investments		10,669	2,397		1,861	81	15,008
3 Income from investment properties		13,136					13,136
4 Assessments on Churches		199,285					199,285
5 Capital Receipts	7						0
6 Grants received							0
7 Other charitable income	12	11,000		4,508	1,738		17,246
8 Total income		234,090	2,397	4,508	3,599	81	244,675
Expenditure							
9 Grants and donations		40					40
10 Salaries and associated costs		120,380		30,795			151,175
11 Property maintenance		20,090					20,090
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy							0
13 District Assessment & Levy		50,298	2,173				52,471
14 Depreciation		9,715					9,715
15 Office expenses		12,548	248	5,218			18,014
16 Other outgoings		4,764			4,553	195	9,512
17 Total charitable expenditure		217,835	2,421	36,013	4,553	195	261,017
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		-	2,218				-2,218
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties							
20 Net income/(expenditure)		16,255	-2,242	-31,505	-954	-114	-18,560
21 Transfers between funds	13						0
22 Other gains/(losses)							
23 Net movement in funds		16,255	-2,242	-31,505	-954	-114	-18,560
24 Total funds brought forward		1,817,518	86,933	156,500	60,381	2,755	2,124,087
25 Total funds carried forward		1,833,773	84,691	124,995	59,427	2,641	2,105,527
				Note 14			

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



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 2021-22
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
1 Donations and legacies							0
2 Income from monetary investments		1,047	636	47	260	70	2,060
3 Income from investment properties		12,530					12,530
4 Assessments on Churches		202,760					202,760
5 Capital Receipts	7	282,210	12,887				295,097
6 Grants received				85			85
7 Other charitable income	12	1,295		1,252	5,722		8,269
8 Total income		499,842	13,523	1,384	5,982	70	520,801
Expenditure							
9 Grants and donations							0
10 Salaries and associated costs		114,808		28,436			143,244
11 Property maintenance		13,847					13,847
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy							0
13 District Assessment & Levy		47,770	2,229	17			50,016
14 Depreciation		9,715					9,715
15 Office expenses		12,082		6,726			18,808
16 Other outgoings		2,325	254		5,375	70	8,024
17 Total charitable expenditure		200,547	2,483	35,179	5,375	70	243,654
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		-	2,028		-	3,245	-5,273
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties							
20 Net income/(expenditure)		299,295	9,012	-33,795	607	-3,245	271,874
21 Transfers between funds	13	- 76,089	- 51,253	156,089	240	- 28,987	0
22 Other gains/(losses)							
23 Net movement in funds		223,206	-42,241	122,294	847	-32,232	271,874
24 Total funds brought forward		1,594,312	129,174	34,206	59,534	34,987	1,852,213
25 Total funds carried forward		1,817,518	86,933	156,500	60,381	2,755	2,124,087
				Note 14			

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Balance Sheet

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023								
	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		1,403,770					1,403,770	1,413,485
Investment properties							0	0
Investments			84,691		57,360	2,641	144,692	145,346
Total fixed assets		1,403,770	84,691	0	57,360	2,641	1,548,462	1,558,831
Current Assets								
Debtors	7	7,361					7,361	10,212
Loans by the Circuit							0	0
Property Investments	7	271,541					271,541	282,210
Central Finance Board Deposits		178,351		124,995			303,346	303,589
Cash at Bank and in hand		15,440			2,067		17,507	19,866
Total current assets		472,693	0	124,995	2,067	0	599,755	615,877
Current liabilities								
Creditors (due in under 1 year)		42,690					42,690	50,621
Grants payable within 2018-19							0	0
Total current liabilities		42,690	0	0	0	0	42,690	50,621
Net current assets/liabilities		430,003	0	124,995	2,067	0	557,065	565,256
Total assets less current liabilities		1,833,773	84,691	124,995	59,427	2,641	2,105,527	2,124,087
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		1,833,773	84,691	124,995	59,427	2,641	2,105,527	2,124,087
Funds of the Circuit								
General Fund (Unrestricted)		1,833,773					1,833,773	1,817,518
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			84,691				84,691	86,933
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)				124,995			124,995	156,500
Total Unrestricted Funds							2,043,459	2,060,951
Restricted Funds					59,427		59,427	60,381
Endowment Funds						2,641	2,641	2,755
Total Funds		1,833,773	84,691	124,995	59,427	2,641	2,105,527	2,124,087

Cash Flow Statement

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



							2023				2022
							£				£
Cash used in operating activities			Note 10				(15,932)				39,857
Cashflows from investing activities											
Interest and dividends							15,008				2,060
Proceeds of disposal of fixed assets							-				-
Transfer in of tangible fixed assets							-				-
Proceeds of sale of investments							-				118,586
Reclassification as Current Assets							-				-
Purchase of investments							(1,679)				(51,235)
Cash provided by/(used in) investing activities							13,329				69,411
Cashflows from financing activities											
Proceeds from new borrowings							-				-
Repayment of borrowing							-				-
Cash used in financing activities							-				-
Increase/(decrease) in cash & cash equivalents in the year							(2,603)				109,268
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward							323,454				214,186
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward							320,851				323,454

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Notes to the Financial Statements

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items, which are considered material in relation to the charity's financial statements.

Scope of the financial statements

The financial statements relate solely to Macclesfield Methodist Circuit.

Basis of preparation

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with: the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) effective January 1 2019 (second edition – October 2019); and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102); and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

Income

Total Incoming Resources as shown in the Statement of Financial Activities represents the net amounts from all sources.

Income is recognised in the accounting period in which it is receivable, except in the following circumstances, when the income is deferred and included in creditors:

- The income relates to a future accounting period
- A sales invoice has been raised ahead of the work being carried out and the charity is not contractually entitled to the income until the work has been done
- Not all the terms and conditions of the grant have been met, including the incurring of expenditure and the grant conditions are such that unspent grant must be refunded.

Income includes grants in respect of revenue and capital items.

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Income recognition

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. The following applies to particular types of income:

Grants, whether of a capital or revenue nature, are recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions have been met and it is probable that the income will be received.

General donations from individuals and other bodies (not being of the nature of a grant) are recognised when receivable.

Church Assessments are recognised in the period for which they have been given and any advance payments are deferred in line with the policy below.

Deferred income

Income is only deferred and included in creditors when:

- The income relates to a future accounting period
- A sales invoice has been raised ahead of the work being carried out and there is no contractual entitlement to the income until the work has been done
- Not all the terms and conditions of the grant have been met, including the incurring of expenditure and the grant conditions are such that unspent grant must be refunded

Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

Costs of raising funds, including those associated with fundraising activities and investment management cost.

Charitable activities - costs of undertaking the work of the charity.

The charity is not registered for VAT and cannot recover any input tax charged. Costs are stated inclusive of VAT where charged.

Taxation

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit is exempt from Corporation Tax by reason of its charitable status. Income tax suffered on deeds of covenant and gift aid or investment income is reclaimed in full.

Fixed assets and depreciation

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



The Circuit has capitalised the freehold properties for which it acts as the Managing Trustees at the Trustees' valuation in 2018 or at subsequent purchase price. Depreciation has been provided at the rate of 0.67% per annum. The Circuit has no other fixed assets.

Investments, gains and losses

Fixed asset investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recorded at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The SoFA includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and on disposals throughout the year.

Gains and losses on are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between sale proceeds (net of transaction costs) and the opening carrying value or cost, if acquired during the year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated on the difference between opening and closing fair values.

Financial instruments

The charity has only basic financial instruments which are initially recorded at cost, and with the exception of investments (as set out above) subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Methodist Ministers' Pension Fund

The Circuit is a member of the Connexional pension scheme (MMPS) which covers presbyters and deacons of the Methodist Church. The contribution rates are set each year by the Methodist Conference, and for the year under review the employer contributions were 26.9% of stipend (2020: 26.9%). Contributions were due to increase to 29.6% but due to subsequent economic shocks and the associated impact on funding, Conference agreed the circuit contribution rate increase be cancelled.

The MMPS is a multi-employer scheme, and in accordance with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission, the Circuit accounts for those contributions as if it were a defined contribution scheme. It has done so because it is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities on a consistent and reasonable basis. Contributions are charged to the SoFA in the period in which they are payable.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Notes 2 – 4

				Macclesfield Methodist Circuit			
						This year	Last year
2.	Payments to Trustees						
	Payments made to trustees for additional services provided to			£		None	None
	Number of trustees who were paid expenses					None	None
	Nature of the expenses						
	Total amount paid			£		Nil	Nil
3.	Fees for examination or audit of the accounts						
	Independent examiner's or auditors' fees for reporting on the accounts			£		850	800
	Other fees (eg: advice, accountancy services) paid to the examiner/auditor			£		None	None

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



4 STAFF INFORMATION						2023				2022
						£				£
a Staff costs										
Stipends and salaries						111,091				110,526
Employer's NI contributions						10,456				10,137
Pension contributions - Methodist Ministers Scheme						23,240				22,870
						144,787				143,533
No staff member was paid more than £60,000 p.a. in either year.										
b Key management personnel										
The key management of the charity comprise the trustees, which includes the ordained members of staff who are <i>ex officio</i> members of the Circuit Meeting but do not receive any payment specifically for acting as trustees.										
The other trustees do not receive any remuneration for their services.										
						£				£
The total remuneration benefits of the key management						144,787				143,533
c Average staff numbers										
The average number of members of staff was as follows:-										
						2023				2022
						Average				Average
						number				number
Ordained staff (office holders not employees)										3
Lay employees										2
						-				5



Note 5 – fixed assets

		Macclesfield Methodist Circuit									
Assets		Detail of assets held:									
		4 Manses - at Marlborough Drive, Tytherington, Moss Brow, Bollington, Atholl Close, Macclesfield and Ivy Road, Poynton									
		Land £	Manses £	Other buildings £	Other fixed assets including motor vehicles £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Payments on account and assets under construction £	Total £			
	forward	0	1,450,000	0	0	0	0	1,450,000			
	Gain/Loss on Disposal (+/-)							0			
								0			
								0			
	forward	0	1,450,000	0	0	0	0	1,450,000			
	recognition										
	forward		36,515					36,515			
	change for year (-)		9,715					9,715			
								0			
								0			
								0			
	forward	0	46,230	0	0	0	0	46,230			
		-	1,413,485	-	-	-	-	1,413,485			
		-	1,403,770	-	-	-	-	1,403,770			

Notes 6 – 9

	2023		2022
	£		£
	145,346		217,970
	1,678		(1,652)
			52,886
			(118,586)
			-
	(2,332)		(5,272)
	144,692		145,346
26			
	144,692		145,346
	144,692		145,346
		Endowment funds	
stricted funds (Graveyards)	2022	2023	2022
3	£	£	£
658	55,253	2,755	34,987
702	165		
	240		(28,987)
		(114)	(3,245)
360	55,658	2,641	2,755

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



5. Tangible Fixed Assets	
Cost or valuation	
Balance brought forward	
Additions	
Revaluations	
Disposals (-)	
Transfers (+/-)	
Balance carried forward	
Accumulated	
Balance brought forward	
Depreciation	
Revaluations	
Disposals (-)	
Transfers* (+/-)	
Balance carried forward	
Net book value	
Brought forward	
Carried forward	

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit

[illegible]

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



7.	Analysis of current assets			This year	Last year
	Debtors and prepayments			£	£
	Prepayments			7,361	10,212
	Property Investments				
	At 31st August 2022, Walker Barn and Green Close Methodist Churches had ceased to worship and come under the control of the Circuit. Residual remaining net assets were included in the 2022 accounts as a capital receipt in income and other debtors on the balance sheet. In the current year, some cash has been transferred to the Circuit bank account and at year end estimated property values were reconfirmed. The year end balances are:				
	Green Close building at estimated sale proceeds net of levy and other costs			£220,000	£220,000
	Walker Barn building at estimated sale proceeds net of levy and other costs			£20,000	£20,000
	Cash and cash equivalents			£31,541	£42,210
	Total			271,541	282,210
8.	Analysis of current liabilities and long term creditors				
	Trade Creditors			Nil	Nil
	Other Creditors (principally assessments received in advance)			42,690	50,621
	Total Current Liabilities			42,690	50,621
9.	Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities				
	At the 31st August 2023 the Circuit has no capital commitments (2022: none).				
	No Contingent liabilities were identified at 31st August 2023 or 31st August 2022.				

