

HIGH PEAK PARTNERSHIP

(Formerly High Peak Methodist Circuit)

Charity Registration No. 1159245

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ended 31 August 2024

Introduction

The Trustees present their Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2024. The Partnership was established on September 1st, 2019, when the former three Methodist Circuits – High Peak Methodist Circuit, Buxton Methodist Circuit and Whaley Bridge Uniting Partnership – were combined to form the High Peak Partnership. It was resolved that this new Partnership should take over the established High Peak Methodist circuit Charity registration (no.1159245).

Aims and Organisation.

The mission of the High Peak Partnership is to bless the communities they serve. This is done through creative and meaningful worship, study, pastoral care and creative arts. A Partnership Mission Plan has been developed which builds on these statements.

Review of the Year.

2023/24 saw the Partnership continue to build upon the new ways of working together that had been established during the previous year. Church attendance had been impacted by COVID but new and creative ways of worship including online provision and the establishment of reflective worship through the Caleb project at Monyash have provided opportunities to engage with local communities. One church community ceased to meet at the end of the financial year and plans are in place to dispose of the property.

A number of churches have been supported during the year financially to enable them to carry out necessary maintenance to their premises. A negative budget had been agreed by the trustees so that support to churches could be maintained as they recovered from the impact of the pandemic and continued their mission across the Partnership. Due to the refund of a contribution to the Methodist Connexional Pension fund the Partnership had a surplus of £99,973 which leaves the Partnership's reserves at £273,423, but the Partnership remains well placed to face the on-going pandemic problems and to consider initiatives to further missional activities.

Fund balances

As at August 31st, 2024, the net current assets of the Partnership were £273,423.

Plans for 2024/25

It is possible that there may be further closures of one or more of the smaller churches which are finding it increasingly difficult to continue meeting. With one of our Presbyters moving to a new Circuit, the Trustees will seek to appoint a Partnership Operations Manager to take responsibility for operational and property matters as well as seeking to appoint a Deacon for September 2025 to enable the Partnership to

continue to meet the pastoral needs of churches and continue to develop strong links into the communities they serve. The Trustees will also work to establish a mission group to look to further develop mission across the Partnership.

Basis of preparation of the Accounts

The Charity's Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2022 have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice 2015 as applicable to the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102.

The Charity's full name is The High Peak Partnership

The Charity Registered number is 1159245 (the former High Peak Methodist Circuit number)

The main communication address (Partnership office)

The High Peak Partnership
Buxton Methodist Church
Chapel Street
Buxton SK17 6HX
Tel: 07912 144022

The members of the High Peak partnership meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of office holders, Ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches. The organisation structure comprises a full Partnership meeting, together with a Leadership Team, a Property Team and a Finance Team, which meet as required and report to the Partnership meeting.

The Trustees are as follows: -

Rev Andrew Parker	Ruth Hayter (appt June 24)	Richard Silson
Rev Keith Sandow (left July 24)	Peter Helps	Ron Sinclair
John Anfield	Donna Hodgson	Samuel Smith
Sheila Booth	Peter Johnson	Jeanette Saxby (appt Jun 24)
Philip Botham	Wendy Jones	Tim Saxby (appt Jun 24)
Stephen Crook (appt Jan 24)	Anne Mayo	Ian Stubbs
Claire Crook	John Morten (appt Sep 23)	Hazel Thompson
Philip Deacon	Wendy Mellor	Angela Timothy
Michael Doughty	Julie Murdy	Albert Warrington
Briony Evans	Nicole Parry (appt Oct 23)	Jennifer Wheeldon
Diane Farrow	Sandy Picot (appt Mar 24)	Alan Woolley
Ken Gibson	Stephen Picot	Charles Winterbottom
Rev David Harrison	Glyn Rowlands	

Sam Smith, retired as Treasurer during the year and was replaced by Julie Murdy.

Partnership Ministers and Officers

Partnership Ministers – Rev Keith Sandow and Rev Andrew Parker

Partnership Treasurer - Samuel Smith (to Mar 24) and Julie Murdy (from Apr24)

Partnership Administrators - Claire Losel and Catherine Sims

Partnership Stewards - Michael Doughty, Diane Farrow, Peter Johnson, John Morten
Richard Silson and Hazel Thompson.

