RYEDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales · Charity number 1152920

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2013-07-17
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	7 Pinfold Garth Malton YO17 7XQ
Phone	01653 692173
Website	www.ryedalemethodist.org.uk

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 SUBSIDUARY 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: Religious organisation

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- North Yorkshire

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1152920

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-08-31	£414,322	£439,684	-	-
2023-08-31	£570,589	£499,421	£418,252	2
2022-08-31	£147,006	£450,352	-	-
2021-08-31	£197,742	£271,151	-	-
2020-08-31	£407,023	£268,466	-	-

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1152920

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
AUDREY FOSTER		2013-07-08
Andrew John Lindley		2024-09-01
Ann Lonsdale		2022-10-03
Brian Smart		2023-03-16
CHRISTINE WRIGHT		2013-07-08
DAVID SCALING		2013-07-08
Dr Julia Branson		2017-09-13
Edward Garbutt		2014-10-20
HELEN LENG		2017-09-13
JAMES ANDREW LECKENBY		2013-07-08
JANET MARY BROWN		2013-07-08
JANET SMITH		2013-07-08
JOHN WOODMANSEY		2013-07-08
JONATHAN WILLIAM PIERCY		2013-07-08
John Hubery		2016-09-01
John Wilfred Spencely Foster		2022-09-15
KAREN MARY PATTISON		2018-06-28
KATHARINE EMMA GIBBS		2019-09-12
Kathryn Rosalind Hall		2018-06-18
LESLIE HELM		2018-06-07
MARGARET ELIZABETH GRAHAM		2013-07-08
MARTIN PHILLIP REDGARD		2013-07-08
MARY KEMP BA		2013-07-08
NANCY WILSON		2013-07-08
Noel Walter Smith		2025-02-06
PAMELA MARGARET SELLERS		2013-07-08
PAUL THOMAS DOUTHWAITE		2013-07-08

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1152920

Name	Role	Appointed
Paul Emberley		2022-10-03
Peter Clark Rev		2013-07-08
ROBERT DAVID RAYNER NDA		2013-07-08
ROBERT MICHAEL LENG MCIOB PGCE		2013-07-08
Rachel Prest		2015-03-09
Rev Graham Paul Ransom		2022-09-15
Rev Helena Jane Pickering		2014-09-01
Rev JANE CATHERINE DEBORAH BROWN		2025-03-27
Rev Mark Haynes		2016-09-01
Rev PENELOPE JANE WORTH		2013-09-19
Richard Lukey		2016-09-01
Roger Hadfield		2015-09-01
SHEILA MARY FOSTER		2013-07-08
SUSAN ELIZABETH GOODWILL		2013-07-08
SUSAN JANE HOLMES BSC PGCE		2013-07-08
Stephen Arnold		2022-09-15
Stephen Langton		2018-03-07
Stuart Brown		2021-09-01
Susan Ann Cutting		2024-03-14

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1152920

RYEDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1152920

Accounts

RYEDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT 29/34

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

RYEDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Circuit Number: 29/34

Circuit Staff:

Ordained:

Superintendent Minister:	Rev Peter Sheasby 7 Pinfold Garth, Malton, North Yorkshire, YO17 7XQ
Ministers:	Rev Graham Ransom

Lay:

Missional Lay Employee:	Mrs Karen Pattison
Administration Assistant:	Mrs Ann Thomas
Trustees:	All members of the Circuit Meeting. A full list is available on request.
Circuit Stewards:	Ms Kate Gibbs Dr Julia Branson Mr Steve Arnold Mr John Foster Mr Richard Lukey
Independent Examiner:	Ms S A Cutting

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Governing Document	Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976)
Constituted	Act of Parliament
Selection of Trustees	Appointed by local churches and existing trustees Ministers are automatically trustees
Structure	Part of the Yorkshire North and East District of the Methodist Church Accountable to the Methodist Conference
Risks	Considered by the Leadership Team Take professional advice when required Adopted Safeguarding Policy

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Vision of Ryedale Methodist Circuit is to build fellowships of committed followers of Jesus Christ, who will share the Gospel, grow in faith and demonstrate this through loving service in both the local community and the wider world.

This vision will be worked out by:

- Increasing awareness of God's presence and declaring His love in our daily lives;
- Offering safe places for worship where everyone is made to feel welcome and accepted;
- Providing opportunities for spiritual growth and learning;
- Providing time and space for church and community activities;
- Showing care and support for all;
- Sharing tasks of ministry among both lay and ordained people;
- Working for justice and peace for all people, and
- Regularly reviewing opportunities for mission, ministry and worship both within the Methodist Circuit and with others of faith.

Objectives:
The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the Date of Union the advancement of:

a) The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and discipline of The Methodist Church;
b) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, District, Circuit, local or other organisation of The Methodist Church;
c) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to The Methodist Church;
d) Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to The Methodist Church.

STRUCTURE AND DECISION MAKING

The Circuit staff work as a team sharing responsibilities across the Circuit.

Day-to-day management decisions are taken by the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT). The CLT is composed of the Circuit Stewards and ordained staff.

The Circuit Meeting is the principal decision-making body responsible for the affairs of the Circuit and the development of circuit policy, although decision on specific matters is delegated to the CLT when required. It also acts as the focal point of the working fellowship of the churches in the Circuit, overseeing their pastoral, training and evangelistic work. It meets twice yearly, in the autumn and spring.

CLT meets between Circuit Meetings to:

1. discuss the life and work of the Circuit
2. formulate recommendations for the Circuit Meeting
3. carry out work on behalf of the Circuit Meeting, where appropriate.
4. to ensure the Circuit effectively uses its financial resources through:
   (i) agreeing proposals for the annual circuit budget in advance of the Circuit Meeting
   (ii) monitoring financial procedures.

The CLT is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the manses and has the authority to approve emergency works to manses on behalf of the Circuit Meeting.

All property schemes within the Circuit are examined by the CLT who recommend an appropriate response to the Circuit Meeting. The CLT may seek clarification or modification of an application before making its recommendation to the Circuit Meeting.

In addition to seeking approval, a church may seek financial support from the Circuit for urgent repairs or essential improvements. No limit is placed on this although requests have to be justified and the continuation of the church considered appropriate within the Circuit. For other projects (up to £5000) the CLT may recommend that the Circuit Meeting grant from the Circuit Model Trust Fund up to 15% of the budgeted cost of the scheme (subject to funds being available) depending on how well the scheme fits the approval criteria.

The CLT is also responsible for ensuring staffing levels are maintained at a workable level and may allocate funds for the employment of lay staff to assist with the work of the church when deemed necessary.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Trustees have examined the major strategic and operational risks facing the Circuit and have established the necessary systems to manage or mitigate these risks.

In particular:

- insurance cover is in place
- the finances of the Circuit are kept under review
- the Circuit has adopted the Methodist Church Safeguarding Policy and ensured it is rolled out to the churches; appointed a Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinator; appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are made and there are regular audits of Safeguarding practices across the Circuit and all its churches.

Public Benefit

We confirm that the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Ryedale Methodist Circuit carries out a range of activities in pursuance of its mission. The Trustees consider that these activities, summarised below, provide benefit to those who are members of the Circuit through the local Methodist churches and the wider community.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Religious Activities

Acts of worship and pastoral care

The Circuit produces a quarterly, or bi monthly, preaching plan to ensure regular acts of worship take place at each of the Methodist churches and Local Ecumenical Partnerships under its remit. These are open to all people, without charge. The Ministers have pastoral care for these churches.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

The Circuit staff conducted baptisms, weddings and funerals at each of the churches in the Circuit. These services are available at the discretion of the person with pastoral charge. No charge is made for baptisms. A modest set fee is usually charged for weddings and funerals.

Work with Children, Youth, and Families in the local Community

The Circuit supports the work done in the local churches to

- create and strengthen relationships and help people along their life's journey
- ensure people feel welcome and get a positive experience of Church life
- encourage people to start and continue a journey into faith.

We aim to make these services available to everyone.

People and property

Presbyters, Deacons and Local Preachers

The Circuit spiritually and financially supported the above named Presbyters throughout the year (or for the period shown); a number of active Local Preachers and several Supernumerary Ministers took services and preached in the Circuit's churches during the year.

Lay Employees

The Circuit funded:

- A part time Lay Employee
- A part-time Administrator

Property management

The Circuit maintained two manses throughout the year. Unused manses are rented out until required for new ministers. The properties were only accounted for as manses whilst occupied by ministers. Four further former manses were commercially let. One redundant church was sold during the year and two closed church buildings were transferred to the Circuit.

Volunteers

A substantial part of the Circuit's ministry is accomplished by volunteers. All the Circuit Stewards and the other members of the Circuit Meeting, except for the Ministers and paid lay employees, are volunteers. All the local preachers are volunteers.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Accounts for the year ending 31st August 2024 and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st August 2024 are contained in Appendix 1. These show a net deficit (gross income less expenditure) of £(25,362) in the year, with total cash funds of £518,889 at the end of the year.

This net surplus figure was mainly attributable to the refund of the Pension contribution made in a previous year of £95,533 and soft loans agreed for two Churches £175K

Unrestricted funds achieved a deficit of £176K.

The principal funding sources for the year to 31st August 2024 are the Assessments received from the churches within the Circuit and property rental. The principal expenditure is the salary costs of the ministers and lay employees of the Circuit.

The Reserves policy is contained in Appendix 2.

The Trustees have established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds held in the General Reserve should be sufficient to cover six months of general running costs. At 31st August 2024, the level of reserves was £191,366, with net current liabilities deducted (but not including loans) and annual expected expenditure is £368K (including possible grants to churches to help with essential repairs). This approach to reserves is considered prudent and current balances, although higher than required, are considered beneficial in the current uncertain economic climate and will enable the Circuit to help local churches where considered beneficial.

The Trustees have also established a policy whereby the Circuit Model Trust Fund should be maintained at a level sufficient to fund an anticipated level of property projects plus the budgeted transfers to general funds over a five year horizon, after allowing for inflows from property sales. At 31st August 2024, the balance of the CMTF (excluding the restricted funds) is £372,258. The CMTF is currently in a position which exceeds the requirements of the policy.

This reserves policy will be reviewed regularly.

Overall, the Trustees consider the financial position to be satisfactory.

Approved on 27th March 2024 and signed on behalf of the Circuit by:

Reverend Andy Lindley

Superintendent Minister

APPENDIX 1: ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Other Funds	Total this year	Total last year
RECEIPTS					
Assessment/share	159,973	-	-	159,973	161,465
Capital receipts	-	92,413	-	92,413	59,491
Interest and investment income	10,130	13,235	-	23,365	18,026
Grants	-	-	-	-	288,288
Other receipts	42,548	96,023	-	138,571	43,319
Total receipts	**212,651**	**201,671**	**-**	**414,322**	**570,589**
PAYMENTS					
Stipends, salaries, NIC, pension and travel costs	127,678	-	-	127,678	102,748
Manse costs	10,333	-	-	10,333	8,456
Administration etc	1,736	612	-	2,348	5,256
District assessment	31,216	-	-	31,216	34,684
Grants Loans and donations	197,298	-		197,298	309,272
Other payments	20,403	50,408	-	70,811	39,005
Total payments	**388,664**	**51,408**	**-**	**439,684**	**499,421**
Net receipts and payments	**(176,013)**	**150,651**	**-**	**(25,362)**	**71,168**
Total funds brought forward from last year	319,930	213,533	10,304	543,767	472,599
Transfers and adjustments	(9,652)	8,074	2,062	484	1
Total funds at end of year	**134,265**	**372,258**	**12,366**	**518,889**	**543,768**

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Opening balances	Closing balances
CASH FUNDS HELD		
Bank current account	57,407	53,325
Central Finance Board deposit account	263,685	80,941
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	222,676	384,624
Other funds		
Total cash funds held by circuit	**543,768**	**518,890**
OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES		
Investments	11,194	11,194
Land and buildings	2,069,300	2,069,300
Other assets	8,266	9,200
Loans	84,810	175,910
Other liabilities	40,706	40,706

APPENDIX 2: RESERVES POLICY

Our Reserves Policy relates to our general (unrestricted) funds which are freely available to be used for any or all of the purposes of the Circuit.

Other funds are also included for the sake of clarity and openness and to show that the Circuit has a policy for the management of all of its money not simply those which are defined as reserves.

Aims

- To secure and sustain the Circuit's viability and future.
- To reassure the general public that the Circuit, which is a charity, intends to use all of the money coming into its care for the purposes of the charity.

Three Step Process

In line with Connexional guidance, we undertake a three step process in setting reserves policy:

i. set out our mission aims

ii. decide what financial plans will be necessary to achieve those aims

iii. determine the appropriate level of reserves required to meet our financial plans.