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Notes 10 - 13

10 RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASHFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES									
								2023	2022
								£	£
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers								(18,560)	271,874
Deduct/(add) gains/(losses) on investments								2,332	-
Add back depreciation on fixed assets								9,715	9,715
Deduct interest income shown in investing activities								(15,008)	(2,060)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors								13,520	292,422
Increase/(decrease) in creditors								(7,931)	(50,621)
Net cash generated from/(used in) operating activities								(15,932)	521,330

11 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Stipends and allowances for presbyters and deacons (collectively known as ministers) are set out annually by the Methodist Conference, and the Circuit is responsible for meeting those costs for all Ministers appointed annually by the Conference to serve the Circuit.

The following Ministers received the basic stipend £26,928 (2021/22 - £25,916) and were provided with living accommodation in 2022/23: The Revd Dr Graham Edwards, The Revd Helen Byrne and The Revd Ros Watson. The Revd Graham Edwards received the Connexionally agreed additional superintendents' allowance of £2,710 (2021/22 - £2,592).

12 OTHER CHARITABLE INCOME

Other charitable income in 2022/23 of £11,000 (2021/22 £1,295) included income from another circuit as a proportionate contribution towards the Superintendents cost. Donations and graveyard fees are included in the appropriate fund. Rental income from letting out a manse was £13,136 (2021/22 £12,530).

13 CIRCUIT MODEL TRUST MONEY

Over the year, the balance has been broadly stable with no requirement for the circuit to make calls on the fund. The changes to the fund total relate to the effect of the District contribution deduction, loss on revaluation and admin charges. These Funds form part of our general reserves and as such may be called upon as necessary.

14 DESIGNATED FUNDS

At 31 December 2023 designated funds totalled £124,995, this represents two further years of funding for the Circuit Family Worker totalling £94,995 and £30,000 to support future Youth related work.

Accounts

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2022

Charity Registration Number 1145485

MINISTERS	Rev Graham Edwards Rev Helen Byrne Rev Ros Watson
TRUSTEES	See main body of the report
CIRCUIT STEWARDS	Mrs Ruth Linde Mr David Dippie Mr Alex Price
CIRCUIT TREASURER	Mrs Jane Walker
ADDRESS	c/o Langley Methodist Church Main Road Langley Macclesfield SK11 0BU
BANKERS	Barclays Bank
INVESTMENT MANAGERS	Central Finance Board TMCP
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Peter Smith BA FCA DChA Peter Smith Accountancy Services 9 Polruan Road Chorlton Cum Hardy Manchester M21 9NR

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Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



TRUSTEES REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2022.

The Circuit consists of eight churches of varying sizes and locations within East Cheshire from Gawsworth in the south to Poynton in the north. Two of the eight, Walker Barn and Green Close ceased worship during the year.

REPORTING FRAMEWORK

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, and 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 (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019), referred to as the Charities SORP (FRS 102) (second edition – October 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Charitable Objectives

The Circuit shares the charitable objectives of the Methodist Church, which are set out as follows:

“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 the 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.”

Circuit Mission Statement

Our mission statement is as follows...

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



CIRCUIT MISSION STATEMENT

We seek to find and fulfil our place in the mission of God to the world.

The role of the Circuit is to develop approaches to staffing and the use of the resources in supporting the churches as we live out our calling.

The mission of Macclesfield Methodist Circuit is to seek to order our life so that we engage fully with the *Five Marks of Mission* in everything we do. The circuit will give attention to these marks as it considers the complex issues of staffing, grant making and overseeing Circuit initiatives.

1 Tell. *To Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom*

Our priorities:

- To offer a variety of worship styles, accessible to all, including areas not currently reached by the circuit
- To make effective use of our Children & Families Mission Teams to explore work with demographic 'gaps' across the circuit
- To ensure adequate and sustainable lay and ordained ministry across the circuit.

How?

- ❖ To encourage and develop new and existing varieties of worship styles (e.g. Contemporary, taize, café, breakfast, proclaim, afternoon tea church, midweek services, quiet/sacred spaces, traditional)
- ❖ To develop effective communication through appropriate channels including social media (e.g. Facebook), websites and internal and external publications and places (e.g. Messenger, Local People, Libraries)
- ❖ To enable and equip volunteers in order to address the needs and opportunities for ministry
- ❖ To make best use of financial resources to support ministry across the circuit

2. Teach. *To teach, baptise and nurture believers*

Our priorities:

- To explore ways the circuit might resource the nurture and spiritual development of believers and seekers
- To equip those involved in the preparing and leading of worship including Worship Leaders, Local Preachers, musicians, stewards, IT, those involved in 'Own Arrangements' and leaders of children and young people
- To support the churches' and circuit's evangelistic outreach into the local communities

How?

- ❖ Provide seasonal reflections, quiet days and study groups at circuit level and explore potential for others
- ❖ Provide and signpost opportunities for training and development, allocating appropriate funding
- ❖ To provide/signpost to resources and tools for equipping evangelistic outreach into local communities

3. Tend. *To respond to Human need by loving service*

Our priorities

- To ensure the churches of the circuit are welcoming, inclusive and safer spaces for all people
- To recruit, train and support all those involved in pastoral care (including Pastoral Visitors, Class Leaders and others) at Circuit and Church level
- To increase awareness of human need and possible responses and resources available

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



How?

- ❖ To enact and review Safeguarding policies and procedures at Circuit and Church level
- ❖ To provide training/signposting for those involved in pastoral care
- ❖ To celebrate and publicise existing work in response to human need and help churches identify other needs not being addressed (e.g. local church initiatives and partnerships like MHA Live at Home, Cancer Care)

4. Transform. *To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation*

Our priorities

- To encourage engagement with political processes locally and nationally, and to support those active in this work.
- To advise and support churches as they consider their place and role in addressing the unjust structures of society, challenge violence and pursue peace and reconciliation
- To root out prejudice in ourselves.

How?

- ❖ To play our part in the activities and governance of ecumenical and interfaith work, including supporting the work of Hope in North East Cheshire
- ❖ To highlight and support the work of organisations at home and abroad, which help us keep an outward focus (e.g. JPIT, All We Can, Mission in Britain, OneMission, Action for Children)

5. Treasure. *To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, to sustain and renew the life of the world.*

Our priorities

- To strive to reduce the carbon footprint across the circuit
- To promote fair trade in the life of the circuit
- To be aware of how best we use our resources (buildings, people, finances) across the circuit

How?

- ❖ To up awareness and share best practice on reducing our carbon footprint
- ❖ To encourage circuit led events, activities and groups to strive to be Fair Trade
- ❖ To promote good stewardship of circuit resources

Contribution of Volunteers

The Circuit is heavily dependent upon, and extremely grateful for, the contribution of volunteers as it seeks to carry out its objectives. With the exception of the three stipendiary Ministers, Children & Families Coordinator and Circuit Administrator, all members of the Circuit Leadership Team and all other Charity trustees are unpaid volunteers.

ACHIEVEMENT & PERFORMANCE

This has been the first full year of worshipping together since the start of the pandemic and it has been good to join together again in 'business as usual' whilst also having the benefit of 'zoom' and online services as appropriate.

Our churches have seen numbers steadily returning during the year (although not yet back to pre-pandemic levels) as congregation confidence grows and many weekday groups and events have now resumed. We remember those members we have lost during this period and also that Walker Barn chapel did not reopen for worship after lockdown.

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Green Close reopened for services this year, but reduced numbers and the health of worshippers gave rise to the Church Council making the difficult decision to cease worship with effect from 31 July 2022. Whilst finances were sufficient to allow the church to continue, it has been the feeling that the work of the chapel has come to an end in its current setting.

As the Members have ceased to worship in the building the Circuit has taken over control of the building. The circuit is extremely grateful to those involved at Green Close for their dedication and commitment in providing a place of community and worship over the years and we formally record our thanks and best wishes.

We have seen a slow recovery in property lettings and although the loss of rental income has still affected our churches throughout the past financial year, we have again been fortunate that our churches were able to continue the payment of the assessments to the circuit. This has been due to the generosity of our congregations and also by our churches having sufficient reserves, which will no doubt need rebuilding! As a circuit we appreciate the hard work of our church Treasurers, especially during these difficult times and we will support them wherever possible.

Going forward, the circuit will be losing the assessment contribution of both Walker Barn and Green Close. The loss of assessment income from Walker Barn was budgeted for and assessments were raised for the financial year 2022-2023 for our remaining churches.

The decision of Green Close's closure was taken after the annual budget had been prepared.

We have been very lucky in Macclesfield during recent years to be supported by a complement of three full time ministers. Other circuits have struggled due to a shortage of minister numbers generally and Altrincham circuit in particular, have been without a Superintendent for some time. The District requested assistance from Rev Dr Graham Edwards, our Superintendent Minister to support Altrincham. Arrangements have therefore been put in place for Superintendent support to be provided to Altrincham for a period of 12 months equating to 25% of Graham's time with the remainder still within our own circuit. Rev Helen Byrne & Rev Ros Watson will assist in covering Graham's Macclesfield's responsibilities as necessary. Financial arrangements have been put in place for Altrincham to contribute pro rata to Superintendent stipend and manse costs. This arrangement should negate the shortfall in assessments to the Circuit following the loss of Green Close income.

It has been a full and busy year in our Children and Families work. Our Coordinator, Angela has run many face to face events over the year, such as Messy's, (which have now increased to monthly frequency), Chippy church, Breakfast Church and Holiday Clubs whilst continuing work with local schools. Additionally, we have trialled moves into parent outreach with our 'Women's Winter Wellbeing' events. Our toddler groups have returned and we continue to reach an increasing number of children and their families on a regular basis with this valuable work.

The Circuit identified a need to reach out to children & families in 2014 and has provided resources for this work to happen through focussed employment of various lay workers since then. When we started this programme there were only a handful of families across all the churches engaging in any form of Christian encounter and we had no online presence at all. The numbers of families we are now in contact with is over 300 and regular (monthly) contact with 50 families.

Prior to Covid lockdown we had successfully developed three online social media facebook sites. This powerful communication channel, along with our own database of families, has enabled our ministry to families grow and could be sustained when lockdown took away face-to-face contact for a long time.

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



After four years of employing church based workers, the Circuit decided in 2019 to appoint a coordinating role instead and we appointed Angela Bourne to the role Circuit Children & Families Co-ordinator in September 2019. Her role was to oversee our work with families, develop deeper links into schools, consider what does and doesn't work on the ground to make best use of the resources available and to encourage local volunteers to get involved with the various family centred events held around the circuit. Angela was also employed to consider strategically how we move forward with our already well-established families work at various sites around the Circuit.

Angela is a full-time member of our Circuit Leadership Team and considered one of the Circuit Staff, her focus being on developing and sustaining our contact with existing and new families in Macclesfield and surrounding areas. Her contract has now been extended for another three years. The Circuit believes we are fulfilling a need within the community in providing essential outreach to children and families within the area and has allocated resources from reserves accordingly. It is also hoped individual churches will contribute financially to fund equipment and supplies.

Our work with young families has been running for a number of years and those who came to us as babies are now going into high school. We have noticed a trend of year 6+ not wanting to continue within a Family Church structure as such and requiring their own space. We want to provide for this age group too, but youth work is very specific, requires a skillset and training along with an ability to understand and engage in youth culture of today – online and face to face. The Circuit has therefore agreed to allocate a separate pot of funding earmarked for youth work and options for this will be explored over the coming months.

Having allocated existing reserves to fund the work detailed above, the circuit will once again be reviewing its reserves policy as part of our ongoing financial management.

Financial accounts for the circuit have been prepared on an Accruals basis in line with the previous year.

Income trends

The Circuit accounts saw income fairly static. Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment paid by the circuit churches. It is hoped that churches will continue to meet their assessment contributions for the 2022/2023 financial year. Over the year it is anticipated the circuit will look at the disposal of the Walker Barn building and all that will entail, whilst also considering the future of the Green Close building.

Assessments were slightly down on the previous year due to the closure of Green Close. The remaining churches have agreed to small increases in assessments for the coming year (2022/23) to cover the loss of Walker Barn's assessment and as mentioned earlier in this report, income from Altrincham circuit will help to cover the shortfall from the loss of Green Close's assessment.

There is still uncertainty as many of our churches were well used by the communities in which they serve and are therefore have been affected by the loss of rental income and this may impact on their ability to meet their circuit assessment. We have asked our churches to let us know immediately if they have concerns about meeting their commitments.

A capital receipt of £52,887 was received in August 2022, just prior to year-end and relates to the HG & P circuit share of the sale proceeds for Offerton church. These funds were recognised as a debtor of £40,000 in the previous years' accounts and the final figure was in fact more than had been anticipated. Funds were paid into the Circuit Model Trust fund and will help towards overall circuit reserves. As Walker Barn and Green Close ceased to worship in the year, their net assets have been recognised in the Circuit accounts by way of capital receipt income of £282,210. A further breakdown of this figure is given in Note 7 to the accounts. The

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Circuit is proposing to dispose of both chapel sites through sale on the open market. Timing of completion of this process is uncertain.

The rental income relates to the rental of a manse and with agreement of the Circuit Meeting, the tenancy was renewed for just a six month period to 30 March 2022 as the family's financial situation was uncertain. Following a subsequent review of finances by the Local Authority the tenancy was renewed in March 2022 for a 12-month period subject to a small uplift in the monthly rental. The property is let to a family in housing need and they may be rehoused by the Local Authority at any time, subject to the circuit being given one month's notice.

Income from the two Graveyards has covered expenses this year, fees had been increased from 1 February 2021 and will be reviewed on an ongoing basis. We also continue to receive ad-hoc donations for the graveyards and these are all used towards the cost of ongoing gardening and maintenance work.

During the year quinquennial reports were carried out on Broken Cross and Macclesfield churches. The report findings have been passed to the individual churches in order for them to deal with areas requiring attention.

All these issues will be ongoing considerations of Circuit Leadership Team and Circuit Meeting where appropriate.

Expenditure trends

The circuit finances are concentrated on allowing the paid staff (ministers, mission workers and administrator,) to be paid and maintaining the residences of the ministers in good order. Stipend expenditure has increased each financial year in line with conference approved increases. Lay worker salaries are based on the role specification and move in line with the annual percentage stipend increase.

The current appointments of all three ministers end on 31.08.23. Following the closure of Green Close, we have 6 churches, 400 members and 3 ministers. Going forward Macclesfield Circuit may not be able to afford 3 ministers and it does not serve the Connexion properly to try to hold on to having 3 ministers. It was therefore agreed the circuit reduce to 2 ministers from 01.09.23.

Our work with Children & Families remains a thriving area of focus for the circuit. Having recently agreed to continue funding this work for a further three years, we look forward to opportunities for youth work as mentioned earlier in this report. Funded by reserves, this mission will form another area of our expenditure.

Over £51,000 of expenditure is the Circuit contribution to the District and Connexion, of which a significant part is used to fund the work of the wider Methodist Church. Our District contribution will increase slightly for the coming year. The other expenditure includes staff costs and maintenance of the manses.

No Circuit grants were made during the year.

During the year, churches made contributions of £1,235 (2020-21 £765) to the circuit which were subsequently paid over to the Connexion to be split between the Property fund £810 and Fund for Presbyters/Deacons £425.

Risk management

The Circuit Meeting continues to develop procedures for identifying and addressing the risks facing the charity. The circuit properties are monitored regularly to ensure they are maintained to a good standard and attention is given to the financial situation of our churches and their ability to meet their financial commitments. We

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



have developed robust procedures for safeguarding children, young people, and vulnerable adults including the appointment of a Circuit Safeguarding Officer.

Principal Funding Sources

Contributions from the Churches by way of Circuit Assessment continue to be the main source of funding, accounting for 93% (2021: 82%) of normal unrestricted income. The letting of the manse at Atholl Close is reviewed annually with rental income accounting for 5% (2021: 4%) of normal unrestricted income.

Fund balances

Over the year fund balances increased by £271,874 to stand at £2,124,087.

Reserves

The Circuit seeks to use all its assets for its charitable purposes, whilst continuing to secure and maintain the Circuit's financial viability. It seeks to set a balanced revenue budget, in order that the ongoing normal costs of ministry, mission and management are met from investment income, grants and donations, and Circuit Assessment.

In order to meet its ongoing financial obligations - including the payment of stipends and of District and Connexional assessments quarterly in advance - and to meet unforeseen circumstances, the Circuit needs to maintain sufficient free reserves. These reserves would enable the Circuit to maintain its mission and ministry in the short term if, for whatever reason, individual Churches encounter difficulties in paying their assessments. Free reserves are defined as unrestricted reserves less the investment in tangible fixed assets.

1. General reserves

At 31st August 2022 general reserves totalled £1,817,518 of which £1,413,485 are tied up in fixed assets (properties), and £282,210 in the assets of Walker Barn and Green Close churches, which are some time off converting fully into cash, leaving liquid reserves of £121,823. This includes the benefit of the additional capital receipt from the breakup of the Hazel Grove & Poynton circuit.

Our policy is to maintain 6 months of general expenditure in reserves (excluding fixed assets). Expenditure in 2021/22 was £191k thus requiring a reserve of approximately £95.5k. In addition, we have four manses which need to be maintained and always carry a risk of significant repair or needing significant renewal. A reserve of about £30k is considered prudent for this purpose.

On this basis total general reserves required are approximately £125,500 compared to £121,823 available. No decisions as to how the reserve of £282,210 from the Walker Barn and Green Close churches will be taken until those assets convert fully into cash once buyers are found for each property.

2. Circuit Model Trust Fund

This totals £86,933 and represents a further unrestricted fund, held with TMCP. Over the year sums of £27,702.68 and £1,043.84 were transferred into the trust following the closure of endowment trust funds previously relating to Bollington and Over Alderley Methodist churches. These funds may be used for mission purposes.

Funds within Model Trust can be used to meet the shortfall in general reserves with the remainder considered as a contingency. Each year it attracts a 2.5% District levy.

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



3. Designated funds

These total £156,500 and represent unrestricted funds that the Circuit trustees have agreed to set aside for funding a children and families co-ordinator role for a further three years along with an allocation of funding for potential youth work. Funds from circuit trust funds that were previously designated for mission purposes form part of this sum.

4. Restricted funds

The Circuit owns two graveyards which originally belonged to the former chapels at Over Alderley and Rainow Methodist churches. Access difficulties at Rainow mean the graveyard is rarely used for new graves but the one located at the former Methodist Chapel in Over Alderley is in reasonable demand, particularly as the graveyard at the nearby Prestbury Parish church is full. Income from funerals is added to the fund and the expenditure of funerals and upkeep of the grounds is taken from the fund. The balance of the fund is restricted in its use against the graveyards.

5. Endowment funds

In order to simplify the circuit's finances, a review of the endowment trusts which represented bequests that have been left in favour of former Bollington and Over Alderley churches meant that over the year three endowment trusts have been closed and funds transferred into Circuit Model Trust or the Graveyard trust (as point 4) as appropriate.

Only one endowment fund now remains. This is where the capital cannot be accessed and it relates to Over Alderley. The income however, can be used towards the upkeep of the Over Alderley graveyard.

Going Concern

The Trustees have reviewed the circumstances of the Circuit and consider that adequate resources continue to be available to fund its activities for the foreseeable future. The Trustees are therefore of the view that the charity is a going concern.

Plans for 2022/2023

Circuit budgets for the coming year assumed a staffing level of 3 ministers, one full time lay employee (Children and Families Coordinator), and a part time lay employee (Administrator).

We live in difficult times. Having emerged from long periods of lockdown and the associated loss of rental income this brought, we are now faced with a cost of living crisis which will no doubt impact churches through increased running costs and potential loss of income whilst facing increasing need in the communities in which they serve.

As a circuit, we are already experiencing the loss of assessment income from two churches and with staffing levels unchanged it was clear assessments overall needed to increase for the coming year. As part of the budgeting process we asked for a collective responsibility approach to setting assessments. Our churches are a broad mix of village chapels and town centre churches and serve different communities in different ways but by supporting each other we can maximise our outreach. Churches have agreed to respond accordingly and we will also receive income from the Altrincham circuit and from the letting of one of the manses.

The District assessment is increasing by 2.25% for 2022/23.

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

As the circuit is part of the Methodist Church of Great Britain the managing trustees operate within the Methodist Church Connexion and as such, their governing document is the Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Methodist Church. The document is available for inspection via the Superintendent. Macclesfield Circuit is registered as a separate charity, number 1145485.

Connected charities

The Churches forming the Circuit are themselves charities and, as they are responsible for their own financial affairs, they are not reported in these statements.