(1) Mission Policy

The Circuit's Mission Policy is set out in a separate document developed during the merger process.

Essentially, it provides for:

(a) The ministerial oversight and pastoral care of up to twenty local churches in the Circuit.

(b) The support of a ministry team of two presbyteral Ministers (1 at 31st Aug 2024), several supernumerary ministers and two lay employees (one plus an Administrator currently).

(c) The maintenance of the two Circuit manses, four former manses that are currently let out commercially, and any closed chapels that are in the process of being sold.

(2) Financial Plans

Each year, the required levels of expenditure and income are reviewed and a Circuit budget is produced. This covers:

- the total level of expenditure required by the Circuit to meet the costs of 1(a), (b) and (c) above
- expected income from the let properties
- requirement for contributions to the Circuit from individual chapels
- appropriate level of transfer from Circuit Model Trust Fund (budgeted at £10,000 for 2023/24) as a general amount help meet Circuit needs plus exceptional transfers where necessary to fund the Circuit's financial help for Churches.

We make provision for our property maintenance programme by designating an amount per annum for each manse to maintain the properties, and an amount per annum to fund a program of periodic property inspections for all the Circuit properties including quinquennial reports for Circuit churches.

(3) Reserves Policy

The Circuit General Fund

Under Standing Orders the Circuit must meet its financial obligations in relation to the support of its ministers and the maintenance of the manses. The total budgeted expenditure for the next financial year (including planned contributions to the Manse Fund and the Property Inspection Fund) is c.£118,247. A further allowance of £20,000 is included for potential grants to churches.

Our Reserves Policy is to hold at least six month's expenditure in hand. On 31/08/24, the balance was c..£330,613(excluding loans of £175,910) so it represented nearly one year's expenditure. This is above our policy but is considered prudent in the current uncertain financial climate.

Circuit Model Trust Fund

This fund derives from sales of chapels and manses. Historically, the use of this fund has been restricted to specific purposes by the Conference, but more recently Circuits have been given the ability to use their CMTF as they see fit.

Our policy is to use the fund to provide support to the General Fund to further the work of the Circuit (budgeted at £10,000 in 2023/234 and to provide specific support for property related expenditure in individual chapels, through ad-hoc contributions to significant projects. The Circuit also uses this fund through an initiative to provide 15% of small property schemes.

The call upon CMTF reserves is increased in current financially difficult times to cover larger exceptional grants made where financial difficulties are experienced by specific churches.

Our Reserves Policy is to hold sufficient in the CMTF to cover projected expenditure, over a 5 year horizon, after allowing for anticipated proceeds from property sales – this expenditure comprising:

- Continuing support for the General Fund (budgeted at £10,000 for 2023/24)
- Specific allowance for significant projects already committed to or anticipated
- Contributions of £30,000 per annum to future significant projects and repairs
- A running cost of £5,000 per annum from the "15% scheme"

This would suggest a requirement of £225,000 plus the cost of specific projects less proceeds from sales of closed chapels (net of levies and fees).

The actual balance in CMTF at 31/08/24 was £372,258 but this is considered prudent. .

Restricted Funds

These funds comprise trusts managed by Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP), where either the funds are committed to a specific project or the income is available for general use but the capital cannot generally be accessed. Restrictions for the latter case funds are in line with the wishes of the benefactors. These funds amounted to just over £10,000 as at 31/08/24.

Holdings of just over £1,100 are held within the Circuit bank account but had previously been held in a segregated savings account and is being treated as restricted until any requirements relating to its provenance can be confirmed.

APPENDIX 3: List of Trustees @31st August 2024

Role	Name
CM Secretary (non Voting)	Mrs R A Thomas
Superintendent	Revd Peter Sheasby
Presbyter	Revd Graham Ransom
Supernumerary	Revd Peter Clark
Supernumerary	Revd Jane Pickering
Supernumerary	Revd Michael Williams
Minister Resident in Circuit	Revd Dr Penny Worth
Minister Resident in Circuit	Revd Mark Haynes
Lay Employee	Mrs Karen Pattison
Circuit Steward	Dr Julia Branson
Circuit Steward	Kate Gibbs
Circuit Steward	Mr Steve Arnold
Circuit Steward	Mr John Foster
Circuit Steward	Mr Richard Lukey
Synod Rep	Mr Robert Rayner
Circuit Steward Finance/Ebberston Treasurer	Mr Philip Evans
Circuit Property Rep	Mr Mike Leng
Local Preachers Rep	Mrs Rachel Prest
Allerston Steward	Howard Parr
Allerston Treasurer	Mary Kemp
Ebberston Representative	Helen Leng
Ebberston Steward	Mike Peck
Helmsley Representative	Andrew Leckenby
Helmsley Steward	Les Helm
Helmsley Treasurer	Christine Wright

Hovingham Steward	Sue Goodwill
KMS Representative	Kath Hall
KMS Representative	Audrey Windress
KMS Steward	Janet Brown
KMS Treasurer	Stuart Brown
Leavening Steward	Steve Langton
Leavening Treasurer	Nancy Spencer
Malton Rep	Paul Emberley
Malton Steward	Ann Lonsdale
Malton Treasurer	Roger Hadfield
Norton Bethel Representative	Jonathan Piercy
Norton Bethel Steward	Veronica Piercy
Norton Bethel Treasurer	Margaret Graham
Norton Trinity Representative	John Hubery
Norton Trinity Steward	Sue Holmes
Norton Trinity Treasurer	Suzanne West
Pickering Representative	Pam Sellers
Pickering Steward	Ruth Hall
Pickering Treasurer	Martin Redgard
Rievaulx Steward	Edward Garbutt
Rievaulx Treasurer	Sheila Foster
Scagglethorpe Rep	Janet Smith
Scagglethorpe Steward	Paul Douthwaite
Scagglethorpe Treasurer	Nancy Wilson
Sinnington Steward	David Scaling
Slingsby Representative	Stephen Prest
Slingsby Steward	Audrey Foster

Slingsby Treasurer	Brian Smartl
Thornton Dale Representative	Mervyn Hand
Thornton Dale Steward	Mary Hoggarth
Thornton Dale Treasurer	John Woodmansey

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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.

I have obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner

Name of independent examiner Ms S A Cutting

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner AAT

Address 33 South Road, Dodsworth, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S75 3LG

Date .....

RYEDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1152920

Accounts

RYEDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT 29/34

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

RYEDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Circuit Number: 29/34

Circuit Staff:

Ordained:	
Superintendent Minister:	Rev Peter Sheasby 7 Pinfold Garth, Malton, North Yorkshire, YO17 7XQ
Ministers:	Rev Graham Ransom
Lay:	
Missional Lay Employee:	Mrs Karen Pattison
Administration Assistant:	Mrs Ann Thomas
Trustees:	All members of the Circuit Meeting. A full list is available on request.
Circuit Stewards:	Ms Kate Gibbs Dr Julia Branson Mr Steve Arnold Mr John Foster Mr Richard Lukey
Circuit Treasurer:	Mr Philip Roy Evans FCCA
Independent Examiner:	Mr Michael Richmond FCCA Champleys Chartered Certified Accountants Champleys Mews, Market Place Pickering North Yorkshire YO18 7AE

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Governing Document	Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976)
Constituted	Act of Parliament
Selection of Trustees	Appointed by local churches and existing trustees Ministers are automatically trustees
Structure	Part of the Yorkshire North and East District of the Methodist Church Accountable to the Methodist Conference
Risks	Considered by the Leadership Team Take professional advice when required Adopted Safeguarding Policy

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Vision of Ryedale Methodist Circuit is to build fellowships of committed followers of Jesus Christ, who will share the Gospel, grow in faith and demonstrate this through loving service in both the local community and the wider world.

This vision will be worked out by:

- Increasing awareness of God's presence and declaring His love in our daily lives;
- Offering safe places for worship where everyone is made to feel welcome and accepted;
- Providing opportunities for spiritual growth and learning;
- Providing time and space for church and community activities;
- Showing care and support for all;
- Sharing tasks of ministry among both lay and ordained people;
- Working for justice and peace for all people, and
- Regularly reviewing opportunities for mission, ministry and worship both within the Methodist Circuit and with others of faith.

Objectives:
The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the Date of Union the advancement of:

a) The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and discipline of The Methodist Church;
b) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, District, Circuit, local or other organisation of The Methodist Church;
c) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to The Methodist Church;
d) Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to The Methodist Church.

STRUCTURE AND DECISION MAKING

The Circuit staff work as a team sharing responsibilities across the Circuit.

Day-to-day management decisions are taken by the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT). The CLT is composed of the Circuit Stewards and ordained staff.

The Circuit Meeting is the principal decision-making body responsible for the affairs of the Circuit and the development of circuit policy, although decision on specific matters is delegated to the CLT when required. It also acts as the focal point of the working fellowship of the churches in the Circuit, overseeing their pastoral, training and evangelistic work. It meets twice yearly, in the autumn and spring.

CLT meets between Circuit Meetings to:

1. discuss the life and work of the Circuit
2. formulate recommendations for the Circuit Meeting
3. carry out work on behalf of the Circuit Meeting, where appropriate.
4. to ensure the Circuit effectively uses its financial resources through:
   (i) agreeing proposals for the annual circuit budget in advance of the Circuit Meeting
   (ii) monitoring financial procedures.

The CLT is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the manses and has the authority to approve emergency works to manses on behalf of the Circuit Meeting.

All property schemes within the Circuit are examined by the CLT who recommend an appropriate response to the Circuit Meeting. The CLT may seek clarification or modification of an application before making its recommendation to the Circuit Meeting.

In addition to seeking approval, a church may seek financial support from the Circuit for urgent repairs or essential improvements. No limit is placed on this although requests have to be justified and the continuation of the church considered appropriate within the Circuit. For other projects (up to £5000) the CLT may recommend that the Circuit Meeting grant from the Circuit Model Trust Fund up to 15% of the budgeted cost of the scheme (subject to funds being available) depending on how well the scheme fits the approval criteria.

The CLT is also responsible for ensuring staffing levels are maintained at a workable level and may allocate funds for the employment of lay staff to assist with the work of the church when deemed necessary.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Trustees have examined the major strategic and operational risks facing the Circuit and have established the necessary systems to manage or mitigate these risks.

In particular:

- insurance cover is in place
- the finances of the Circuit are kept under review
- the Circuit has adopted the Methodist Church Safeguarding Policy and ensured it is rolled out to the churches; appointed a Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinator; appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are made and there are regular audits of Safeguarding practices across the Circuit and all its churches.

Public Benefit

We confirm that the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Ryedale Methodist Circuit carries out a range of activities in pursuance of its mission. The Trustees consider that these activities, summarised below, provide benefit to those who are members of the Circuit through the local Methodist churches and the wider community.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Religious Activities

Acts of worship and pastoral care

The Circuit produces a quarterly, or bi monthly, preaching plan to ensure regular acts of worship take place at each of the Methodist churches and Local Ecumenical Partnerships under its remit. These are open to all people, without charge. The Ministers have pastoral care for these churches.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

The Circuit staff conducted baptisms, weddings and funerals at each of the churches in the Circuit. These services are available at the discretion of the person with pastoral charge. No charge is made for baptisms. A modest set fee is usually charged for weddings and funerals.

Work with Children, Youth, and Families in the local Community

The Circuit supports the work done in the local churches to

- create and strengthen relationships and help people along their life's journey
- ensure people feel welcome and get a positive experience of Church life
- encourage people to start and continue a journey into faith.

We aim to make these services available to everyone.

People and property

Presbyters, Deacons and Local Preachers

The Circuit spiritually and financially supported the above named Presbyters throughout the year (or for the period shown); a number of active Local Preachers and several Supernumerary Ministers took services and preached in the Circuit's churches during the year.

Lay Employees

The Circuit funded:

- A part time Lay Employee
- A part-time Administrator

Property management

The Circuit maintained two manses throughout the year. Unused manses are rented out until required for new ministers. The properties were only accounted for as manses whilst occupied by ministers. Four further former manses were commercially let. One redundant church was sold during the year and two closed church buildings were transferred to the Circuit.

Volunteers

A substantial part of the Circuit's ministry is accomplished by volunteers. All the Circuit Stewards and the other members of the Circuit Meeting, except for the Ministers and paid lay employees, are volunteers. All the local preachers are volunteers.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Accounts for the year ending 31st August 2023 and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st August 2023 are contained in Appendix 1. These show a net surplus (gross income less expenditure) of £71,000 in the year, with total cash funds of £544,000 at the end of the year.