Macclesfield Circuit Meeting constitution [S.O. 510] September 2021 [46 members – *currently 2 multiple with qualifications]

(i) The ex officio members (S.O. 552) [8 members]

The Superintendent Minister

The Revd Dr Graham Edwards

All ministers, probationers and persons authorised to serve the church as Presbyters or Deacons:

The Revd Helen Byrne
The Revd Ros Watson

The circuit stewards

Mr David Dippie
Mrs Ruth Linde
Mr Alex Price
Mrs Jane Walker (Treasurer)

(ii) Any other persons stationed or residing for the purposes of the stations in, or whose names appear under the number of, the Circuit in accordance with clause (4) of Standing Order 785, and who have informed the Superintendent of their wish to be members of the Circuit Meeting for the ensuing connexional year, except that any person stationed in one circuit but residing in another for the purposes of the stations is eligible to be a member, under this head, of the Circuit Meeting of the latter Circuit only; [1 member]

Supernumerary Presbyters or Deacons [S.O. 785 (4) (a) (vi)]

The Revd Sheila Bishop

(iv) such persons, if any, as the Circuit Meeting judges it appropriate to appoint from among those employed by the meeting under Standing Order 510; [1 member]

Mrs Angela Bourne (Circuit Children and Families Coordinator)

(v) the Secretary of the Meeting [1 member]

Miss Susan Mellor

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



(vi) the secretary of the Local Preachers Meeting [1 member]

Mr Steve Oliver

(vii) from each Local Church one church steward and the church treasurer,
(viii) representatives elected by the church council of each local church from its own members in numbers specified by the circuit meeting. [Membership under 100 = 1 representative, membership over 100 = 2 representatives.] 26 members

Broken Cross Methodist Church [3]

Church Steward	Mrs Liz Hammond
Treasurer	Mr John Bird
1 representative	Mrs Joan Green

Gawsworth Methodist Church [3]

Church Steward	Mrs Jillian Longson
Treasurer	Mrs Margaret Parkin
1 representative	Mrs Carolyn Boden

Green Close Methodist Church [3]

Church Steward	Mrs Brenda Wainwright
Treasurer	Mrs Sheila Sheldon
1 representative	Mr Stephan Rudolfer

Langley Methodist Church [3]

Church Steward	Mr Alan Chapman
Treasurer	Mr David Bullock
1 representative	Mrs Mavis Nixon

Macclesfield Methodist Church [4]

Church Steward	Mrs Margery Wilson
Treasurer	Mrs Ruth Linde*
2 representatives	Mr Ian Wardle
	**Vacant

Poynton Methodist Church [4]

Church Steward	Mrs Judy Gibbons
Treasurer	Mrs Jane Robson
2 representatives	Mrs Jean Drinkwater
	Mrs Mandy Hawkyard

Prestbury Methodist Church [3]

Church Steward	Mrs Heather Cann
Treasurer	Mrs Valerie Jones
1 representative	Mr Eddie Jones

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Walker Barn Methodist Church [3]

Church Steward	Mrs Janet Dean
Treasurer	Mrs Pat Fisher
1 representative	**Vacant

(ix) Additional Persons as the Circuit Meeting may desire and appoint to ensure that all areas of the life of the circuit are adequately represented, provided that the total number appointed under this head shall not exceed the total of the numbers specified by the circuit meeting for the purposes of head (viii). **[8 Members]**

Circuit Safeguarding Officer	Mrs Pam Childs
Circuit Admin	Mrs Jane Walker*
MWiB	Mrs Brenda Chapman
CFW Advisor	Mrs Joan Pritchard
MHA	Mrs Ruth Gunning
Missions	Miss Brenda Bailey
Action for Children	**Vacant
Hope in NE Cheshire	**vacant

Trustee recruitment, induction and training

As outlined above, the appointment of the majority of the members of the Circuit Meeting is outside the control of the Meeting. We encourage trustees to undertake Governance training when available. In appointing the Circuit Leadership Team and other officers, the Meeting has regard to the balance of skills and gifts that are needed to further the work of the Church. New members of the Leadership Team are inducted by the Leadership Team.

Organisation

The Circuit Meeting is convened biannually usually in September and March. The Circuit Leadership Team, appointed by the Circuit Meeting, is responsible for acting on behalf of the Circuit Meeting at other times. The Leadership Team usually meets at least six times per year. The Circuit Meeting retains responsibility for setting the mission priorities of the Circuit, the overall strategy to deliver those priorities, the invitation of ministers, the oversight of local churches, the admission of people to the office of Local Preacher, and decisions on formal explorations of calls to ministry and candidates for the ordained ministry.

The Leadership Team is assisted in the task of financial oversight by the Circuit Treasurer.

The Methodist Church appoints a minister to be the Superintendent Minister of the Circuit, whose duties are set out in the Standing Orders of the Church.

Pay and Remuneration

Stipends and allowances for presbyters and deacons (collectively ministers) are set annually by the Methodist Conference, and the Circuit is responsible for meeting those costs for all ministers appointed by the Conference to the Circuit. Fuller disclosure is contained in Note 4 to the accounts. Lay employee remuneration is set by the Circuit based on the role specification and pay moves in line with the annual percentage stipend increase.

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



FUTURE PLANS

The circuit will continue to provide a supporting role to its churches and will consider any issues arising through the appropriate channels of Circuit Leadership Team and Circuit Meeting as necessary. The Circuit Leadership Team has been reviewing the Circuit Mission Plan and agreeing priorities for the continuing work of the circuit. It is hoped the updated Mission Plan can be presented to Circuit Meeting during the course of the year.

Ongoing maintenance and management of the manses and graveyards will be the focus of the Circuit Stewards with responsibility for property. Changes within the stationing arrangements will mean particular attention focussing at least one of the manse properties in 2023.

Other issues will be dealing with Walker Barn and Green Close churches and we are thankful of the mission those churches provided to their communities.

The online Sunday services continue to be a link to those not able to reach us in other ways and we also hope to be able to develop relationships with those viewers outside of the circuit. As such it is planned to continue with online services for the time being and review in due course. Online services are posted on Youtube and can be accessed via the Circuit website.

Sunday evening services have been a mixture of 'in person' and zoom prayers and the ministers continually review the worship styles we offer.

2022-2023 being the start of a new three year term will bring a period of stability to our Children & Families Coordinator's work and we look forward to engaging further with the families already in contact and constantly extending our outreach to new families.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Circuit Meeting to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the Charity and of the surplus or deficit of the Charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Circuit Meeting has to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102) (second edition – October 2019);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis

The Circuit Meeting is responsible for keeping records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with applicable regulations. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS

As it is now necessary to undertake accruals accounting, Peter Smith, of Peter Smith Accountancy Services has been appointed as Independent Examiner.

REV GRAHAM EDWARDS

DATE 8 MARCH 2023

ON BEHALF OF CIRCUIT MEETING

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Macclesfield Methodist Circuit for the year ended August 31 2022

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended August 31 2020 which are set out on pages 14 to 26.

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

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the ICAEW which is one of the listed bodies.

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 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.

Peter Smith BA FCA DChA
Peter Smith Accountancy Services
9 Polruan Road
Chorlton-cum-Hardy
Manchester M21 9NR

Date: April 13 2023

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Statement of Financial Activities

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 2021-22
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
1 Donations and legacies							0
2 Income from monetary investments		1,047	636	47	260	70	2,060
3 Income from investment properties		12,530					12,530
4 Assessments on Churches		202,760					202,760
5 Capital Receipts	7	282,210	12,887				295,097
6 Grants received				85			85
7 Other charitable income	12	1,295		1,252	5,722		8,269
8 Total income		499,842	13,523	1,384	5,982	70	520,801
Expenditure							
9 Grants and donations							0
10 Salaries and associated costs		114,808		28,436			143,244
11 Property maintenance		13,847					13,847
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy							0
13 District Assessment & Levy		47,770	2,229	17			50,016
14 Depreciation		9,715					9,715
15 Office expenses		12,082		6,726			18,808
16 Other outgoings		2,325	254		5,375	70	8,024
17 Total charitable expenditure		200,547	2,483	35,179	5,375	70	243,654
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		-	2,028			3,245	-5,273
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties							
20 Net income/(expenditure)		299,295	9,012	-33,795	607	-3,245	271,874
21 Transfers between funds	13	- 76,089	- 51,253	156,089	240	- 28,987	0
22 Other gains/(losses)							
23 Net movement in funds		223,206	-42,241	122,294	847	-32,232	271,874
24 Total funds brought forward		1,594,312	129,174	34,206	59,534	34,987	1,852,213
25 Total funds carried forward		1,817,518	86,933	156,500	60,381	2,755	2,124,087
				Note 14			

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2021							
	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2020-21
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
1 Donations and legacies							0
2 Income from monetary investments		635	243	139	230	292	1,539
3 Income from investment properties							0
4 Assessments on Churches		205,010					205,010
5 Capital Receipts		30,200	48,534				78,734
6 Grants received							0
7 Other charitable income		14,544			6,260		20,804
8 Total income		250,389	48,777	139	6,490	292	306,087
Expenditure							
9 Grants and donations		21,391					21,391
10 Salaries and associated costs		112,869		28,072			140,941
11 Property maintenance		14,651					14,651
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy							0
13 District Assessment & Levy		49,508	704	1,556			51,768
14 Depreciation		9,715					9,715
15 Office expenses		9,815		6,218			16,033
16 Other outgoings		815	56		5,455	270	6,596
17 Total charitable expenditure		218,764	760	35,846	5,455	270	261,095
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments							0
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties							
20 Net income/(expenditure)		31,625	48,017	-35,707	1,035	22	44,992
21 Transfers between funds		- 53,000	53,000				0
22 Other gains/(losses)							
23 Net movement in funds		-21,375	101,017	-35,707	1,035	22	44,992
24 Total funds brought forward		1,615,687	28,157	69,913	58,499	34,965	1,807,221
25 Total funds carried forward		1,594,312	129,174	34,206	59,534	34,987	1,852,213
of which cash & invs (excluding fixed assets):		171,112					

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Balance Sheet

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2022								
	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Totals 2021/22 £	Totals 2020/21 £
Fixed Assets								
Circuit Manses & Equipment		1,413,485					1,413,485	1,423,200
Investment properties							0	0
Investments			86,933		55,658	2,755	145,346	217,970
Total fixed assets		1,413,485	86,933	0	55,658	2,755	1,558,831	1,641,170
Current Assets								
Debtors	7	291,922			500		292,422	49,420
Loans by the Circuit							0	0
Investments with TMCP							0	690
Central Finance Board Deposits		147,089		156,500			303,589	177,274
Cash at Bank and in hand		15,643			4,223		19,866	36,222
Total current assets		454,654	0	156,500	4,723	0	615,877	263,606
Current liabilities								
Creditors (due in under 1 year)		50,621					50,621	52,563
Grants payable within 2018-19							0	0
Total current liabilities		50,621	0	0	0	0	50,621	52,563
Net current assets/liabilities		404,033	0	156,500	4,723	0	565,256	211,043
Total assets less current liabilities		1,817,518	86,933	156,500	60,381	2,755	2,124,087	1,852,213
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		1,817,518	86,933	156,500	60,381	2,755	2,124,087	1,852,213
Funds of the Circuit								
General Fund (Unrestricted)		1,817,518					1,817,518	1,594,312
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			86,933				86,933	129,174
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)				156,500			156,500	34,206
Total Unrestricted Funds							2,060,951	1,757,692
Restricted Funds					60,381		60,381	59,534
Endowment Funds						2,755	2,755	34,987
Total Funds		1,817,518	86,933	156,500	60,381	2,755	2,124,087	1,852,213

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Cash Flow Statement

						2022				2021
						£				£
Cash used in operating activities			Note 10			39,857				13,086
Cashflows from investing activities										
Interest and dividends						2,060				1,539
Proceeds of disposal of fixed assets						-				-
Transfer in of tangible fixed assets						-				-
Proceeds of sale of investments						118,586				3,712
Reclassification as Current Assets						-				(53,000)
Purchase of investments						(51,235)				(8,762)
Cash provided by/(used in) investing activities						69,411				(56,511)
Cashflows from financing activities										
Proceeds from new borrowings						-				-
Repayment of borrowing						-				-
Cash used in financing activities						-				-
Increase/(decrease) in cash & cash equivalents in the year						109,268				(43,425)
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward						214,186				257,611
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward						323,454				214,186

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Notes to the Financial Statements

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items, which are considered material in relation to the charity's financial statements.

Scope of the financial statements

The financial statements relate solely to Macclesfield Methodist Circuit.

Basis of preparation

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with: the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) effective January 1 2019 (second edition – October 2019); and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102); and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

Income

Total Incoming Resources as shown in the Statement of Financial Activities represents the net amounts from all sources.

Income is recognised in the accounting period in which it is receivable, except in the following circumstances, when the income is deferred and included in creditors:

- The income relates to a future accounting period
- A sales invoice has been raised ahead of the work being carried out and the charity is not contractually entitled to the income until the work has been done
- Not all the terms and conditions of the grant have been met, including the incurring of expenditure and the grant conditions are such that unspent grant must be refunded.

Income includes grants in respect of revenue and capital items.

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Income recognition

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. The following applies to particular types of income:

Grants, whether of a capital or revenue nature, are recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions have been met and it is probable that the income will be received.

General donations from individuals and other bodies (not being of the nature of a grant) are recognised when receivable.

Church Assessments are recognised in the period for which they have been given and any advance payments are deferred in line with the policy below.

Deferred income

Income is only deferred and included in creditors when:

- The income relates to a future accounting period
- A sales invoice has been raised ahead of the work being carried out and there is no contractual entitlement to the income until the work has been done
- Not all the terms and conditions of the grant have been met, including the incurring of expenditure and the grant conditions are such that unspent grant must be refunded

Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

Costs of raising funds, including those associated with fundraising activities and investment management cost.

Charitable activities - costs of undertaking the work of the charity.

The charity is not registered for VAT and cannot recover any input tax charged. Costs are stated inclusive of VAT where charged.

Taxation

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit is exempt from Corporation Tax by reason of its charitable status. Income tax suffered on deeds of covenant and gift aid or investment income is reclaimed in full.

Fixed assets and depreciation

The Circuit has capitalised the freehold properties for which it acts as the Managing Trustees at the Trustees' valuation in 2018 or at subsequent purchase price. Depreciation has been provided at the rate of 0.67% per annum. The Circuit has no other fixed assets.

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Investments, gains and losses

Fixed asset investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recorded at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The SoFA includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and on disposals throughout the year.

Gains and losses on are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between sale proceeds (net of transaction costs) and the opening carrying value or cost, if acquired during the year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated on the difference between opening and closing fair values.

Financial instruments

The charity has only basic financial instruments which are initially recorded at cost, and with the exception of investments (as set out above) subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Methodist Ministers' Pension Fund

The Circuit is a member of the Connexional pension scheme (MMPS) which covers presbyters and deacons of the Methodist Church. The contribution rates are set each year by the Methodist Conference, and for the year under review the employer contributions were 26.9% of stipend (2020: 26.9%). Contributions will increase to 29.6% from 1 September 2022.

The MMPS is a multi-employer scheme, and in accordance with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission, the Circuit accounts for those contributions as if it were a defined contribution scheme. It has done so because it is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities on a consistent and reasonable basis. Contributions are charged to the SoFA in the period in which they are payable.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Notes 2 – 4

2. Payments to Trustees					This year	Last year
Payments made to trustees for additional services provided to				£	None	None
Number of trustees who were paid expenses					None	None
Nature of the expenses						
Total amount paid				£	Nil	Nil
3. Fees for examination or audit of the accounts						
Independent examiner's or auditors' fees for reporting on the accounts				£	1,000	1,000
Other fees (eg: advice, accountancy services) paid to the examiner/auditor				£	None	None

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



4 STAFF INFORMATION							2022			2021
							£			£
a Staff costs										
Stipends and salaries							110,526			109,206
Employer's NI contributions							10,137			9,658
Pension contributions - Methodist Ministers Scheme							22,870			22,077
							143,533			140,941
No staff member was paid more than £60,000 p.a. in either year.										
b Key management personnel										
The key management of the charity comprise the trustees, which includes the ordained members of staff who are <i>ex officio</i> members of the Circuit Meeting but do not receive any payment specifically for acting as trustees.										
The other trustees do not receive any remuneration for their services.										
							£			£
The total remuneration benefits of the key management							143,533			140,941
c Average staff numbers										
The average number of members of staff was as follows:-										
							2021			2020
							Average			Average
							number			number
Ordained staff (office holders not employees)							3			3
Lay employees							2			2
							5			5

Note 5 – fixed assets

24

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Notes 6 – 9

6. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS	2022		2021		2022		2021	
	£		£		£		£	
Market value brought forward								159,766
Income re-invested								227
Additions at cost								8,534
Disposals at carrying value								(3,712)
Reclassification as Current Assets								53,000
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation								155
Market value carried forward								217,970
Investments at fair value comprise:								
Cash held within investment portfolio								217,970
								217,970
	Unrestricted funds (CMTF & Ebenezer)		Restricted funds (Graveyards)		Endowment funds			
	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Market value brought forward	127,730	66,661	55,253	58,139	34,987		34,966	
Income re-invested	(1,817)	113	165	114			-	
Additions at cost	52,886	8,534		-			-	
Disposals at carrying value	(118,586)	(712)		(3,000)			-	
Transfers	28,747		240		(28,987)			
Reclassification as Current Assets		53,000		-			-	
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation	(2,027)	134		-	(3,245)		21	
Market value carried forward	86,933	127,730	55,658	55,253	2,755		34,987	

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



		Macclesfield Methodist Circuit			
				This year	Last year
				£	£
7. Analysis of current assets					
Debtors and prepayments					
Prepayments				10,212	9,420
Other debtors				282,210	40,000
Total debtors and prepayments				292,422	9,420
At 31st August 2022, Walker Barn and Green Close Methodist Churches had ceased to worship and come under the control of the Circuit. Residual remaining net assets have been included in these accounts as a capital receipt in income and other debtor on the balance sheet. The balance of £282,210 comprises:					
Green Close building at estimated sale proceeds net of levy and other costs	£220,000				
Walker Barn building at estimated sale proceeds net of levy and other costs	£20,000				
Cash and cash equivalents	£42,210				
8. Analysis of current liabilities and long term creditors					
Trade Creditors				Nil	Nil
Other Creditors (principally assessments received in advance)				50,621	52,563
Total Current Liabilities				50,621	52,563
9. Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities					
At the 31st August 2022 the Circuit has no capital commitments (2021: none).					
No Contingent liabilities were identified at 31st August 2022 or 31st August 2021.					

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Notes 10 - 13

10 RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASHFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES									
								2022	2021
								£	£
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers								271,874	44,992
Deduct/(add) gains/(losses) on investments								5,272	(155)
Add back depreciation on fixed assets								9,715	9,715
Deduct interest income shown in investing activities								(2,060)	(1,539)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors								(243,002)	(40,127)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors								(1,942)	200
Net cash generated from/(used in) operating activities								39,857	13,086

11 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Stipends and allowances for presbyters and deacons (collectively known as ministers) are set out annually by the Methodist Conference, and the Circuit is responsible for meeting those costs for all Ministers appointed annually by the Conference to serve the Circuit.

The following Ministers received the basic stipend £25,916 (2020/21 - £25,524) and were provided with living accommodation in 2021/22: The Revd Dr Graham Edwards, The Revd Helen Byrne and The Revd Ros Watson. The Revd Graham Edwards received the Connexionally agreed additional superintendents' allowance of £2,592 (2020/21 - £2,552).

12 OTHER CHARITABLE INCOME

Other charitable income in 2021/22 of £1,295 included income from donations. Rental income from letting out a manse was £12,530. The previous year's Other charitable income of £14,544 included rental income from letting out a manse of £11,643.

13 CIRCUIT MODEL TRUST MONEY

During the year the Circuit agreed to move £51,253 into designated funds from the Circuit Model Trust Fund towards the next three years of funding for the Circuit Family worker. An amount of £52,887 was received just prior to the year-end representing the final distribution of funds following the breakup of the Poynton and Hazel Grove circuit. Funds of £27,703 were transferred into the Model Trust fund due to the closure of a trust previously held by the circuit in relation to Bollington Methodist Church. These Funds now form part of our general reserves. In the previous year, £53,000 was transferred back into Circuit Model Trust as the project it was earmarked for was cancelled.

14 DESIGNATED FUNDS

At 31 December 2022 designated funds totalled £156,500, this represents three further years of funding for the Circuit Family Worker totalling £126,500 and £30,000 to support future Youth related work.

Accounts

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2021

Charity Registration Number 1145485

MINISTERS	Rev Graham Edwards Rev Helen Byrne Rev Ros Watson
TRUSTEES	See main body of the report
CIRCUIT STEWARDS	Mrs Ruth Linde Mr David Dippie Mr Alex Price
CIRCUIT TREASURER	Mrs Jane Walker
ADDRESS	c/o Langley Methodist Church Main Road Langley Macclesfield SK11 0BU
BANKERS	Barclays Bank Cooperative Bank
INVESTMENT MANAGERS	Central Finance Board TMCP
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Peter Smith BA FCA DChA HGA Accountants & Financial Consultants Ltd t/a Chittenden Horley -Chartered Accountants 456 Chester Road Old Trafford Manchester M16 9HD

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Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



TRUSTEES REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2021.

The Circuit consists of eight churches of varying sizes and locations within East Cheshire from Gawsworth in the south to Poynton in the north.

REPORTING FRAMEWORK

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, and 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 (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019), referred to as the Charities SORP (FRS 102) (second edition – October 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Charitable Objectives

The Circuit shares the charitable objectives of the Methodist Church, which are set out as follows:

“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 the 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.”

Circuit Mission Statement

Our mission statement is as follows...

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



CIRCUIT MISSION STATEMENT

We seek to find and fulfil our place in the mission of God to the world.

The role of the Circuit is to develop approaches to staffing and the use of the resources in supporting the churches as we live out our calling.

The mission of Macclesfield Methodist Circuit is to seek to order our life so that we engage fully with the *Five Marks of Mission* in everything we do. The circuit will give attention to these marks as it considers the complex issues of staffing, grant making and overseeing Circuit initiatives.

1 Tell. *To Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom*

Our priorities:

- To offer a variety of worship styles, accessible to all, including areas not currently reached by the circuit
- To make effective use of our Children & Families Mission Teams to explore work with demographic 'gaps' across the circuit
- To ensure adequate and sustainable lay and ordained ministry across the circuit.

How?

- ❖ To encourage and develop new and existing varieties of worship styles (e.g. Contemporary, taize, café, breakfast, proclaim, afternoon tea church, midweek services, quiet/sacred spaces, traditional)
- ❖ To develop effective communication through appropriate channels including social media (e.g. Facebook), websites and internal and external publications and places (e.g. Messenger, Local People, Libraries)
- ❖ To enable and equip volunteers in order to address the needs and opportunities for ministry
- ❖ To make best use of financial resources to support ministry across the circuit

2. Teach. *To teach, baptise and nurture believers*

Our priorities:

- To explore ways the circuit might resource the nurture and spiritual development of believers and seekers
- To equip those involved in the preparing and leading of worship including Worship Leaders, Local Preachers, musicians, stewards, IT, those involved in 'Own Arrangements' and leaders of children and young people
- To support the churches' and circuit's evangelistic outreach into the local communities

How?

- ❖ Provide seasonal reflections, quiet days and study groups at circuit level and explore potential for others
- ❖ Provide and signpost opportunities for training and development, allocating appropriate funding
- ❖ To provide/signpost to resources and tools for equipping evangelistic outreach into local communities

3. Tend. *To respond to Human need by loving service*

Our priorities

- To ensure the churches of the circuit are welcoming, inclusive and safer spaces for all people
- To recruit, train and support all those involved in pastoral care (including Pastoral Visitors, Class Leaders and others) at Circuit and Church level
- To increase awareness of human need and possible responses and resources available

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



How?