This net surplus figure was mainly attributable to the sale of a closed church but also the result of lower staff costs resulting from the inability to recruit a new minister and a reduced District assessment. Interest received was also significantly higher than in previous years. Grants of £15,000 were made to churches for essential repairs.

Unrestricted funds achieved a surplus of £16,000, mainly the result of the lower costs and increased interest.

At the start of the financial year a donation of £6,000 was made from the CMTF to the Yorkshire North and East District of the Methodist Church (per the standard approach where CMTF balances are held).

The principal funding sources for the year to 31st August 2023 are the Assessments received from the churches within the Circuit and property rental. The principal expenditure is the salary costs of the ministers and lay employees of the Circuit.

The Reserves policy is contained in Appendix 2.

The Trustees have established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds held in the General Reserve (excluding amounts allocated to the Manse fund and the Property Inspection fund) should be sufficient to cover six months of general running costs. At 31st August 2023, the level of reserves was £268,000, with net current liabilities deducted (but not including loans) and annual expected expenditure is £277,000 (including possible grants to churches to help with essential repairs). This approach to reserves is considered prudent and current balances, although higher than required, are considered beneficial in the current uncertain economic climate and will enable the Circuit to help local churches where considered beneficial. Reserves excluding loans are, currently, equivalent to 11 month's costs.

The Trustees have also established a policy whereby the Circuit Model Trust Fund should be maintained at a level sufficient to fund an anticipated level of property projects plus the budgeted transfers to general funds over a five year horizon, after allowing for inflows from property sales. At 31st August 2023, the balance of the CMTF (excluding the restricted funds) is £213,000. The CMTF is currently in a position which exceeds the requirements of the policy.

This reserves policy will be reviewed regularly.

Overall, the Trustees consider the financial position to be satisfactory.

Approved on 14th March 2024 and signed on behalf of the Circuit by:



Reverend Peter Sheasby

Superintendent Minister

APPENDIX 1: ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Unrestricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Other Funds	Total this year	Total last year
RECEIPTS					
Assessment/share	161,465	-	-	161,465	79,080
Capital receipts	-	59,491	288,288	347,779	1,000
Interest and investment income	7,987	9,196	843	18,026	2,625
Other receipts	43,319	941	-	43,319	64,301
Total receipts	**212,771**	**68,687**	**289,131**	**570,589**	**147,006**
PAYMENTS					
Stipends, salaries, NIC, pension and travel costs	102,748	-	-	102,748	73,274
Manse costs	8,456	-	-	8,456	18,273
Administration etc	4,637	470	149	5,256	7,613
District assessment	34,684	-	-	34,684	41,092
Grants Loans and donations	15,246	5,738	288,288	309,272	278,840
Other payments	31,107	7,898	-	39,005	31,260
Total payments	**196,878**	**14,106**	**288,437**	**499,421**	**450,352**
Net receipts and payments	**15,893**	**54,581**	**694**	**71,168**	**(303,346)**
Total funds brought forward from last year	284,614	163,637	24,348	472,599	775,945
Transfers and adjustments	19,423	(4685)	(14,738)	1	-
Total funds at end of year	**319,930**	**213,533**	**10,304**	**543,768**	**472,599**

Notes:

- Other payments include £820 for independent examiner's fees, rented property costs of £10,788.
- Grant from TMCP is a £5,738 contribution to the District Advance Fund.
- Capital receipts from Other funds are project costs for Malton Church project funded by an equivalent amount, being a refund of the Circuit property levy paid.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Opening balances	Closing balances
CASH FUNDS HELD		
Bank current account	53,794	57,407
Central Finance Board deposit account	231,981	263,685
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	186,824	222,676
Other funds		
Total cash funds held by circuit	**472,599**	**543,768**
OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES		
Investments	11,756	11,194
Land and buildings	1,738,230	2,069,300
Other assets	7,610	8,266
Loans	80,000	84,810
Other liabilities	44,777	40,706

APPENDIX 2: RESERVES POLICY

Our Reserves Policy relates to our general (unrestricted) funds which are freely available to be used for any or all of the purposes of the Circuit.

Other funds are also included for the sake of clarity and openness and to show that the Circuit has a policy for the management of all of its money not simply those which are defined as reserves.

Aims

- To secure and sustain the Circuit's viability and future.
- To reassure the general public that the Circuit, which is a charity, intends to use all of the money coming into its care for the purposes of the charity.

Three Step Process

In line with Connexional guidance, we undertake a three step process in setting reserves policy:

i. set out our mission aims

ii. decide what financial plans will be necessary to achieve those aims

iii. determine the appropriate level of reserves required to meet our financial plans.

(1) Mission Policy

The Circuit's Mission Policy is set out in a separate document developed during the merger process.

Essentially, it provides for:

(a) The ministerial oversight and pastoral care of up to twenty local churches in the Circuit.

(b) The support of a ministry team of three presbyteral Ministers (1 at 31st Aug 2022), a Deacon (retired 18.10.21) several supernumerary ministers and three lay employees (one plus an Administrator currently).

(c) The maintenance of the two Circuit manses, four former manses which are currently let out commercially, and any closed chapels which are in the process of being sold.

(2) Financial Plans

Each year, the required levels of expenditure and income are reviewed and a Circuit budget is produced. This covers:

- the total level of expenditure required by the Circuit to meet the costs of 1(a), (b) and (c) above
- expected income from the let properties
- requirement for contributions to the Circuit from individual chapels
- appropriate level of transfer from Circuit Model Trust Fund (budgeted at £10,000 for 2023/24) as a general amount help meet Circuit needs plus exceptional transfers where necessary to fund the Circuit's financial help for Churches.

We make provision for our property maintenance programme by designating an amount per annum for each manse to maintain the properties, and an amount per annum to fund a program of periodic property inspections for all the Circuit properties including quinquennial reports for Circuit churches.

(3) Reserves Policy

The Circuit General Fund

Under Standing Orders the Circuit must meet its financial obligations in relation to the support of its ministers and the maintenance of the manses. The total budgeted expenditure for the next financial year (including planned contributions to the Manse Fund and the Property Inspection Fund) is c.£247,000. A further allowance of £30,000 is included for potential grants to churches.

Our Reserves Policy is to hold at least six month's expenditure in hand. At 31/08/23, the balance was c.£268,000 (that is c. £300,000 balance with net liabilities (excluding loans of £84,000) of c. £32,000) so represented nearly one year's expenditure. This is above our policy but is considered prudent in the current uncertain financial climate.

The Manse Fund

This is a designated fund which exists to cover expenditure required to maintain the Circuit manses in good condition and to fulfil requirements of quinquennial inspections.

Our policy is to support this fund from the General Fund by means of an annual amount per annum, set so as to balance expenditure over a five year cycle. As such, there is no specific target level of reserves at any point in time, but an objective of covering requirements without undue volatility in the annual transfer.

At 31/08/23, the balance was just over £14,000. The budgeted annual level of funding for next year is £5,000 but, following the recent period where self distancing meant repairs were kept to a minimum, additional reserves are available to cover unexpected repairs.

The Property Inspection Fund

This is a designated fund which exists to cover the cost of quinquennial and other (e.g. electrical) inspections for both individual churches and circuit properties.

Our policy is to support this fund from the General Fund by means of an annual amount per annum, set so as to balance expenditure over a five year cycle. As such, there is no specific target level of reserves at any point in time, but an objective of covering requirements without undue volatility in the annual transfer.

At 31/08/22, the fund balance was just under £6000; the budgeted annual level of funding for the next year is £5,600.

Circuit Model Trust Fund

This fund derives from sales of chapels and manses. Historically, the use of this fund has been restricted to specific purposes by the Conference, but more recently Circuits have been given the ability to use their CMTF as they see fit.

Our policy is to use the fund to provide support to the General Fund to further the work of the Circuit (budgeted at £10,000 in 2023/234 and to provide specific support for property related expenditure in individual chapels, through ad-hoc contributions to significant projects. The Circuit also uses this fund through an initiative to provide 15% of small property schemes.

The call upon CMTF reserves is increased in current financially difficult times to cover larger exceptional grants made where financial difficulties are experienced by specific churches.

Our Reserves Policy is to hold sufficient in the CMTF to cover projected expenditure, over a 5 year horizon, after allowing for anticipated proceeds from property sales – this expenditure comprising:

- Continuing support for the General Fund (budgeted at £10,000 for 2023/24)
- Specific allowance for significant projects already committed to or anticipated
- Contributions of £30,000 per annum to future significant projects and repairs
- A running cost of £5,000 per annum from the "15% scheme"

This would suggest a requirement of £225,000 plus the cost of specific projects less proceeds from sales of closed chapels (net of levies and fees).

The actual balance in CMTF at 31/08/23 was £213,000 but this is considered prudent going forward as planned sales of closed church properties are estimated at around £162,000.

Restricted Funds

These funds comprise trusts managed by Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP), where either the funds are committed to a specific project or the income is available for general use but the capital cannot generally be accessed. Restrictions for the latter case funds are in line with the wishes of the benefactors. These funds amounted to just over £10,000 as at 31/08/23.

Holdings of just over £1,100 are held within the Circuit bank account but had previously been held in a segregated savings account and is being treated as restricted until any requirements relating to its provenance can be confirmed.

APPENDIX 3: List of Trustees @ 31st August 2023

Role	Name
CM Secretary (non Voting)	Mrs R A Thomas
Superintendent	Revd Peter Sheasby
Presbyter	Revd Graham Ransom
Supernumerary	Revd Peter Clark
Supernumerary	Revd Jane Pickering
Supernumerary	Revd Brian Shackleton
Supernumerary	Revd Michael Williams
Minister Resident in Circuit	Revd Dr Penny Worth
Minister Resident in Circuit	Revd Mark Haynes
Lay Employee	Mrs Karen Pattison
Circuit Steward	Dr Julia Branson
Circuit Steward	Kate Gibbs
Circuit Steward	Mr Steve Arnold
Circuit Steward	Mr John Foster
Circuit Steward	Mr Richard Lukey
Synod Rep	Mr Robert Rayner
Circuit Steward Finance/Ebberston Treasurer	Mr Philip Evans
Circuit Property Rep	Mr Mike Leng
Local Preachers Rep	Mrs Rachel Prest
Allerston Steward	Howard Parr
Allerston Treasurer	Mary Kemp
Ebberston Representative	Helen Leng
Ebberston Steward	Mike Peck
Helmsley Representative	Andrew Leckenby
Helmsley Steward	Les Helm

Helmsley Treasurer	Christine Wright
Hovingham Steward	Sue Goodwill
KMS Representative	Kath Hall
KMS Representative	Audrey Windress
KMS Steward	Janet Brown
KMS Treasurer	Stuart Brown
Leavening Steward	Steve Langton
Leavening Treasurer	Nancy Spencer
Malton Rep	Paul Emberley
Malton Steward	Ann Lonsdale
Malton Treasurer	Roger Hadfield
Norton Bethel Representative	Jonathon Piercy
Norton Bethel Steward	Veronica Piercy
Norton Bethel Treasurer	Margaret Graham
Norton Trinity Representative	John Hubery
Norton Trinity Steward	Sue Holmes
Norton Trinity Treasurer	Suzanne West
Pickering Representative	Pam Sellers
Pickering Steward	Nigel Pattison
Pickering Treasurer	Martin Redgard
Rievaulx Steward	Edward Garbutt
Rievaulx Treasurer	Sheila Foster
Scagglethorpe Rep	Janet Smith
Scagglethorpe Steward	Paul Douthwaite
Scagglethorpe Treasurer	Nancy Wilson
Sinnington Steward	David Scaling
Slingsby Representative	Stephen Prest

Slingsby Steward	Audrey Foster
Slingsby Treasurer	Brian Smartl
Thornton Dale Representative	Mervyn Hand
Thornton Dale Steward	Mary Hoggarth
Thornton Dale Treasurer	John Woodmansey

APPENDIX 4

NOTES FOR 2022/23 ACCOUNTS

	Other Receipts	
	Property Rental	40665.00
	Booklet Reimburse	152.10
	Preaching Fees	225.00
	Trfs in from Closed Chapels	2277.00
A6		43319.10

	Grants received	
	Malton Project Rfd of Levy	288288.00
A5		288288.00

	Administration	
	Telephone Manse	993.00
	Admin and telephone	1897.00
	Computer Admin	69.00
	TMCP Admin	618.31
	Resources fir Ministers	1678.67
b4		5255.98

	Stipends etc	
	Minister Stipends/NI/Pension	77661.28
	Ministers Travel	3209.75
	Lay Workers Stipends/NI/	21870.51
	Lay Workers Travel	6.50
b2		102748.04

	Manse Costs	
	Insurance	600.00
	Council Tax	4127.00
	Water and Utiliies	926.00
	Repairs and servicing	2200.00
	Manse Inspections	603.00
b3		8456.00

	Other Payments	
	Lay Peachers	568.00
	Closed Church Costs	4211.00
	Rented Property Costs	10788.00
	Other Payments	15540.00
b8		31107.00

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE RYEDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

I report on the accounts of Ryedale Methodist Circuit (Charity No: 1152920) for the year ended 31st March 2023, which are set out on pages 2 to 13.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner
As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145 (5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the Independent Examiner's Report
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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.