- ❖ To enact and review Safeguarding policies and procedures at Circuit and Church level
- ❖ To provide training/signposting for those involved in pastoral care
- ❖ To celebrate and publicise existing work in response to human need and help churches identify other needs not being addressed (e.g. local church initiatives and partnerships like MHA Live at Home, Cancer Care)

4. Transform. *To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation*

Our priorities

- To encourage engagement with political processes locally and nationally, and to support those active in this work.
- To advise and support churches as they consider their place and role in addressing the unjust structures of society, challenge violence and pursue peace and reconciliation
- To root out prejudice in ourselves.

How?

- ❖ To play our part in the activities and governance of ecumenical and interfaith work, including supporting the work of Hope in North East Cheshire
- ❖ To highlight and support the work of organisations at home and abroad, which help us keep an outward focus (e.g. JPIT, All We Can, Mission in Britain, OneMission, Action for Children)

5. Treasure. *To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, to sustain and renew the life of the world.*

Our priorities

- To strive to reduce the carbon footprint across the circuit
- To promote fair trade in the life of the circuit
- To be aware of how best we use our resources (buildings, people, finances) across the circuit

How?

- ❖ To up awareness and share best practice on reducing our carbon footprint
- ❖ To encourage circuit led events, activities and groups to strive to be Fair Trade
- ❖ To promote good stewardship of circuit resources

Contribution of Volunteers

The Circuit is heavily dependent upon, and extremely grateful for, the contribution of volunteers as it seeks to carry out its objectives. With the exception of the three stipendiary Ministers, Children & Families Coordinator and Circuit Administrator, all members of the Circuit Leadership Team and all other Charity trustees are unpaid volunteers.

ACHIEVEMENT & PERFORMANCE

The continuing Coronavirus pandemic meant this year has been one unlike any other we have experienced. At the beginning of September 2020, some churches tentatively reopened, having been closed since March 2020 and although services were short, infrequent and subject to many Government and Methodist church restrictions, there were hopes of an end to the situation. Circuit weekly publications went from weekly to monthly to allow churches to communicate their own notices at the services.

Another lockdown in November however, meant closures again and although a few churches reopened for some Christmas services, our online provision was extended to provide a full schedule including Virtual Nativity, Blue Christmas, Christingle, Christmas Eve communion and Christmas Day services. The dial in services and provision of services on DVD also continued along with new initiatives like 'Christingle in a bag' arranged by our Children & Families Coordinator to ensure our outreach continued just in a different way

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



during this next period of uncertainty. Lockdowns continued to be a feature as we moved into 2021 and it was Easter before we were able to see our church buildings being used for worship once more.

Churches themselves have embraced the use of new technology and 'zoom' coffee mornings, quizzes and church meetings all helped our feelings of togetherness.

Although the loss of rental income has affected our churches throughout the past financial year, we have been fortunate that our churches were able to continue the payment of the assessments to the circuit. This has been due to the generosity of our congregations and also by our churches having sufficient reserves. As a circuit we appreciate the hard work of our church Treasurers and will support them wherever possible.

The circuit will also be reviewing its reserves policy as part of our ongoing financial management.

During the year, the church council of Walker Barn made the difficult decision to cease worship with effect from 1 September 2021. Falling numbers and ill health of worshippers has led to the feel that the work of the chapel has come to end in its current setting and during the coming financial year, the Circuit will take over control of the building. The circuit is extremely grateful to those involved at Walker Barn for their dedication and commitment in providing a place of community and worship over the years and we formally record our thanks and best wishes.

Financial accounts for the circuit have been prepared on an Accruals basis in line with the previous year.

Income trends

The Circuit accounts saw income returning to more normal levels, having been higher the previous year due to the merger of circuits and the addition of a manse property from the Hazel Grove & Poynton circuit.

The circuit did not increase assessments over the transition period and with the pandemic still in evidence, assessments have not been changed for the forthcoming year 2021/2022.

A further capital receipt of £30,100 as was received in September 2020 in relation to the HG & P circuit break up and our financial position has been steadied. In a Covid year the net income on general funds after taking out the capital receipt was £1,525, so we managed to break even. With the capital receipt ex-Poynton more or less offsetting the planned reduction in the family worker reserve, the overall position for the Circuit was just above break even. However we are additionally assured at least a further £40,000 in relation to the HG & P circuit break up, being our share of the net sale proceeds of Offerton church. The sale completed after year end; we have recognised a debtor for £40,000. This pushed the overall surplus for the year to £44,992.

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment paid by the circuit churches. It is hoped that churches will continue to meet their assessment contributions for the 2021/2022 financial year. However, at some point Walker Barn will cease to make assessment contributions and we will have to look at disposal of the building and all that will entail.

There is still uncertainty as many of our churches were well used by the communities in which they serve and are therefore have been affected by the loss of rental income and this may impact on their ability to meet their circuit assessment. We have asked our churches to let us know immediately if they have concerns about meeting their commitments.

The rental income relates to the rental of a manse and with agreement of the Circuit Meeting, the tenancy was renewed for a further 6 months up to 30 September 2021. The property is let to a family in housing need and they may be rehoused by the Local Authority at any time, subject to the circuit being given one month's notice.

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Income from the two Graveyards has held up this year as fees were increased and there has been a higher level of burials into new graves. Regular gardening and maintenance work is ongoing.

Over the course of the year quinquennial reports were carried out on all the manses and items of repair and maintenance have been identified. These will be reviewed and organised as appropriate by the Circuit Stewards.

All these issues will be ongoing considerations of Circuit Leadership Team and Circuit Meeting where appropriate.

Expenditure trends

The circuit finances are concentrated on allowing the paid staff (ministers, mission workers and administrator,) to be paid and maintaining the residences of the ministers in good order. Stipend expenditure has increased each financial year in line with conference approved increases.

Over £51,000 of expenditure is the Circuit contribution to the District and Connexion, of which a significant part is used to fund the work of the wider Methodist Church. The other expenditure includes staff costs and maintenance of the manses.

Our work with Children & Families within the circuit has continued by virtual and latterly, we have seen a return to face to face activity including the circuit summer holiday club which was able to take place at the end of July with over 45 children attending over the three days. Numbers were limited and some restrictions were in place, but the club was a great success and followed on with a special themed all age worship on the Sunday morning and a Breakfast church scheduled for early September. The Trustees have committed existing reserves for this purpose with the current funding/appointment due to run until the end of August 2022. This role has enabled us to build on the relationships we have developed with families and schools locally through our previous appointments of Children & Families Workers and is meeting a huge need enhancing children's ministry across the circuit. We are keen to ensure this continues.

The Circuit grants made during the year were as follows:-

£4,494 Prestbury Methodist Church towards the cost of a new carpet

£10,000 Poynton Methodist Church towards the cost of Children & Families work

£5,276 Poynton Methodist Church towards the cost of new chairs in the worship area

£435 Langley Methodist Church for investigation into additional solar panels

£339 Prestbury Methodist Church towards the cost of printing/mailings to members not on email

£277 Poynton Methodist Church towards the cost of printings/mailings to members not on email

£570 Macclesfield Methodist Church towards the cost of printings/mailings to members not on email

During the year, churches made contributions of £765 to the circuit which were subsequently paid over to the Connexion to be split between the Property fund £578 and Fund for Presbyters/Deacons £187. This sum was down from £1,265 the previous year reflecting the difficulties faced by our churches over the period.

Risk management

The Circuit Meeting continues to develop procedures for identifying and addressing the risks facing the charity. The circuit properties are monitored regularly to ensure they are maintained to a good standard and attention is given to the financial situation of our churches and their ability to meet their financial commitments. We have developed robust procedures for safeguarding children, young people, and vulnerable adults including the appointment of a Circuit Safeguarding Officer.

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Principal Funding Sources

Contributions from the Churches by way of Circuit Assessment continue to be the main source of funding, accounting for 82% (2020: 84%) of normal unrestricted income. The letting of the manse at Atholl Close is reviewed annually with rental income accounting for 4% (2020: 6%) of normal unrestricted income.

Fund balances

Over the year fund balances increased by the overall surplus of £44,992 to stand at £1,852,213.

Reserves

The Circuit seeks to use all its assets for its charitable purposes, whilst continuing to secure and maintain the Circuit's financial viability. It seeks to set a balanced revenue budget, in order that the ongoing normal costs of ministry, mission and management are met from investment income, grants and donations, and Circuit Assessment.

In order to meet its ongoing financial obligations - including the payment of stipends and of District and Connexional assessments quarterly in advance - and to meet unforeseen circumstances, the Circuit needs to maintain sufficient free reserves. These reserves would enable the Circuit to maintain its mission and ministry in the short term if, for whatever reason, individual Churches encounter difficulties in paying their assessments. Free reserves are defined as unrestricted reserves less the investment in tangible fixed assets.

1. General reserves

At 31st August 2021 general reserves totalled £1,594,312, of which £1,423,200 are tied up in fixed assets (properties), leaving liquid reserves of £171,112. This includes the benefit of the additional capital receipt from the breakup of the Hazel Grove & Poynton circuit.

Our policy is to maintain 6 months of general expenditure in reserves (excluding fixed assets). Expenditure in 2020/21 was £188k thus requiring a reserve of approximately £94k. In addition, we have four manses which need to be maintained and always carry a risk of significant repair or needing significant renewal. A reserve of about £25k is considered prudent for this purpose.

On this basis total general reserves required are approximately £119k compared to £171k available. In view of the Covid pandemic and its potential to impact the ability of churches to meet their assessment obligations in full, we consider it prudent to retain this extra contingency in the shorter term. Longer term, our funding for the children and families coordinator in designated funds (item 3 below), expires by 31st August 2022; it is likely that we will wish to continue with this work and draw on these excess general reserves for that purpose.

2. Circuit Model Trust Fund

This totals £129,174 and represents a further unrestricted fund, held with TMCP, except for £40,000 in debtors. The Circuit has not identified a specific use for this fund at present so it can be considered as a contingency. Each year it attracts a 2.5% District levy. Over the year a sum of £8,534 was brought into the trust following the breaking up of two trust funds previously held by Bollington Methodist church which is closed.

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



3. Designated funds

These total £34,206 and represent unrestricted funds that the Circuit trustees have agreed to set aside for funding a children and families co-ordinator role. The designation was made in 2019 for three years, there being one year of funding now remaining.

4. Restricted funds

The Circuit owns two graveyards which originally belonged to the former chapels at Over Alderley and Rainow Methodist churches. Access difficulties at Rainow mean the graveyard is rarely used for new graves but the one located at the former Methodist Chapel in Over Alderley is in reasonable demand, particularly as the graveyard at the nearby Prestbury Parish church is full. Income from funerals is added to the fund and the expenditure of funerals and upkeep of the grounds is taken from the fund. The balance of the fund is restricted in its use against the graveyards.

5. Endowment funds

These funds total £34,987 and represent bequests that have been left in favour of former Bollington and Over Alderley churches, the benefit of which has passed to the Circuit. The capital cannot be accessed but the investment income accrues to the Circuit and can be used towards its mission.

Going Concern

The Trustees have reviewed the circumstances of the Circuit and consider that adequate resources continue to be available to fund its activities for the foreseeable future. The Trustees are therefore of the view that the charity is a going concern.

Plans for 2021/2022

Circuit budgets for the coming year assumed a staffing level of 3 ministers, one full time lay employee (Children and Families Coordinator), and a part time lay employee (Administrator).

Our churches have experienced long periods of lockdown and the associated loss of rental income this brought. Whilst cost of living stipend increases and manse expenditure were envisaged, the District assessment is reducing slightly and it was agreed to leave assessments unchanged for the coming year.