I have obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of the Independent Examiner

M. Richmond

Michael Richmond FCCA BA (Hons) MAAT
Champleys Chartered Certified Accountants
Champleys Mews, Market Place, Pickering YO18 7AE

15th December 2023

RYEDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1152920

Accounts

RYEDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT 29/34

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

RYEDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Circuit Number: 29/34

Circuit Staff:

Ordained:

Superintendent Minister:	Rev Peter Sheasby 7 Pinfold Garth, Malton, North Yorkshire, YO17 7XQ
Ministers:	Deacon Fiona de Boltz until October 2021 Rev Anthony de Boltz until October 2021 Rev Jane Pickering Rev. Malcolm Sellers

Lay:

Missional Lay Employee:	Mrs Karen Pattison
Administration Assistant:	Mrs Ann Thomas
Trustees:	All members of the Circuit Meeting. A full list is available on request.
Circuit Stewards:	Ms Kate Gibbs Mrs Julia Branson Mr Paul Emberley Mr Robert Rayner
Circuit Treasurer:	Mr Philip Roy Evans FCCA
Independent Examiner:	Mr Michael Richmond FCCA Champleys Chartered Certified Accountants Champleys Mews, Market Place Pickering North Yorkshire YO18 7AE

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Governing Document	Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976)
Constituted	Act of Parliament
Selection of Trustees	Appointed by local churches and existing trustees Ministers are automatically trustees
Structure	Part of the Yorkshire North and East District of the Methodist Church Accountable to the Methodist Conference
Risks	Considered by the Leadership Team Take professional advice when required Adopted Safeguarding Policy

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Vision of Ryedale Methodist Circuit is to build fellowships of committed followers of Jesus Christ, who will share the Gospel, grow in faith and demonstrate this through loving service in both the local community and the wider world.

This vision will be worked out by:

- Increasing awareness of God's presence and declaring His love in our daily lives;
- Offering safe places for worship where everyone is made to feel welcome and accepted;
- Providing opportunities for spiritual growth and learning;
- Providing time and space for church and community activities;
- Showing care and support for all;
- Sharing tasks of ministry among both lay and ordained people;
- Working for justice and peace for all people, and
- Regularly reviewing opportunities for mission, ministry and worship both within the Methodist Circuit and with others of faith.

Objectives:
The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the Date of Union the advancement of:

a) The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and discipline of The Methodist Church;
b) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, District, Circuit, local or other organisation of The Methodist Church;
c) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to The Methodist Church;
d) Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to The Methodist Church.

STRUCTURE AND DECISION MAKING

The Circuit staff work as a team sharing responsibilities across the Circuit.

Day-to-day management decisions are taken by the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT). The CLT is composed of the Circuit Stewards and ordained staff.

The Circuit Meeting is the principal decision-making body responsible for the affairs of the Circuit and the development of circuit policy, although decision making was delegated to the CLT during the Covid19 lockdown and safe distancing period. It also acts as the focal point of the working fellowship of the churches in the Circuit, overseeing their pastoral, training and evangelistic work. It meets twice yearly, in the autumn and spring.

CLT meets between Circuit Meetings to:

1. discuss the life and work of the Circuit
2. formulate recommendations for the Circuit Meeting
3. carry out work on behalf of the Circuit Meeting, where appropriate.
4. to ensure the Circuit effectively uses its financial resources through:
    (i) agreeing proposals for the annual circuit budget in advance of the Circuit Meeting
    (ii) monitoring financial procedures.

The CLT is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the manses and has the authority to approve emergency works to manses on behalf of the Circuit Meeting.

All property schemes within the Circuit are examined by the CLT who recommend an appropriate response to the Circuit Meeting. The CLT may seek clarification or modification of an application before making its recommendation to the Circuit Meeting.

In addition to seeking approval, a church may seek financial support from the Circuit for urgent repairs or essential improvements. No limit is placed on this although requests have to be justified and the continuation of the church considered appropriate within the Circuit. For other projects (up to £5000) the CLT may recommend that the Circuit Meeting grant from the Circuit Model Trust Fund up to 15% of the budgeted cost of the scheme (subject to funds being available) depending on how well the scheme fits the approval criteria.

The CLT is also responsible for ensuring staffing levels are maintained at a workable level and may allocate funds for the employment of lay staff to assist with the work of the church when deemed necessary.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Trustees have examined the major strategic and operational risks facing the Circuit and have established the necessary systems to manage or mitigate these risks.

In particular:

- insurance cover is in place
- the finances of the Circuit are kept under review
- the Circuit has adopted the Methodist Church Safeguarding Policy and ensured it is rolled out to the churches; appointed a Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinator; appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are made and there are regular audits of Safeguarding practices across the Circuit and all its churches.

Public Benefit

We confirm that the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Ryedale Methodist Circuit carries out a range of activities in pursuance of its mission. The Trustees consider that these activities, summarised below, provide benefit to those who are members of the Circuit through the local Methodist churches and the wider community.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Religious Activities

Acts of worship and pastoral care

The Circuit produces a quarterly preaching plan to ensure regular acts of worship take place at each of the Methodist churches and Local Ecumenical Partnerships under its remit. These are open to all people, without charge. The Ministers have pastoral care for these churches.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

The Circuit staff conducted baptisms, weddings and funerals at each of the churches in the Circuit. These services are available at the discretion of the person with pastoral charge. No charge is made for baptisms. A modest set fee is usually charged for weddings and funerals.

Work with Children, Youth, and Families in the local Community

The Circuit supports the work done in the local churches to

- create and strengthen relationships and help people along their life's journey
- ensure people feel welcome and get a positive experience of Church life
- encourage people to start and continue a journey into faith.

We aim to make these services available to everyone.

People and property

Presbyters, Deacons and Local Preachers

The Circuit spiritually and financially supported the above named Presbyters and Deacon throughout the year (or for the period shown); a number of active Local Preachers and several Supernumerary Ministers took services and preached in the Circuit's churches during the year.

Lay Employees

The Circuit funded:

- A part time Lay Employee
- A part-time Administrator

Property management

The Circuit maintained three manses although only one for the full year. One was let early in the financial year and remains let. One was rented for the main part of the year but was reinstated as a manse towards the end of the financial year. The properties were accounted for as manses whilst occupied by ministers but classed as rented properties for the remainder of the time. Three further former manses were commercially let. No redundant churches were sold during the year but one closed church building was transferred to the Circuit.

Volunteers

A substantial part of the Circuit's ministry is accomplished by volunteers. All the Circuit Stewards and the other members of the Circuit Meeting, except for the Ministers and paid lay employees, are volunteers. All the local preachers are volunteers.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Accounts for the year ending 31st August 2022 and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st August 2022 are contained in Appendix 1. These show a net deficit (gross income less expenditure) of £303,000 in the year, with total cash funds of £473,000 at the end of the year.

This net deficit figure was partly attributable to project payments of £138,000, partly grants and donations to Circuit Churches and the Ministers Pension Reserve Fund and partly the refund of part of the church annual assessments to help them through the financially difficult times. Without these exceptional payments a surplus would have been achieved owing to the reduced stipend costs for the year resulting from difficulty in appointing new ministers.

Unrestricted funds incurred a loss £55,000, mainly the result of refunded assessments (£86,000) and grants of £28,000 paid. A loan of £12,000 made to a church last year was repaid during the year.

At the start of the financial year a donation of £23,000 was made from the CMTF to the Yorkshire North and East District of the Methodist Church (per the standard approach where CMTF balances are held).

The principal funding sources for the year to 31st August 2022 are the Assessments received from the churches within the Circuit and property rental. The principal expenditure is the salary costs of the ministers and lay employees of the Circuit.

The Reserves policy is contained in Appendix 2.

The Trustees have established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds held in the General Reserve (excluding amounts allocated to the Manse fund and the Property Inspection fund) should be sufficient to cover six months of general running costs. At 31st August 2022, the level of reserves was £246,000, with net current liabilities deducted (but not including loans) and annual expected expenditure is £250,000 (including possible grants to churches to help with essential repairs). This approach to reserves is considered prudent and current balances, although higher than required, are considered beneficial in the current uncertain economic climate and will enable the Circuit to help local churches where considered beneficial. Reserves excluding loans are, currently, equivalent to 11 month's costs.

The Trustees have also established a policy whereby the Circuit Model Trust Fund should be maintained at a level sufficient to fund an anticipated level of property projects plus the budgeted transfers to general funds over a five year horizon, after allowing for inflows from property sales. At 31st August 2022, the balance of the CMTF (excluding the restricted funds) is £163,000. The CMTF is currently in a position which exceeds the requirements of the policy.

This reserves policy will be reviewed regularly.

Overall, the Trustees consider the financial position to be satisfactory.

Approved on 16/3/23 and signed on behalf of the Circuit by:

Peter D Sheasby

Reverend Peter Sheasby

Superintendent Minister

APPENDIX 1: ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	Unrestricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Other Funds	Total this year	Total last year
RECEIPTS					
Assessment/share	79,080	-	-	79,080	144,326
Capital receipts	-	-	1,000	1,000	143,310
Interest and investment income	754	1,441	430	2,625	1,979
Grants	-	-	-		-
Other receipts	63,360	941	-	64,301	51,437
Total receipts	**143,194**	**2,382**	**1,430**	**147,006**	**341,052**
PAYMENTS					
Stipends, salaries, NIC, pension and travel costs	73,274	-	-	73,274	136,553
Manse costs	18,273	-	-	18,273	14,069
Administration etc	5,816	1,216	581	7,613	12,717
District assessment	41,092	-	-	41.092	43,792
Grants Loans and donations	28,979	111,258	138,603	278,840	52,526
Other payments	31,260	-	-	31,260	11,494
Total payments	**198,694**	**112,474**	**139,184**	**450,352**	**271,151**
Net receipts and payments	**(55,500)**	**(110,092)**	**(137,754)**	**(303,346)**	**69,9901**
Total funds brought forward from last year	188,226	425,559	162,160	775,945	706,044
Transfers and adjustments	151,888	(151,830)	(58)	-	-
Total funds at end of year	**284,614**	**163,637**	**24,348**	**472,599**	**775,945**

Notes:

- Other payments include £800 for independent examiner's fees, rented property costs of £16,403, Inspections of churches £7204 and non manse insurance of £4,705.
- Grants from TMCP are the £88,000 contribution to the Ministers Pension Reserve Fund and a £23,258 contribution to the District Advance Fund.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 AUGUST 2022

	Opening balances	Closing balances
CASH FUNDS HELD		
Bank current account	61,453	53,794
Central Finance Board deposit account	129,708	231,981
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	584,784	186,824
Other funds		
Total cash funds held by circuit	**775,945**	**472,599**
OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES		
Investments	12,567	11,756
Land and buildings	1,673,230	1,738,230
Other assets	10,831	7,610
Loans	92,000	80,000
Other liabilities	37,719	44,777

APPENDIX 2: RESERVES POLICY

Our Reserves Policy relates to our general (unrestricted) funds which are freely available to be used for any or all of the purposes of the Circuit.

Other funds are also included for the sake of clarity and openness and to show that the Circuit has a policy for the management of all of its money not simply those which are defined as reserves.

Aims

- To secure and sustain the Circuit's viability and future.
- To reassure the general public that the Circuit, which is a charity, intends to use all of the money coming into its care for the purposes of the charity.

Three Step Process

In line with Connexional guidance, we undertake a three step process in setting reserves policy:

i. set out our mission aims

ii. decide what financial plans will be necessary to achieve those aims

iii. determine the appropriate level of reserves required to meet our financial plans.

(1) Mission Policy

The Circuit's Mission Policy is set out in a separate document developed during the merger process.

Essentially, it provides for:

(a) The ministerial oversight and pastoral care of up to twenty local churches in the Circuit.

(b) The support of a ministry team of three presbyteral Ministers (1 at 31st Aug 2022), a Deacon (retired 18.10.21) several supernumerary ministers and three lay employees (one plus an Administrator currently).

(c) The maintenance of the two Circuit manses, four former manses which are currently let out commercially, and any closed chapels which are in the process of being sold.

(2) Financial Plans

Each year, the required levels of expenditure and income are reviewed and a Circuit budget is produced. This covers:

- the total level of expenditure required by the Circuit to meet the costs of 1(a), (b) and (c) above
- expected income from the let properties
- requirement for contributions to the Circuit from individual chapels
- appropriate level of transfer from Circuit Model Trust Fund (budgeted at £10,000 for 2022/23) as a general amount help meet Circuit needs plus exceptional transfers where necessary to fund the Circuit's financial help for Churches.

We make provision for our property maintenance programme by designating an amount per annum for each manse to maintain the properties, and an amount per annum to fund a program of periodic property inspections for all the Circuit properties including quinquennial reports for Circuit churches.

(3) Reserves Policy

The Circuit General Fund

Under Standing Orders the Circuit must meet its financial obligations in relation to the support of its ministers and the maintenance of the manses. The total budgeted expenditure for the next financial year (including planned contributions to the Manse Fund and the Property Inspection Fund) is c.£225,000. A further allowance of £25,000 is included for potential grants to churches.

Our Reserves Policy is to hold at least six month's expenditure in hand. At 31/08/22, the balance was c..£246,000 (that is c. £284,000 balance with net liabilities (excluding loans of £80,000) of c. £38,000) so represented nearly one year's expenditure. This is above our policy but is considered prudent in the current uncertain financial climate.

The Manse Fund

This is a designated fund which exists to cover expenditure required to maintain the Circuit manses in good condition and to fulfil requirements of quinquennial inspections.

Our policy is to support this fund from the General Fund by means of an annual amount per annum, set so as to balance expenditure over a five year cycle. As such, there is no specific target level of reserves at any point in time, but an objective of covering requirements without undue volatility in the annual transfer.

At 31/08/22, the balance was just over £11,000. The budgeted annual level of funding for next year is £5,000 but, following a period where self distancing meant repairs were kept to a minimum, additional reserves are available to cover unexpected repairs.

The Property Inspection Fund

This is a designated fund which exists to cover the cost of quinquennial and other (e.g. electrical) inspections for both individual churches and circuit properties.

Our policy is to support this fund from the General Fund by means of an annual amount per annum, set so as to balance expenditure over a five year cycle. As such, there is no specific target level of reserves at any point in time, but an objective of covering requirements without undue volatility in the annual transfer.

At 31/08/22, the fund balance was just under £5000; the budgeted annual level of funding for the next year is £5,600.

Circuit Model Trust Fund

This fund derives from sales of chapels and manses. Historically, the use of this fund has been restricted to specific purposes by the Conference, but more recently Circuits have been given the ability to use their CMTF as they see fit.

Our policy is to use the fund to provide support to the General Fund to further the work of the Circuit (budgeted at £10,000 in 2022/23) and to provide specific support for property related expenditure in individual chapels, through ad-hoc contributions to significant projects. The Circuit also uses this fund through an initiative to provide 15% of small property schemes and through the provision of grants for urgent repairs.

The call upon CMTF reserves will be further increased for the continued support for the purchase of communication equipment to facilitate on line services in the future, as deemed necessary, and to cover larger exceptional grants made where financial difficulties are experienced by specific churches.

Our Reserves Policy is to hold sufficient in the CMTF to cover projected expenditure, over a 5 year horizon, after allowing for anticipated proceeds from property sales – this expenditure comprising:

- Continuing support for the General Fund (budgeted at £10,000 for 2022/23)
- Specific allowance for significant projects already committed to or anticipated
- Contributions of £20,000 per annum to future significant projects and repairs
- A running cost of £5,000 per annum from the "15% scheme"

There is a remaining specific requirement for communication equipment of around £16,000.

This would suggest a requirement of £191,000 plus the cost of specific projects less proceeds from sales of closed chapels (net of levies and fees).

The actual balance in CMTF at 31/08/22 was £164,000 and this is considered prudent going forward as two sales of church properties are ongoing estimated at around £90,000 and one further church is in the process of closing.

Restricted Funds

These funds comprise trusts managed by Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP), where either the funds are committed to a specific project or the income is available for general use but the capital cannot generally be accessed. Restrictions for the latter case funds are in line with the wishes of the benefactors. These funds amounted to just over £20,000 as at 31/08/22 whilst the funds available for a specific project amounted to just over £3,000.

Holdings of just over £1,100 are held within the Circuit bank account but had previously been held in a segregated savings account and is being treated as restricted until any requirements relating to its provenance can be confirmed.

APPENDIX 3: List of Trustees at 31st August 2022

Role	Name
CM Secretary	Mrs R A Thomas
Superintendent	Revd Peter Sheasby
Supernumerary	Rev'd Peter Clark
Supernumerary	Revd Jane Pickering
Supernumerary	Revd Brian Shackleton
Supernumerary	Revd Michael Williams
Minister Resident in Circuit	Revd Mark Haynes
Minister Resident in Circuit	Revd Dr Penelope Worth
Lay Employee	Karen Pattison
Circuit Steward	Julia Branson
Circuit Steward	Kate Gibbs
Circuit Steward	Paul Emberley
Circuit Steward	Robert Rayner
Circuit Steward (Treasurer) a	Phil Evans
Circuit Property Steward	Mike Leng
LP Secretary	Rachel Prest
Allerston Steward	Howard Parr
Allerston Treasurer	Mary Kemp

Ebberston Representative	Helen Leng
Ebberston Steward	Mike Peck
Hartoft Representative	Brenda Towle
Hartoft Steward	Christine Jackson
Helmsley Representative	Andrew Leckenby
Helmsley Steward	Les Helm
Helmsley Treasurer	Christine Wright
Hovingham Steward	Sue Goodwill
KMS Representative	Kath Hall
KMS Representative	Audrey Windress
KMS Steward	Janet Brown
KMS Treasurer	Stuart Brown
Leavening Steward	Steve Langton
Leavening Treasurer	Nancy Spencer
Malton Representative	Nigel Hardwick
Malton Steward	Richard Lukey
Malton Treasurer	Roger Hadfield
Norton Bethel Representative	Jonathon Piercy
Norton Bethel Steward	Veronica Piercy
Norton Bethel Treasurer	Margaret Graham
Norton Trinity Representative	John Hubery
Norton Trinity Steward	Sue Holmes

Norton Trinity Treasurer	Suzanne West
Pickering Representative	Pam Sellers
Pickering Steward	Nigel Pattison
Pickering Treasurer	Martin Redgard
Rievaulx Representative	Nicholas Dunn
Rievaulx Steward	Edward Garbutt
Rievaulx Treasurer	Sheila Foster
Scagglethorpe Steward	Paul Douthwaite
Scagglethorpe Treasurer	Nancy Wilson
Scagglethorpe Representative	Janet Smith
Slingsby Steward	David Scaling
Slingsby Representative	Stephen Prest
Slingsby Steward	Audrey Foster
Slingsby Treasurer	Liz Marshall
Thornton Dale Representative	Mary Hoggarth
Thornton Dale Steward	Mervyn Hand
Thornton Dale Treasurer	John Woodmansey

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE RYEDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

I report on the accounts of Ryedale Methodist Circuit (Charity No: 1152920) for the year ended 31st March 2022, which are set out on pages 2 to 12.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner
As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145 (5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the Independent Examiner's Report
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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.

I have obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of the Independent Examiner

M. Richmond.

Michael Richmond FCCA BA (Hons) MAAT
Champleys Chartered Certified Accountants
Champleys Mews, Market Place, Pickering YO18 7AE

12th January 2023

RYEDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1152920

Accounts

RYEDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT 29/34

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

RYEDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Circuit Number: 29/34

Circuit Staff:

Ordained:	
Superintendent Minister:	Rev Peter Sheasby 7 Pinfold Garth, Malton, North Yorkshire, YO17 7XQ
Ministers:	Rev Ken Gowland (until 31st August 2021) Deacon Fiona de Boltz Rev Anthony de Boltz Rev Jane Pickering Rev. Malcolm Sellers (from 1st July 2021)
Lay:	
Pastoral Lay Employee:	Mrs Linda Stannard (until 31st August 2021)
Missional Lay Employee:	Mrs Karen Pattison
Administration Assistant:	Mrs Ann Thomas
Trustees:	All members of the Circuit Meeting. A full list is available on request.
Circuit Stewards:	Ms Kate Gibbs Mrs Julia Branson Mr Paul Emberley Mr Robert Rayner
Circuit Treasurer:	Mr Philip Roy Evans FCCA
Independent Examiner:	Mr Michael Richmond FCCA Champleys Chartered Certified Accountants Champleys Mews, Market Place Pickering North Yorkshire YO18 7AE

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Governing Document	Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976)
Constituted	Act of Parliament
Selection of Trustees	Appointed by local churches and existing trustees Ministers are automatically trustees
Structure	Part of the Yorkshire North and East District of the Methodist Church Accountable to the Methodist Conference
Risks	Considered by the Leadership Team Take professional advice when required Adopted Safeguarding Policy

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Vision of Ryedale Methodist Circuit is to build fellowships of committed followers of Jesus Christ, who will share the Gospel, grow in faith and demonstrate this through loving service in both the local community and the wider world.

This vision will be worked out by:

- Increasing awareness of God's presence and declaring His love in our daily lives;
- Offering safe places for worship where everyone is made to feel welcome and accepted;
- Providing opportunities for spiritual growth and learning;
- Providing time and space for church and community activities;
- Showing care and support for all;
- Sharing tasks of ministry among both lay and ordained people;
- Working for justice and peace for all people, and
- Regularly reviewing opportunities for mission, ministry and worship both within the Methodist Circuit and with others of faith.

Objectives:
The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the Date of Union the advancement of:

a) The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and discipline of The Methodist Church;
b) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, District, Circuit, local or other organisation of The Methodist Church;
c) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to The Methodist Church;
d) Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to The Methodist Church.

STRUCTURE AND DECISION MAKING

The Circuit staff work as a team sharing responsibilities across the Circuit.

Day-to-day management decisions are taken by the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT). The CLT is composed of the Circuit Stewards and ordained staff.

The Circuit Meeting is the principal decision-making body responsible for the affairs of the Circuit and the development of circuit policy, although decision making was delegated to the CLT during the Covid19 lockdown and safe distancing period. It also acts as the focal point of the working fellowship of the churches in the Circuit, overseeing their pastoral, training and evangelistic work. It meets twice yearly, in the autumn and spring.

CLT meets between Circuit Meetings to:

1. discuss the life and work of the Circuit
2. formulate recommendations for the Circuit Meeting
3. carry out work on behalf of the Circuit Meeting, where appropriate.
4. to ensure the Circuit effectively uses its financial resources through:
    (i) agreeing proposals for the annual circuit budget in advance of the Circuit Meeting
    (ii) monitoring financial procedures.

The CLT is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the manses and has the authority to approve emergency works to manses on behalf of the Circuit Meeting.

All property schemes within the Circuit are examined by the CLT who recommend an appropriate response to the Circuit Meeting. The CLT may seek clarification or modification of an application before making its recommendation to the Circuit Meeting.

In addition to seeking approval, a church may seek financial support from the Circuit for urgent repairs or essential improvements. No limit is placed on this although requests have to be justified and the continuation of the church considered appropriate within the Circuit. For other projects (up to £5000) the CLT may recommend that the Circuit Meeting grant from the Circuit Model Trust Fund up to 15% of the budgeted cost of the scheme (subject to funds being available) depending on how well the scheme fits the approval criteria.

The CLT is also responsible for ensuring staffing levels are maintained at a workable level and may allocate funds for the employment of lay staff to assist with the work of the church when deemed necessary.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Trustees have examined the major strategic and operational risks facing the Circuit and have established the necessary systems to manage or mitigate these risks.

In particular:

- insurance cover is in place
- the finances of the Circuit are kept under review
- the Circuit has adopted the Methodist Church Safeguarding Policy and ensured it is rolled out to the churches; appointed a Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinator; appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are made and there are regular audits of Safeguarding practices across the Circuit and all its churches.

Public Benefit

We confirm that the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Ryedale Methodist Circuit carries out a range of activities in pursuance of its mission. The Trustees consider that these activities, summarised below, provide benefit to those who are members of the Circuit through the local Methodist churches and the wider community.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Religious Activities

Acts of worship and pastoral care

The Circuit produces a quarterly preaching plan to ensure regular acts of worship take place at each of the Methodist churches and Local Ecumenical Partnerships under its remit. These are open to all people, without charge. The Ministers have pastoral care for these churches.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

The Circuit staff conducted baptisms, weddings and funerals at each of the churches in the Circuit. These services are available at the discretion of the person with pastoral charge. No charge is made for baptisms. A modest set fee is usually charged for weddings and funerals.