As the circuit Children & Families Coordinator role had a three year contract up until 31 August 2022, during the year we will be reviewing this work and a decision will need to be made as to how/if we continue. An extension will need financial provision and allocation of funds would be encompassed within the planning process.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

As the circuit is part of the Methodist Church of Great Britain the managing trustees operate within the Methodist Church Connexion and as such, their governing document is the Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Methodist Church. The document is available for inspection via the Superintendent. Macclesfield Circuit is registered as a separate charity, number 1145485.

Connected charities

The Churches forming the Circuit are themselves charities and, as they are responsible for their own financial affairs, they are not reported in these statements.

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Macclesfield Circuit Meeting constitution [S.O. 510]
September 2020 [47 members – *currently 1 multiple with qualifications]
(i) The ex officio members (S.O. 552) [9 members]

The Superintendent Minister

The Revd Dr Graham Edwards

All ministers, probationers and persons authorised to serve the church as Presbyters or Deacons:

The Revd Helen Byrne
The Revd Ros Watson

The circuit stewards

Mr David Dippie
Mrs Ruth Linde
Mrs Barbara Ogle
Mr Alex Price
Treasurer - vacant (subsequently filled by Jane Walker appointed September 2021)
Mr Rob Ayerst (continues on Circuit meeting 1 year for continuity reasons)

(ii) Any other persons stationed or residing for the purposes of the stations in, or whose names appear under the number of, the Circuit in accordance with clause (4) of Standing Order 785, and who have informed the Superintendent of their wish to be members of the Circuit Meeting for the ensuing connexional year, except that any person stationed in one circuit but residing in another for the purposes of the stations is eligible to be a member, under this head, of the Circuit Meeting of the latter Circuit only; **[1 member]**

Supernumerary Presbyters or Deacons [S.O. 785 (4) (a) (vi)]

The Revd Shelia Bishop

(iv) such persons, if any, as the Circuit Meeting judges it appropriate to appoint from among those employed by the meeting under Standing Order 510; [1 member]

Mrs Angela Bourne (Circuit Children and Families Coordinator)

(v) the Secretary of the Meeting [1 member]

Mrs Julia Tibbles

(vi) the secretary of the Local Preachers Meeting [1 member]

Mr Steve Oliver

(vii) from each Local Church one church steward and the church treasurer,

(viii) representatives elected by the church council of each local church from its own members in numbers specified by the circuit meeting. [Membership under 100 = 1 representative, membership over 100 = 2 representatives.] 26 members

Broken Cross Methodist Church [3]

Church Steward	Mrs Liz Hammond
Treasurer	Mr John Bird
1 representative	Mr Dai Jones temporarily covering for Joan Green

Gawsworth Methodist Church [3]

Church Steward	Mrs Jillian Longson
Treasurer	Mrs Margaret Parkin
1 representative	Mrs Carolyn Boden

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Green Close Methodist Church [3]

Church Steward	Miss Brenda Wainwright
Treasurer	Mrs Shelia Sheldon
1 representative	Mr Stephan Rudolfer

Langley Methodist Church [3]

Church Steward	Mr Alan Chapman
Treasurer	Mr David Bullock
1 representative	Mrs Mavis Nixon

Macclesfield Methodist Church [4]

Church Steward	Mrs Margery Wilson
Treasurer	Mrs Ruth Linde*
2 representatives	Mr Ian Wardle + 1 Vacant

Poynton Methodist Church [4]

Church Steward	Mrs Judy Gibbons
Treasurer	Mrs Jane Robson
2 representatives	Mrs Jean Drinkwater
	Mrs Mandy Hawkyard

Prestbury Methodist Church [3]

Church Steward	Mrs Heather Cann
Treasurer	Mrs Valerie Jones
1 representative	Mr Eddie Jones

Walker Barn Methodist Church [3]

Church Steward	Mrs Janet Dean
Treasurer	Mrs Pat Fisher
1 representative	**Vacant

(ix) Additional Persons as the Circuit Meeting may desire and appoint to ensure that all areas of the life of the circuit are adequately represented, provided that the total number appointed under this head shall not exceed the total of the numbers specified by the circuit meeting for the purposes of head (viii). **[8 Members]**

Circuit Safeguarding Officer	Mrs Pam Childs
Circuit Admin	Mrs Jane Walker
MWiB	Mrs Brenda Chapman
CFW Advisor	Mrs Joan Pritchard
MHA	Mrs Ruth Gunning
Missions	Miss Brenda Bailey
Action for Children	Vacant
Hope in NE Cheshire	**vacant

* Circuit Steward & Church Treasurer

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Trustee recruitment, induction and training

As outlined above, the appointment of the majority of the members of the Circuit Meeting is outside the control of the Meeting. We encourage trustees to undertake Governance training when available. In appointing the Circuit Leadership Team and other officers, the Meeting has regard to the balance of skills and gifts that are needed to further the work of the Church. New members of the Leadership Team are inducted by the Leadership Team.

During the year Mrs Barbara Ogle resigned as a Circuit Steward due to family reasons and we thank Barbara for her contribution over the years. If anyone wishes to put themselves forward as a circuit steward that would be welcomed, in the meantime the Circuit Leadership Team will continue in its present number.

Organisation

The Circuit Meeting is convened biannually usually in September and March. The Circuit Leadership Team, appointed by the Circuit Meeting, is responsible for acting on behalf of the Circuit Meeting at other times. The Leadership Team usually meets at least six times per year. The Circuit Meeting retains responsibility for setting the mission priorities of the Circuit, the overall strategy to deliver those priorities, the invitation of ministers, the oversight of local churches, the admission of people to the office of Local Preacher, and decisions on formal explorations of calls to ministry and candidates for the ordained ministry.

The Leadership Team is assisted in the task of financial oversight by the Circuit Treasurer. This position has been vacant during the year. The Circuit wishes to thank the District Treasurer for providing additional guidance and assistance during this time. Subsequent to the year end, at the Circuit Meeting in September Jane Walker was appointed Treasurer and Garrie Naden Assistant Treasurer.

The Methodist Church appoints a minister to be the Superintendent Minister of the Circuit, whose duties are set out in the Standing Orders of the Church.

Pay and Remuneration

Stipends and allowances for presbyters and deacons (collectively ministers) are set annually by the Methodist Conference, and the Circuit is responsible for meeting those costs for all ministers appointed by the Conference to the Circuit. Fuller disclosure is contained in Note 4 to the accounts. Lay employee remuneration is set by the Circuit based on the role specification.

FUTURE PLANS

The circuit will continue to provide a supporting role to its churches and will consider any issues arising through the appropriate channels of Circuit Leadership Team and Circuit Meeting as necessary. In light of the challenges of the previous year the Circuit Leadership Team will give particular attention to reviewing the Mission Plan and agreeing priorities for the continuing work of the circuit.

One focus will be the winding up and disposal of Walker Barn church, and we record our grateful thanks to the present congregation and those who have served in the past to provide witness to the area. The closure of a church is not a failure, instead a completion of mission in that place. The area around Walker Barn is rural and made up of farming communities, an area which the 'Barn' has served well since 1898.

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



The online Sunday services and weekly zoom prayers were extremely successful in continuing relationships during lockdown and also in establishing new relationships with viewers from outside of the circuit. It has become an effective channel of communication and has been a positive side effect the pandemic. Contact in this way, whilst also providing the option of face to face services allows us to continue outreach to those members who are not able or don't feel ready to return to church just yet. We also hope to be able to develop relationships with those viewers outside of the circuit and as such it is planned to continue with online services for the time being and review in due course.

2021-2022 will be the final year of our Children & Families Coordinator's contract and this work will again be a continued focus, engaging further with the families already in contact and constantly extending our outreach to new families. The success of our social media provision has allowed us to use this as a recognised channel for interacting with our families' long term and use this as a form of two-way communication for our face to face activities such as Toddler Groups, Messy Church, Breakfast Church and Holiday Club. As mentioned previously in this report, we would like to continue this important area of mission and we will be reviewing and making plans for how this will evolve after the expiration of the current contract.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Circuit Meeting to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the Charity and of the surplus or deficit of the Charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Circuit Meeting has to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102) (second edition – October 2019);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis

The Circuit Meeting is responsible for keeping records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with applicable regulations. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS

As it is now necessary to undertake accruals accounting, Chittenden Horley Limited, of Old Trafford have been appointed as Independent Examiners.

REV GRAHAM EDWARDS

DATE 01.04.22

ON BEHALF OF CIRCUIT MEETING

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Macclesfield Methodist Circuit for the year ended August 31 2021

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended August 31 2020 which are set out on pages 14 to 26.

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

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the ICAEW which is one of the listed bodies.

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 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.

Peter Smith BA FCA DChA

For and on behalf of:
HGA Accountants & Financial Consultants Ltd
t/a Chittenden Horley - Chartered Accountants
456 Chester Road
Old Trafford
Manchester M16 9HD

Date: 17/06/22



Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Statement of Financial Activities

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2021							
	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2020-21
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
1 Donations and legacies							0
2 Income from monetary investments		635	243	139	230	292	1,539
3 Income from investment properties							0
4 Assessments on Churches		205,010					205,010
5 Capital Receipts		30,200	48,534				78,734
6 Grants received							0
7 Other charitable income		14,544			6,260		20,804
8 Total income		250,389	48,777	139	6,490	292	306,087
Expenditure							
9 Grants and donations		21,391					21,391
10 Salaries and associated costs		112,869		28,072			140,941
11 Property maintenance		14,651					14,651
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy							0
13 District Assessment & Levy		49,508	704	1,556			51,768
14 Depreciation		9,715					9,715
15 Office expenses		9,815		6,218			16,033
16 Other outgoings		815	56		5,455	270	6,596
17 Total charitable expenditure		218,764	760	35,846	5,455	270	261,095
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments							0
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties							
20 Net income/(expenditure)		31,625	48,017	-35,707	1,035	22	44,992
21 Transfers between funds		- 53,000	53,000				0
22 Other gains/(losses)							
23 Net movement in funds		-21,375	101,017	-35,707	1,035	22	44,992
24 Total funds brought forward		1,615,687	28,157	69,913	58,499	34,965	1,807,221
25 Total funds carried forward		1,594,312	129,174	34,206	59,534	34,987	1,852,213
of which cash & invs (excluding fixed assets):		171,112					

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2020

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2019-20
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
Donations and legacies							0
Income from monetary investments		1,120	325	714	551	328	3,038
Income from investment properties							0
Assessments on Churches		195,221					195,221
Capital Receipts		22,632	53,128				75,760
Grants received							0
Other charitable income	12	364,945			6,370		371,315
Total income		583,918	53,453	714	6,921	328	645,334
Expenditure							
Grants and donations							0
Salaries and associated costs		127,383		30,412			157,795
Property maintenance		1,626					1,626
District & Connex. Assessment & Levy		46,628	712	1,585			48,925
Depreciation		9,715					9,715
Office expenses		11,476		127			11,603
Other outgoings		4,015	57		8,404	70	12,546
Total charitable expenditure		200,843	769	32,124	8,404	70	242,210
Gains/(losses) on monetary investments						229	229
Gains/(losses) on investment properties							
Net income/(expenditure)		383,075	52,684	-31,410	-1,483	487	403,353
Transfers between funds	13	52,259 -	53,000	1,000	-	259	0
Other gains/(losses)							
Net movement in funds		435,334	-316	-30,410	-1,483	228	403,353
Total funds brought forward		1,180,353	28,473	100,323	59,982	34,737	1,403,868
Total funds carried forward		1,615,687	28,157	69,913	58,499	34,965	1,807,221