Work with Children, Youth, and Families in the local Community

The Circuit supports the work done in the local churches to

- create and strengthen relationships and help people along their life's journey
- ensure people feel welcome and get a positive experience of Church life
- encourage people to start and continue a journey into faith.

We aim to make these services available to everyone.

People and property

Presbyters, Deacons and Local Preachers

The Circuit spiritually and financially supported the above named Presbyters and Deacon throughout the year (or for the period shown); a number of active Local Preachers and several Supernumerary Ministers took services and preached in the Circuit's churches during the year.

Lay Employees

The Circuit funded:

- 2 part time Lay Employees
- A part-time Administrator

Property management

The Circuit maintained three manses, each of which were occupied by ministers during the year. Three further former manses were commercially let. No redundant churches were sold during the year but one closed church was transferred to the Circuit.

Volunteers

A substantial part of the Circuit's ministry is accomplished by volunteers. All the Circuit Stewards and the other members of the Circuit Meeting, except for the Ministers and paid lay employees, are volunteers. All the local preachers are volunteers.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Accounts for the year ending 31st August 2021 and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st August 2021 are contained in Appendix 1. These show net income (gross income less expenditure) of £69,901 in the year, with total cash funds of £775,945 at the end of the year.

This positive net income figure was mainly attributable to the sale of a piece of land, the proceeds of which were allocated to a building project at one church and, consequently, classed as restricted funds.

Unrestricted funds incurred a loss £34,591, mainly the result of lower assessments received (reduced by c.£48,000), grants of £11,000 paid out, and a loan of £12,000 to a church to cover cashflow concerns whilst grants are received for repairs.

The sale of the land raised was £143,000 net of sales costs, of which £142,000 was transferred into a new restricted Trust (within the Model Trust Fund) for the building project. £1,000 was donated to the wider Methodist Connexion (per the standard approach on such sales but reduced because the sale proceeds are being used on a specific building project). There was also a donation of £30,000 from the CMTF to the Yorkshire North and East District of the Methodist Church (per the standard approach where CMTF balances are held).

With the exception of the increase in restricted funds through the sale of land, the principal funding sources for the year to 31st August 2021 are the Assessments/Shares received from the churches within the Circuit and property rental. The principal expenditure is the salary costs of the ministers and lay employees of the Circuit.

The Reserves policy is contained in Appendix 2.

The Trustees have established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds held in the General Reserve (excluding amounts allocated to the Manse fund and the Property Inspection fund) should be sufficient to cover six months of general running costs. At 31st August 2021, the level of reserves was £132,000, with net current liabilities deducted (but not including loans) and annual expected expenditure is £280,000 including a contribution to the Methodist Pension Schemes. This approach to reserves is considered prudent because the contribution is a one off cost, loans are unsecured and, in addition, current staffing levels are considered low and may be increased in the future. Reserves excluding loans are equivalent to 6 to 8 month's costs.

The Trustees have also established a policy whereby the Circuit Model Trust Fund should be maintained at a level sufficient to fund an anticipated level of property projects plus the budgeted transfers to general funds over a five year horizon, after allowing for inflows from property sales. At 31st August 2021, the balance of the CMTF (excluding the restricted funds) is £425,559. The CMTF is currently in a position which exceeds the requirements of the policy.

This reserves policy will be reviewed regularly.

Overall, the Trustees consider the financial position to be satisfactory.

Approved on 17th March 2022 and signed on behalf of the Circuit by:

Peter D Sheasby

Reverend Peter Sheasby

Superintendent Minister

APPENDIX 1: ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	Unrestricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Other Funds	Total this year	Total last year
RECEIPTS					
Assessment/share	144,326	-	-	144,326	192,287
Capital receipts	-	1,062	142,248	143,310	159,862
Interest and investment income	168	1,584	227	1,979	4,970
Grants	-	-	-	-	-
Other receipts	51,437	-	-	51,437	49,904
Total receipts	**195,931**	**2,646**	**142,475**	**341,052**	**407,023**
PAYMENTS					
Stipends, salaries, NIC, pension and travel costs	136,553	-	-	136,553	136,898
Manse costs	14,069	-	-	14,069	12,018
Administration etc	11,589	992	136	12,717	3,724
District assessment	43,792	-	-	43,792	42,940
Grants Loans and donations	13,025	39,501	-	52,526	53,725
Other payments	11,494	-	-	11,494	19,151
Total payments	**230,522**	**40,493**	**136**	**271,151**	**268,466**
Net receipts and payments	**(34,591)**	**(37,847)**	**142,339**	**69,901**	**138,557**
Total funds brought forward from last year	191,340	494,841	19,863	706,044	567,487
Transfers and adjustments	31,477	(31,435)	(42)	-	-
Total funds at end of year	**188,226**	**425,559**	**162,160**	**775,945**	**706,044**

Notes:

- Other payments include £800 for independent examiner's fees and £2,869 professional fees incurred in relation to obtaining planning permission to help with the sale of land previously considered of low value.
- Grants include a short term loan to a church to cover cashflow concerns.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 AUGUST 2021

	Opening balances	Closing balances
CASH FUNDS HELD		
Bank current account	55,166	61,453
Central Finance Board deposit account	139,063	129,708
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	511,815	584,784
Other funds		
Total cash funds held by circuit	**706,044**	**775,945**
OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES		
Investments	10,757	12,567
Land and buildings	1,544,163	1,673,230
Other assets	12,712	10,831
Loans	80,000	92,000
Other liabilities	45,022	37,719

Liabilities exclude the contribution of £88,000 to the Methodist Pension Scheme agreed by the Circuit Meeting in September 2021, but this is included in the budget for 2021/22.

APPENDIX 2: RESERVES POLICY

Our Reserves Policy relates to our general (unrestricted) funds which are freely available to be used for any or all of the purposes of the Circuit.

Other funds are also included for the sake of clarity and openness and to show that the Circuit has a policy for the management of all of its money not simply those which are defined as reserves.

Aims

- To secure and sustain the Circuit's viability and future.
- To reassure the general public that the Circuit, which is a charity, intends to use all of the money coming into its care for the purposes of the charity.

Three Step Process

In line with Connexional guidance, we undertake a three step process in setting reserves policy:

i. set out our mission aims

ii. decide what financial plans will be necessary to achieve those aims

iii. determine the appropriate level of reserves required to meet our financial plans.

(1) Mission Policy

The Circuit's Mission Policy is set out in a separate document developed during the merger process.

Essentially, it provides for:

(a) The ministerial oversight and pastoral care of up to twenty local churches in the Circuit.

(b) The support of a ministry team of three presbyteral Ministers (currently 1), a Deacon (retired 18.10.21) several supernumerary ministers and three lay employees (one plus an Administrator currently).

(c) The maintenance of the two Circuit manses, four former manses which are currently let out commercially, and any closed chapels which are in the process of being sold.

(2) Financial Plans

Each year, the required levels of expenditure and income are reviewed and a Circuit budget is produced. This covers:

- the total level of expenditure required by the Circuit to meet the costs of 1(a), (b) and (c) above
- expected income from the let properties
- requirement for contributions to the Circuit from individual chapels
- appropriate level of transfer from Circuit Model Trust Fund (budgeted at £10,000 as a general amount for 2021/22 plus an exceptional transfer of up to £19,000 to cover the purchase of Communication equipment for churches to facilitate on line services and exceptional transfers each quarter to cover unpaid quarterly assessments by churches short of funds)

We make provision for our property maintenance programme by designating an amount per annum for each manse to maintain the properties, and an amount per annum to fund a program of periodic property inspections

(3) Reserves Policy

The Circuit General Fund

Under Standing Orders the Circuit must meet its financial obligations in relation to the support of its ministers and the maintenance of the manses. The total budgeted expenditure for the next financial year (including planned contributions to the Manse Fund and the Property Inspection Fund) is c.£280,000 including a contribution to the Methodist Pension Funds.

Our Reserves Policy is to hold at least six month's expenditure in hand. At 31/08/21 the balance was c.£132,000 (that is c.£159,000 balance with net liabilities, excluding loans of £92,000, of c.£27,000) so represented about six months expenditure.

The Manse Fund

This is a designated fund which exists to cover expenditure required to maintain the Circuit manses in good condition and to fulfil requirements of quinquennial inspections.

Our policy is to support this fund from the General Fund by means of an annual amount per annum, set so as to balance expenditure over a five year cycle. As such, there is no specific target level of reserves at any point in time, but an objective of covering requirements without undue volatility in the annual transfer.

At 31/08/21, the balance was just over £21,000. The budgeted annual level of funding for next year is £6,650 but, following a period where self distancing meant repairs were kept to a minimum, additional reserves are available to cover unexpected repairs.

The Property Inspection Fund

This is a designated fund which exists to cover the cost of quinquennial and other (e.g. electrical) inspections for both individual churches and circuit properties.

Our policy is to support this fund from the General Fund by means of an annual amount per annum for each manse, set so as to balance expenditure over a five year cycle. As such, there is no specific target level of reserves at any point in time, but an objective of covering requirements without undue volatility in the annual transfer.

At 31/08/21, the fund balance was just over £7,000; the budgeted annual level of funding for the next year is £5,600.

Circuit Model Trust Fund

This fund derives from sales of chapels and manses. Historically, the use of this fund has been restricted to specific purposes by the Conference, but more recently Circuits have been given the ability to use their CMTF as they see fit.

Our policy is to use the fund to provide support to the General Fund to further the work of the Circuit (budgeted at £10,000 in 2021/22) and to provide specific support for property related expenditure in individual chapels, through ad-hoc contributions to significant projects. The Circuit also uses this fund through an initiative to provide 15% of small property schemes and through the provision of grants for urgent repairs.

The call upon CMTF reserves will be further increased for the continued support for the purchase of communication equipment to facilitate online services in the future, as deemed necessary, and to compensate for assessments not paid by churches where financial difficulties are experienced by specific churches.

Our Reserves Policy is to hold sufficient in the CMTF to cover projected expenditure, over a 5 year horizon, after allowing for anticipated proceeds from property sales – this expenditure comprising:

- Continuing support for the General Fund (budgeted at £10,000 for 2021/22)
- Specific allowance for significant projects already committed to or anticipated
- Contributions of £20,000 per annum to future significant projects and repairs
- A running cost of £5,000 per annum from the "15% scheme"

There is a remaining specific requirement for funds of £19,000 for communication equipment in 2021/22 and an unknown level of need to cover unpaid assessments.

This would suggest a requirement of £194,000 plus the cost of specific projects and the amount of unpaid assessments, less proceeds from sales of closed chapels (net of levies and fees).

The actual balance in CMTF at 31/08/21 was c.£426,000 and this is considered prudent going forward and allows for the £88,000 reimbursement to the General Fund after the Circuit's contribution to the Methodist Pension Scheme.

Restricted Funds

These funds comprise trusts managed by Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP), where either the funds are committed to a specific project or the income is available for general use but the capital cannot generally be accessed. Restrictions for the latter case funds are in line with the wishes of the benefactors. These funds amounted to just under £20,000 as at 31/08/21 whilst the funds available for a specific project amounted to just over £142,000.

Holdings of just over £1,100 are held in the Circuit bank account but had previously been held in a segregated savings account and are being treated as restricted until any requirements relating to its provenance can be confirmed.

APPENDIX 3: List of Trustees at 31st August 2021

Role	Name
Superintendent	Revd Peter Sheasby
Circuit Minister	Revd Ken Gowland
Circuit Minister	Deacon Fiona de Boltz
Supernumerary	Revd Peter Clark
Supernumerary	Revd Jane Pickering
Supernumerary	Revd Brian Shackleton
Supernumerary	Revd Michael Williams
Minister Resident in Circuit	Revd Mark Haynes
Minister Resident in Circuit	Revd Dr Penelope Worth
Lay Employee	Karen Pattison
Lay Employee	Linda Stannard
Circuit Steward	Julia Branson
Circuit Steward	Virginia Collinson
Circuit Steward	Paul Emberley
Circuit Steward	Robert Rayner
Circuit Steward (Treasurer) and Ebberston Treasurer	Phil Evans
CM Secretary	Ann Thomas
Quinquennial Report Representative	Mike Leng
LP Secretary	Rachel Prest
Allerston Steward	Howard Parr
Allerston Treasurer	Mary Kemp
Appleton Representative	Jean Lishman

Applerton Representative	Malcolm Leckenby
Ebberston Representative	Helen Leng
Ebberston Steward	Mike Peck
Hartoft Representative	Brenda Towle
Hartoft Steward	Christine Jackson
Helmsley Representative	Andrew Leckenby
Helmsley Representative	Chrissie Gowland
Helmsley Steward	Les Helm
Helmsley Treasurer	Christine Wright
Hovingham Steward	Sue Goodwill
Kirkdale Steward	Beatrice Bartlett
Kirkdale Treasurer	Brian Bartlett
KMS Representative	Kath Hall
KMS Representative	Audrey Windress
KMS Steward	Janet Brown
KMS Treasurer	Mike Gray
Leavening Steward	Steve Langton
Leavening Treasurer	Nancy Spencer
Malton Representative	Nigel Hardwick
Malton Steward	Richard Lukey
Malton Treasurer	Roger Hadfield
Norton Bethel Representative	Jonathon Piercy
Norton Bethel Steward	Veronica Piercy
Norton Bethel Treasurer	Margaret Graham
Norton Trinity Representative	Audrey Henderson
Norton Trinity Representative	John Hubery
Norton Trinity Steward	Sue Holmes

Norton Trinity Treasurer	Suzanne West
Pickering Representative	Vacancy
Pickering Representative	Pam Sellers
Pickering Steward	Nigel Pattison
Pickering Treasurer	Martin Redgard
Rievaulx Representative	Nicholas Dunn
Rievaulx Steward	Edward Garbutt
Rievaulx Treasurer	Sheila Foster
Scagglethorpe Steward	Paul Douthwaite
Scagglethorpe Treasurer	Nancy Wilson
Scagglethorpe Representative	Janet Smith
Slingsby Steward	David Scaling
Slingsby Representative	Stephen Prest
Slingsby Steward	Audrey Foster
Slingsby Treasurer	Liz Marshall
Thornton Dale Representative	Mary Hoggarth
Thornton Dale Steward	Mervyn Hand
Thornton Dale Treasurer	John Woodmansey

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE RYEDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

I report on the accounts of Ryedale Methodist Circuit (Charity No: 1152920) for the year ended 31st August 2021, which are set out on pages 2 to 12.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner
As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145 (5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the Independent Examiner's Report
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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.

I have obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of the Independent Examiner

M. Richmond.

Michael Richmond FCCA BA (Hons) MAAT
Champleys Chartered Certified Accountants
Champleys Mews, Market Place, Pickering YO18 7AE

8th November 2021

NOTES FOR 2020/21 ACCOUNTS

	Other Receipts	
	Property Rental	24600.00
	Tel Reimburse	10.00
	Booklet Reimburse	211.70
	Refunds utilities/Ins	0.00
	reimbursement for Deacon	24099.67
	Preaching Fees	175.00
	Collection for Minister	530.00
	Payment on other Payts	
	Transfer from Closed chapel	1760.71
	Donation	50.00
a6		51437.08

	Administration	
	Telephone Manse	1405.07
	Telephone Office	371.60
	Admin	1784.50
	Computer Admin	45.00
	TMCP Admin	1128.00
	Resources for Ministers	6714.65
	Publications	1268.70
b4		12717.52

	Grants and Loans	
	Contribution to DAF	29501.00
	Grants Paid out by TMCP	10000.00
	Circuit Grants and Donations	1025.00
	Loan	12000.00
b6		52526.00

	Stipends etc	
	Minister Stipends/NI/Pension	106862.63
	Ministers Travel	2600.10
	Lay Workers Stipends/NI/	27074.58
	Lay Workers Travel	15.30
b2		136552.61

	Manse Costs	
	Insurance	1127.19
	Council Tax	6403.66
	Water	1338.00
	Repairs and servicing	2343.85
	Manse Inspections	2856.00
b3		14068.70

	Other Payments	
	Lay Peachers	44.35
	Insurance non manse	2481.49
	Property Mgt	3208.80
	Property Repairs	2263.90
	Property Development	2869.00
	Power Closed Chapels	46.61
	Collection paid out	530.00
	Donation for Music	50.00
b8		11494.15

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31ST AUGUST 2021

Summay of balances held at end of period		**Closing £**	**Opening £**	
General Fund		159,441.83	170,456.45	
Manse Fund		21,625.01	16,468.86	
Property Fund		7,158.96	4,414.96	
Circuit Model Trust Fund		567,807.16	494,841.02	
Permanenet Endowment Funds		18,749.94	18,701.20	cash fund incl Helm
Ex MCA monies		1,161.80	1,161.80	
Total		775,944.70	706,044.29	
Unrestricted		188,225.80	191,340.27	
CMTF		425,558.68	494,841.02	
Restricted		162,160.22	19,863.00	
Total		775,944.70	706,044.29	
Summary of how funds are held				
CAF 518		57,280.67		
CFB Pickering		3,601.57		
CFB Ryedale		24,376.27		
CFB Malton		101,730.59		
Helm HSBC 3252		0.00		
Helm CAF 519	Restrict	1,773.40		
Take out of CAF 518		-1,161.80	Restricted in wrong a/c	
less unpresented cheques		2,398.50		
Add back Helm Cash Fund in TMCP	Restrict	1,161.80	Held in CAF 518	
TMCP 8435A TRUST	Restrict	142,248.48		
TMCP 8435 TRUST		425,558.68		
TMCP permanent endowments		16,976.54		
Total		775,944.70		
Investments				
TMCP Helm Trust non cash		9,401.93		
TMCP other non cash		1,959.74		
Mixed Funds Circuit Accounts		1,204.65		
		12,566.32		
Buildings				
7 Pinfold Garth, Malton		321,160.00		
7 Meadow Road, Pickering		302,870.00		
The Manse, Kirkbymoorside		213,460.00		
The Manse, Ashdale Road, Hemsley		213,460.00		
21 Castle Road Thornton Dale		340,508.00		
Chestnut Cottage , Hovingham		231,772.00		
Appleton le Moor closed church		50,000.00	Estimate	
		1,673,230.00		
Other Assets (prepayments)				
Stipends paid in advance		6,531.77		
Loans to Malton		80,000.00		
Loan to Slingsby		12,000.00		
MHA reimbursement billed o/s		2,050.90		
MHA Reimbursement August		2,007.72		
Insurance to October		240.36		
		102,830.75		
Liabilities				
Audit fee		800.00		
Assessments for Q1 21/22		36,274.00		
Expense Claims		644.52		
		37,718.52		

RYEDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1152920

Accounts

RYEDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT 29/34

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

RYEDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Circuit Number: 29/34

Circuit Staff:

Ordained:	
Superintendent Minister:	Rev Peter Sheasby 7 Pinfold Garth, Malton, North Yorkshire, YO17 7XQ
Ministers:	Rev Ken Gowland Deacon Fiona de Boltz Rev Anthony de Boltz Rev Jane Pickering (from 1st September 2019)
Lay:	
Pastoral Lay Employee:	Mrs Linda Stannard
Missional Lay Employee:	Mrs Karen Pattison
Administration Assistant:	Mrs Ann Thomas
Trustees:	All members of the Circuit Meeting. A full list is available on request.
Circuit Stewards:	Ms Kate Gibbs (from 12th September 2019) Mrs Julia Branson Mr Paul Emberley Mr Robert Rayner
Circuit Treasurer:	Mr Philip Roy Evans FCCA
Independent Examiner:	Mr Michael Richmond FCCA Champleys Chartered Certified Accountants Champleys Mews, Market Place Pickering North Yorkshire YO18 7AE

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Governing Document	Deed Of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976)
Constituted	Act of Parliament
Selection of Trustees	Appointed by local churches and existing trustees Ministers are automatically trustees
Structure	Part of the York and Hull District of the Methodist Church Accountable to the Methodist Conference
Risks	Considered by the Leadership Team Take professional advice when required Adopted Safeguarding Policy

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Vision of Ryedale Methodist Circuit is to build fellowships of committed followers of Jesus Christ, who will share the Gospel, grow in faith and demonstrate this through loving service in both the local community and the wider world.

This vision will be worked out by:

- Increasing awareness of God's presence and declaring His love in our daily lives;
- Offering safe places for worship where everyone is made to feel welcome and accepted;
- Providing opportunities for spiritual growth and learning;
- Providing time and space for church and community activities;
- Showing care and support for all;
- Sharing tasks of ministry among both lay and ordained people;
- Working for justice and peace for all people, and
- Regularly reviewing opportunities for mission, ministry and worship both within the Methodist Circuit and with others of faith.

Objectives:
The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the Date of Union the advancement of:

a) The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and discipline of The Methodist Church;
b) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, District, Circuit, local or other organisation of The Methodist Church;
c) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to The Methodist Church;
d) Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to The Methodist Church.

STRUCTURE AND DECISION MAKING

The Circuit staff work as a team sharing responsibilities across the Circuit.

Day-to-day management decisions are taken by the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT). The CLT is composed of the Circuit Stewards and ordained staff.

The Circuit Meeting is the principal decision-making body responsible for the affairs of the Circuit and the development of circuit policy. It also acts as the focal point of the working fellowship of the churches in the Circuit, overseeing their pastoral, training and evangelistic work. It meets twice yearly, in the autumn and spring.

CLT meets between Circuit Meetings to:

1. discuss the life and work of the Circuit
2. formulate recommendations for the Circuit Meeting
3. carry out work on behalf of the Circuit Meeting, where appropriate.
4. to ensure the Circuit effectively uses its financial resources through:
    (i) agreeing proposals for the annual circuit budget in advance of the Circuit Meeting
    (ii) monitoring financial procedures.

The CLT is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the manses and has the authority to approve emergency works to manses on behalf of the Circuit Meeting.

All property schemes within the Circuit are examined by the CLT who recommend an appropriate response to the Circuit Meeting. The CLT may seek clarification or modification of an application before making its recommendation to the Circuit Meeting.

In addition to seeking approval, a church may seek financial support from the Circuit. For small property schemes (up to £5000) the CLT may recommend that the Circuit Meeting grant from the Circuit Model Trust Fund up to 15% of the budgeted cost of the scheme (subject to funds being available) depending on how well the scheme fits the approval criteria.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Trustees have examined the major strategic and operational risks facing the Circuit and have established the necessary systems to manage or mitigate these risks.

In particular:

- insurance cover is in place
- the finances of the Circuit are kept under review
- the Circuit has adopted the Methodist Church Safeguarding Policy and ensured it is rolled out to the churches; appointed a Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinator; appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are made and there are regular audits of Safeguarding practices across the Circuit and all its churches.

Public Benefit

We confirm that the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Ryedale Methodist Circuit carries out a range of activities in pursuance of its mission. The Trustees consider that these activities, summarised below, provide benefit to those who are members of the Circuit through the local Methodist churches and the wider community.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Religious Activities

Acts of worship and pastoral care

The Circuit produces a quarterly preaching plan to ensure regular acts of worship take place at each of the Methodist churches and Local Ecumenical Partnerships under its remit. These are open to all people, without charge. The Ministers have pastoral care for these churches.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

The Circuit staff conducted baptisms, weddings and funerals at each of the churches in the Circuit. These services are available at the discretion of the person with pastoral charge. No charge is made for baptisms. A modest set fee is usually charged for weddings and funerals.

Work with Children, Youth, and Families in the local Community

The Circuit supports the work done in the local churches to

- create and strengthen relationships and help people along their life's journey
- ensure people feel welcome and get a positive experience of Church life
- encourage people to start and continue a journey into faith.

We aim to make these services available to everyone.

People and property

Presbyters, Deacons and Local Preachers

The Circuit spiritually and financially supported the above named Presbyters and Deacon throughout the year (or for the period shown); a number of active Local Preachers and several Supernumerary Ministers took services and preached in the Circuit's churches during the year.

Lay Employees

The Circuit funded:

- 2 part time Lay Employees
- A part-time Administrator

Property management

The Circuit maintained three manses, each of which were occupied by ministers during the year. Three further former manses were commercially let. During the year two redundant churches were sold .

Volunteers

A substantial part of the Circuit's ministry is accomplished by volunteers. All the Circuit Stewards and the other members of the Circuit Meeting, except for the Ministers and paid lay employees, are volunteers. All the local preachers are volunteers.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Accounts for the year ending 31st August 2020 and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st August 2020 are contained in Appendix 1. These show net income of £138,000 in the year, with total cash funds of £706,000 at the end of the year.

This positive net income figure was mainly attributable to the sale of two redundant churches and a reduction in full time staff and ministers and was achieved after paying £12,000 in repairs to manses and £3,000 relating to the inspection of other buildings and churches. The rental of a spare manse resulting from the reduction in full time ministerial staff achieved additional rental income of £7,000.

The sale of two redundant church buildings raised £159,000 net of sales costs, of which £128,000 was retained in the Circuit (within the Circuit Model Trust Fund (CMTF)) and the remaining £31,000 was donated to the wider Methodist Connexion (per the standard approach on such sales). There was also a donation of £21,000 from the CMTF to the Yorkshire North and East District of the Methodist Church (per the standard approach where CMTF balances are held).