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Balance Sheet

Name of Circuit								Circuit No
Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2021								
	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2020/21	Totals 2019/20
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets								
Circuit Manses & Equipment		1,423,200					1,423,200	1,432,915
Investment properties							0	
Investments		38,556	89,174		55,253	34,987	217,970	159,765
Total fixed assets		1,461,756	89,174	0	55,253	34,987	1,641,170	1,592,680
Current Assets								
Debtors		9,420	40,000				49,420	9,293
Loans by the Circuit							0	
Investments with TMCP				690			690	62,232
Central Finance Board Deposits		143,758		33,516			177,274	175,519
Cash at Bank and in hand		31,941			4,281		36,222	19,860
Total current assets		185,119	40,000	34,206	4,281	0	263,606	266,904
Current liabilities								
Creditors (due in under 1 year)		52,563					52,563	52,363
Grants payable within 2018-19							0	
Total current liabilities		52,563	0	0	0	0	52,563	52,363
Net current assets/liabilities		132,556	40,000	34,206	4,281	0	211,043	214,541
Total assets less current liabilities		1,594,312	129,174	34,206	59,534	34,987	1,852,213	1,807,221
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)								
Grants payable after 2018-19							0	
Loans to the Circuit							0	
							0	
Net assets		1,594,312	129,174	34,206	59,534	34,987	1,852,213	1,807,221
Funds of the Circuit								
General Fund (Unrestricted)		1,594,312					1,594,312	1,615,687
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			129,174				129,174	28,157
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)				34,206			34,206	69,913
Total Unrestricted Funds							1,757,692	1,713,757
Restricted Funds					59,534		59,534	58,499
Endowment Funds						34,987	34,987	34,965
Total Funds		1,594,312	129,174	34,206	59,534	34,987	1,852,213	1,807,221
of which cash & invs (excluding fixed assets):		171,112						

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Cash Flow Statement

							2021		2020
							£		£
Cash used in operating activities			Note 10				13,086		61,345
Cashflows from investing activities									
Interest and dividends							1,539		3,038
Proceeds of disposal of fixed assets							-		-
Transfer in of tangible fixed assets							-		-
Proceeds of sale of investments							3,712		1,712
Reclassification as Current Assets							(53,000)		53,000
Purchase of investments							(8,762)		(54,082)
Cash provided by/(used in) investing activities							(56,511)		3,668
Cashflows from financing activities									
Proceeds from new borrowings							-		-
Repayment of borrowing							-		-
Cash used in financing activities							-		-
Increase/(decrease) in cash & cash equivalents in the year							(43,425)		65,013
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward							257,611		192,598
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward							214,186		257,611

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Notes to the Financial Statements

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items, which are considered material in relation to the charity's financial statements.

Scope of the financial statements

The financial statements relate solely to Macclesfield Methodist Circuit.

Basis of preparation

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with: the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) effective January 1 2019 (second edition – October 2019); and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102); and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

Income

Total Incoming Resources as shown in the Statement of Financial Activities represents the net amounts from all sources.

Income is recognised in the accounting period in which it is receivable, except in the following circumstances, when the income is deferred and included in creditors:

- The income relates to a future accounting period
- A sales invoice has been raised ahead of the work being carried out and the charity is not contractually entitled to the income until the work has been done
- Not all the terms and conditions of the grant have been met, including the incurring of expenditure and the grant conditions are such that unspent grant must be refunded.

Income includes grants in respect of revenue and capital items.

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Income recognition

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. The following applies to particular types of income:

Grants, whether of a capital or revenue nature, are recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions have been met and it is probable that the income will be received.

General donations from individuals and other bodies (not being of the nature of a grant) are recognised when receivable.

Church Assessments are recognised in the period for which they have been given and any advance payments are deferred in line with the policy below.

Deferred income

Income is only deferred and included in creditors when:

- The income relates to a future accounting period
- A sales invoice has been raised ahead of the work being carried out and there is no contractual entitlement to the income until the work has been done
- Not all the terms and conditions of the grant have been met, including the incurring of expenditure and the grant conditions are such that unspent grant must be refunded

Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

Costs of raising funds, including those associated with fundraising activities and investment management cost.

Charitable activities - costs of undertaking the work of the charity.

The charity is not registered for VAT and cannot recover any input tax charged. Costs are stated inclusive of VAT where charged.

Taxation

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit is exempt from Corporation Tax by reason of its charitable status. Income tax suffered on deeds of covenant and gift aid or investment income is reclaimed in full.

Fixed assets and depreciation

The Circuit has capitalised the freehold properties for which it acts as the Managing Trustees at the Trustees' valuation in 2018 or at subsequent purchase price. Depreciation has been provided at the rate of 0.67% per annum. The Circuit has no other fixed assets.

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Investments, gains and losses

Fixed asset investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recorded at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The SoFA includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and on disposals throughout the year.

Gains and losses on are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between sale proceeds (net of transaction costs) and the opening carrying value or cost, if acquired during the year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated on the difference between opening and closing fair values.

Financial instruments

The charity has only basic financial instruments which are initially recorded at cost, and with the exception of investments (as set out above) subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Methodist Ministers' Pension Fund

The Circuit is a member of the Connexional pension scheme (MMPS) which covers presbyters and deacons of the Methodist Church. The contribution rates are set each year by the Methodist Conference, and for the year under review the employer contributions were 26.9% of stipend (2019: 26.9%).

The MMPS is a multi-employer scheme, and in accordance with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission, the Circuit accounts for those contributions as if it were a defined contribution scheme. It has done so because it is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities on a consistent and reasonable basis. Contributions are charged to the SoFA in the period in which they are payable.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Notes 2 – 4

2. Payments to Trustees						This year	Last year
Payments made to trustees for additional services provided to				£	None	None	None
Number of trustees who were paid expenses					None	None	None
Nature of the expenses							
Total amount paid				£	Nil	Nil	Nil
3. Fees for examination or audit of the accounts							
Independent examiner's or auditors' fees for reporting on the accounts				£	1,000	1,000	1,000
Other fees (eg: advice, accountancy services) paid to the examiner/auditor				£	None	None	None

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



4 STAFF INFORMATION							2021	2020
							£	£
a Staff costs								
Stipends and salaries							109,206	105,457
Employer's NI contributions							9,658	9,161
Pension contributions - Methodist Ministers Scheme							22,077	21,133
							140,941	135,751
No staff member was paid more than £60,000 p.a. in either year.								
b Key management personnel								
The key management of the charity comprise the trustees, which includes the ordained members of staff who are <i>ex officio</i> members of the Circuit Meeting but do not receive any payment specifically for acting as trustees.								
The other trustees do not receive any remuneration for their services.								
							£	£
The total remuneration benefits of the key management								
Stipends							107,845	105,018
c Average staff numbers								
The average number of members of staff was as follows:-								
							2021	2020
							Average	Average
							number	number
Ordained staff (office holders not employees)							3	3
Lay employees							2	2
							5	5

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Note 5 – fixed assets

5. Tangible Fixed Assets									
Detail of assets held:									
4 Manses - at Marlborough Drive, Tytherington, Moss Brow, Bollington, Atholl Close, Macclesfield and Ivy Road, Poynton									
Cost or valuation									
	Land £	Manses £	Other buildings £	Other fixed assets including motor vehicles £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Payments on account and assets under construction £	Total £		
Balance brought forward	0	1,450,000	0	0	0	0	1,450,000		
Additions							0		
Revaluations & Gain/Loss on Disposal (+/-)							0		
Disposals (-)							0		
Transfers (+/-)							0		
Balance carried forward	0	1,450,000	0	0	0	0	1,450,000		
Accumulated depreciation									
Balance brought forward		17,085					17,085		
Depreciation charge for year (-)		9,715					9,715		
Revaluations (+/-)							0		
Disposals (-)							0		
Transfers* (+/-)							0		
Balance carried forward	0	26,800	0	0	0	0	26,800		
Net book value									
Brought forward	-	1,432,915	-		-	-	1,432,915		
Carried forward	-	1,423,200	-	-	-	-	1,423,200		

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



Notes 6 – 9

6. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS									
							2021		2020
							£		£
Market value brought forward							159,766		160,167
Income re-invested							227		954
Additions at cost							8,534		53,128
Disposals at carrying value							(3,712)		(1,712)
Reclassification as Current Assets							53,000		(53,000)
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation							155		229
Market value carried forward							217,970		159,766
Investments at fair value comprise:									
Cash held within investment portfolio							217,970		159,766
							217,970		159,766
Unrestricted funds (CMTF & Ebenezer)					Restricted funds (Graveyards)		Endowment funds		
	2021		2020		2021	2020	2021	2020	
	£		£		£	£	£	£	£
Market value brought forward	66,661		66,725		58,139	58,705	34,966		34,737
Income re-invested	113		520		114	434	-		-
Additions at cost	8,534		53,128		-	-	-		-
Disposals at carrying value	(712)		(712)		(3,000)	(1,000)	-		-
Reclassification as Current Assets	53,000		(53,000)		-	-	-		-
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation	134		-		-	-	21		229
Market value carried forward	127,730		66,661		55,253	58,139	34,987		34,966

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



		Macclesfield Methodist Circuit			
7.	Analysis of current assets			This year	Last year
	Debtors and prepayments			£	£
	Prepayments			9,420	9,293
	Other debtors			40,000	Nil
	Total debtors and prepayments			49,420	9,293
8.	Analysis of current liabilities and long term creditors				
	Trade Creditors			Nil	Nil
	Other Creditors (principally assessments received in advance)			52,563	52,363
	Total Current Liabilities			52,563	52,363
9.	Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities				
	At the 31st August 2021 the Circuit has no capital commitments (2020: none).				
	No Contingent liabilities were identified at 31st August 2021 or 31st August 2020.				

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit



10 RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASHFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES								
							2021	2020
							£	£
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers							44,992	403,353
Deduct/(add) gains/(losses) on investments							(155)	(229)
Add back depreciation on fixed assets							9,715	9,715
Deduct interest income shown in investing activities							(1,539)	(3,038)
Deduct non cash income (receipt of manse fixed asset ex Poynton circuit)							-	(350,000)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors							(40,127)	(449)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors							200	1,993
Net cash generated from/(used in) operating activities							13,086	61,345

11 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Stipends and allowances for presbyters and deacons (collectively known as ministers) are set out annually by the Methodist Conference, and the Circuit is responsible for meeting those costs for all Ministers appointed annually by the Conference to serve the Circuit.

The following Ministers received the basic stipend £25,524 (2019/20 - £24,852) and were provided with living accommodation in 2020/21: The Revd Dr Graham Edwards, The Revd Helen Byrne and The Revd Ros Watson.

The Revd Graham Edwards received the Connexionally agreed additional superintendents' allowance of £2,552 (2019/20 - £2,485).

12 OTHER CHARITABLE INCOME

Other charitable income in 2020/21 of £14,544 included rental income from letting out a manse of £11,643. The previous year's income of £15,410 included rental income from letting out a manse of £12,960.

13 CIRCUIT MODEL TRUST MONEY

During the year, £53,000 was transferred back into Circuit Model Trust as the project it was earmarked for was cancelled. These Funds now form part of our general reserves and over the coming year, we will review what projects can be supported as part of the Circuit's mission plan. Funds also increased due to the closure of two trusts previously held by Bollington Methodist Church being brought into the circuit.