For unrestricted funds the net position was an inflow of just over £138,000 but the exceptional income from sales of closed churches of £128,000 net of levies accounted for most of this income. The operating profit excluding CMTF movements amounted to around £28,000.

The principal funding sources for the year to 31st August 2020 are the Assessments/Shares received from the churches within the Circuit. The principal expenditure is the salary costs of the ministers and lay employees of the Circuit. Further, one-off funds have been generated from the sale of redundant church buildings.

The Reserves policy is contained in Appendix 2.

The Trustees have established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds held in the General Reserve (excluding amounts allocated to the Manse fund and the Property Inspection fund) should be sufficient to cover six months of general running costs. At 31st August 2020, the level of reserves was above this objective, with £219,000 of funds available (including net current assets) and annual expected expenditure of £258,000. This is equivalent to 10 months but is considered prudent because net assets include an unsecured loan of £80,000 and current staffing levels are considered low and may be increased in the future. If the loan is excluded the reserves are equivalent to 6 months costs.

The Trustees have also established a policy whereby the Circuit Model Trust Fund should be maintained at a level sufficient to fund an anticipated level of property projects plus the budgeted transfers to general funds over a five year horizon, after allowing for inflows from property sales. At 31st August 2020, the balance of the CMTF is £494,000. The CMTF is currently in a position which exceeds the requirements of the policy.

This reserves policy will be reviewed regularly.

Overall, the Trustees consider the financial position to be satisfactory.

Approved and signed on behalf of the Circuit by:

Peter D Sheasby

Reverend Peter Sheasby

Superintendent Minister

Dated: 25/01/21

APPENDIX 1: ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

	Unrestricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Other Funds	Total this year	Total last year
RECEIPTS					
Assessment/share	192,827	-	-	192,287	194,503
Capital receipts	-	159,862	-	159,862	418,673
Interest and investment income	839	3,799	332	4.970	3,271
Grants	-	-	-	-	-
Other receipts	49,904	-	-	49,904	50,638
Total receipts	**243,030**	**163,661**	**332**	**407,023**	**667,085**
PAYMENTS					
Stipends, salaries, NIC, pension and travel costs	136,898	-	-	136,898	170,116
Manse costs	12,018	-	-	12,018	18,466
Administration etc	2,879	792	63	3,734	4,758
District assessment	42,940	-	-	42,940	41,268
Grants Loans and donations	971	52,754	-	53,725	289,636
	-	-	-	-	-
Other payments	19,151	-	-	19,151	28,198
Total payments	**214,857**	**53,546**	**63**	**268,466**	**552,442**
Net receipts and payments	**28,173**	**110,225**	**269**	**138,557**	**114,643**
Total funds brought forward from last year	152,577	395,180	19,730	567,487	452,844
Transfers and adjustments	10,590	(10,454)	(136)	-	-
Total funds at end of year	**191,340**	**494,841**	**19,863**	**706,044**	**567,487**

Notes:

- Other payments include £1,314 for independent examiner's fees and £1,376 professional fees incurred in relation to a possible sale of land.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 AUGUST 2020

	Opening balances	Closing balances
CASH FUNDS HELD		
Bank current account	23,922	55,166
Central Finance Board deposit account	131,341	139,063
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	412,154	511,815
Other funds	-	
Total cash funds held by circuit	**567,487**	**706,044**
OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES		
Investments	10,928	10,757
Land and buildings	2,045,610	1,544,163
Other assets	17,242	12,712
Loans	80,000	80,000
Other liabilities	46,577	45,022

APPENDIX 2: RESERVES POLICY

Our Reserves Policy relates to our general (unrestricted) funds which are freely available to be used for any or all of the purposes of the Circuit.

Other funds are also included for the sake of clarity and openness and to show that the Circuit has a policy for the management of all of its money not simply those which are defined as reserves.

Aims

- To secure and sustain the Circuit's viability and future.
- To reassure the general public that the Circuit, which is a charity, intends to use all of the money coming into its care for the purposes of the charity.

Three Step Process

In line with Connexional guidance, we undertake a three step process in setting reserves policy:

i. set out our mission aims

ii. decide what financial plans will be necessary to achieve those aims

iii. determine the appropriate level of reserves required to meet our financial plans.

(1) Mission Policy

The Circuit's Mission Policy is set out in a separate document developed during the merger process.

Essentially, it provides for:

(a) The ministerial oversight and pastoral care of the more than twenty local churches in the Circuit.

(b) The support of a ministry team of three presbyteral Ministers (currently 2), one Deacon, several supernumerary ministers and three lay employees (two plus an Administrator currently).

(c) The maintenance of the four Circuit manses, two former manses which are currently let out commercially, and any closed chapels which are in the process of being sold.

(2) Financial Plans

Each year, the required levels of expenditure and income are reviewed and a Circuit budget is produced. This covers:

- the total level of expenditure required by the Circuit to meet the costs of 1(a), (b) and (c) above
- expected income from the let properties
- requirement for contributions to the Circuit from individual chapels
- appropriate level of transfer from Circuit Model Trust Fund (budgeted at £10,000 as a general amount for 2020/21 plus an exceptional transfer of up to £20,000 to cover the purchase of Communication equipment for churches to facilitate on line services and exceptional transfers each quarter to cover unpaid quarterly assessments by churches short of funds)

We make provision for our property maintenance programme by designating an amount per annum for each manse to maintain the properties, and an amount per annum to fund a program of periodic property inspections

(3) Reserves Policy

The Circuit General Fund

Under Standing Orders the Circuit must meet its financial obligations in relation to the support of its ministers and the maintenance of the manses. The total budgeted expenditure for the next financial year (including planned contributions to the Manse Fund and the Property Inspection Fund) is c.£259,000.

Our Reserves Policy is to hold at least six month's expenditure in hand. At 31/08/20, the balance was c..£219,000 (that is c. £170,000 balance with net assets, including an £80,000 loan, of c. £49,000) so represented about ten months expenditure.

The Manse Fund

This is a designated fund which exists to cover expenditure required to maintain the Circuit manses in good condition and to fulfil requirements of quinquennial inspections.

Our policy is to support this fund from the General Fund by means of an annual amount per annum, set so as to balance expenditure over a five year cycle. As such, there is no specific target level of reserves at any point in time, but an objective of covering requirements without undue volatility in the annual transfer.

At 31/08/20, the balance was just over £16,000. The budgeted annual level of funding for the following year was £7,500 (i.e. £2,500 per manse) but, following a period where self distancing meant repairs were kept to a minimum, additional reserves are available to cover unexpected repairs.

The Property Inspection Fund

This is a designated fund which exists to cover the cost of quinquennial and other (e.g. electrical) inspections for both individual churches and circuit properties.

Our policy is to support this fund from the General Fund by means of an annual amount per annum for each manse, set so as to balance expenditure over a five year cycle. As such, there is no specific target level of reserves at any point in time, but an objective of covering requirements without undue volatility in the annual transfer.

At 31/08/20, the fund balance was just over £4000; the budgeted annual level of funding for the following year was £5,600.

Circuit Model Trust Fund

This fund derives from sales of chapels and manses. Historically, the use of this fund has been restricted to specific purposes by the Conference, but more recently Circuits have been given the ability to use their CMTF as they see fit.

Our policy is to use the fund to provide support to the General Fund to further the work of the Circuit (budgeted at £10,000 in 2020/21) and to provide specific support for property related expenditure in individual chapels, through ad-hoc contributions to significant projects and through an initiative to provide 15% of small property schemes.

The call upon CMTF reserves will be further increased during 2020/21 for the purchase of communication equipment to facilitate on line services in the future, as deemed necessary, and to compensate for assessments not paid by churches where financial difficulties are experienced by specific churches.

Our Reserves Policy is to hold sufficient in the CMTF to cover projected expenditure, over a 5 year horizon, after allowing for anticipated proceeds from property sales – this expenditure comprising:

- Continuing support for the General Fund (budgeted at £10,000 for 2020/21)
- Specific allowance for significant projects already committed to or anticipated
- Contributions of £20,000 per annum to future significant projects
- A running cost of £5,000 per annum from the "15% scheme"

As outlined above, there will be a specific requirement for funds of £20,000 for communication equipment in 2020/21 and an unknown level of need to cover unpaid assessments.

This would suggest a requirement of £195,000 plus the cost of specific projects and the amount of unpaid assessments, less proceeds from sales of closed chapels (net of levies and fees).

The actual balance in CMTF at 31/08/20 was £494,000.

Restricted Funds

These funds comprise trusts managed by Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP), where the income is available for general use but the capital cannot generally be accessed. Restrictions for these funds are in line with the wishes of the benefactors. These funds amounted to just over £19,000 as at 31/08/20.

There were also holdings of just under £3,000, part of which was held within a segregated bank account for specific purposes and part had previously been held in a segregated savings account and was being treated as restricted until any requirements relating to its provenance could be confirmed.

APPENDIX 3: List of Trustees @31st August 2020

Role	Name
Superintendent	Revd Peter Sheasby
Circuit Minister	Revd Ken Gowland
~~Circuit Minister~~	~~Revd Tanya Short~~
Circuit Minister	Deacon Fiona de Boltz
Supernumerary	Revd Peter Clark
Supernumerary	Revd Jane Pickering
Supernumerary	Revd Brian Shackleton
Supernumerary	Revd Michael Williams
Minister Resident in Circuit	Revd Mark Haynes
Minister Resident in Circuit	Revd Dr Penelope Worth
~~Authorised to Serve~~	~~Benjamin Nicholson~~
~~Lay Employee~~	~~Louise Hayes~~
Lay Employee	Karen Pattison
Lay Employee	Linda Stannard
Circuit Steward	Julia Branson
Circuit Steward	Virginia Collinson
Circuit Steward	Paul Emberley
Circuit Steward	Robert Rayner
Circuit Steward (Treasurer)	Phil Evans
CM Secretary	Ann Thomas
Quinquennial Report Representative	Mike Leng
LP Secretary	Rachel Prest
Allerston Steward	Howard Parr
Allerston Treasurer	Mary Kemp
Appleton Representative	Jean Lishman

Applerton Representative	Malcolm Leckenby
Ebberston Representative	Helen Leng
Ebberston Steward	Mike Peck
Hartoft Representative	Brenda Towle
Hartoft Steward	Christine Jackson
Helmsley Representative	Andrew Leckenby
Helmsley Representative	Chrissie Gowland
Helmsley Steward	Les Helm
Helmsley Treasurer	Christine Wright
Hovingham Steward	Sue Goodwill
Kirkdale Steward	Beatrice Bartlett
Kirkdale Treasurer	Brian Bartlett
KMS Representative	Kath Hall
KMS Representative	Audrey Windress
KMS Steward	Janet Brown
KMS Treasurer	Mike Gray
Leavening Steward	Steve Langton
Leavening Treasurer	Nancy Spencer
Malton Representative	Nigel Hardwick
Malton Steward	Richard Lukey
Malton Treasurer	Roger Hadfield
Norton Bethel Representative	Jonathon Piercy
Norton Bethel Steward	Veronica Piercy
Norton Bethel Treasurer	Margaret Graham
Norton Trinity Representative	Audrey Henderson
Norton Trinity Representative	John Hubery
Norton Trinity Steward	Sue Holmes

Norton Trinity Treasurer	Suzanne West
Pickering Representative	Vacancy
Pickering Representative	Pam Sellers
Pickering Steward	Nigel Pattison
Pickering Treasurer	Martin Redgard
Rievaulx Representative	Nicholas Dunn
Rievaulx Steward	Edward Garbutt
Rievaulx Treasurer	Sheila Foster
Scagglethorpe Steward	Paul Douthwaite
Scagglethorpe Treasurer	Nancy Wilson
Scagglethorpe Representative	Janet Smith
Slingsby Steward	David Scaling
Slingsby Representative	Stephen Prest
Slingsby Steward	Audrey Foster
Slingsby Treasurer	Liz Marshall
Thornton Dale Representative	Mary Hoggarth
Thornton Dale Steward	Mervyn Hand
Thornton Dale Treasurer	John Woodmansey
Supernumerary	Revd Tonyde Boltz
Synod Rep	Kate Gibbs

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE RYEDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

I report on the accounts of Ryedale Methodist Circuit (Charity No: 1152920) for the year ended 31st March 2020, which are set out on pages 2 to 12.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner
As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145 (5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the Independent Examiner's Report
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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.

I have obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of the Independent Examiner

M. Richmond.

Michael Richmond FCCA BA (Hons) MAAT
Champleys Chartered Certified Accountants
Champleys Mews, Market Place, Pickering YO18 7AE

27th November 2020