Aims and Organisation

The Charity's objective is to act as a resource provider within the High Peak area around Buxton, Chapel-en-le-Frith and Whaley Bridge for the Methodist Church. 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 or ancillary to the Methodist Church.
- d) Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church.

The organisation and resourcing of regular public acts of worship open to members of the church and non-members alike.

The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups

The resourcing of pastoral work, including visiting the sick and bereaved.

Taking religious assemblies in local schools

Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services

Provision of Chaplaincy services to appropriate local institutions.

Public Benefit

It is confirmed that the Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document for the Partnership is the Deed of Union (1932) and the Methodist Church Act (1976).

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference.

Day to day management of the Partnership is undertaken by the Partnership Leadership Team along with the Local Preachers' Meeting, the Partnership Finance and Property Committees, and the Partnership Policy Committee.

Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by the Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the Partnership, specifically the leaflet "The Role of the Trustee in the Methodist Church" is given to all new Partnership members as their introduction to the role of Trustees, as well as attendance on a locally developed training course delivered in-house.

Related Parties

The Partnership is part of the Manchester and Stockport District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The following Methodist Churches are linked to the Partnership: -

Buxton	Harpur Hill
Chapel-en-le-Frith	Hayfield – St. John's
Disley	Hollinsclough
Dove Holes	Low Leighton
Earl Sterndale	Monyash
Fernilee	Whaley Bridge Uniting Church*
Flagg	

*Whaley Bridge Uniting Church is a Local Ecumenical Partnership including the Baptists, United Reformed and Methodist churches.

Risk management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Partnership Finance and Property committees, with professional advice taken as required. There is a regular review process undertaken and recorded. Income and Expenditure is monitored monthly and is being compared with the approved annual budget on a regular basis, to detect trends as part of the risk management process to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

Safeguarding

'Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.'

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

- The care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults
- The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable.
- The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
- We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of Criminal Records Disclosures and registration with the relevant Vetting and Barring schemes.
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made, which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed co-operating with the Police and Local Authorities in any investigation.

- We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care. We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support including supervision and referral to the proper authorities to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or adult.
- In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

The HPP commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy, Government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the Partnership and Churches.

HPP commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and in promoting the safeguarding of children, young people and adults who may be vulnerable.

Reserves Policy

In normal circumstance, the Reserves Policy for the Partnership would be to hold a minimum of 6 months average expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen items of major expenditure on manse and / or to be able to continue in the short-term funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full assessment from Churches.

However, given the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic, the Trustees have agreed to hold at least 12 months average expenditure until circumstances return to normal. This will be regularly reviewed. The reserves at the end of the financial year stood at £273,423 due to the significant refund of the pension contribution. However, this figure will reduce over the next few years as the Partnership seeks to resource itself with appropriate staff members to support the mission of the Partnership in the communities served.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees

Signature



Dated

21/5/25

Full Name

Rev Andrew Parker

Position

Superintendent Minister

Name of Circuit	High Peak Partnership					Circuit No	19/04
Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2024							
	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023-24
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
1 Donations and legacies							0
2 Income from monetary investments	1	1,306	15,328				16,634
3 Income from investment properties							0
4 Assessments on Churches	2	152,622					152,622
5 Capital Receipts	3	30					30
6 Grants received							0
7 Other charitable income	4	334	118,533				118,867
8 Total income		154,292	133,861	-	-	-	288,153
Expenditure							
9 Grants and donations							0
10 Salaries and associated costs	5	99,087					99,087
11 Property maintenance	6	28,949					28,949
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy		2	2,735				2,735
13 District Assessment & Levy		30,192					30,192
14 Depreciation							0
15 Office expenses		149					149
16 Other outgoings	7	27,066					27,066
17 Total charitable expenditure		185,445	2,735	0	0	0	188,180
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments							0
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties							
20 Net income/(expenditure)		-31,153	131,126	0	0	0	99,973
21 Transfers between funds							0
22 Other gains/(losses)							
23 Net movement in funds		-31,153	131,126	0	0	0	99,973
24 Total funds brought forward		75,265	98,185				173,450
25 Total funds carried forward		44,112	229,311	-	-	-	273,423

13052

1826

15070

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

Notes to the accounts	Circuit Model		Designated Funds		Restricted Funds		Endowment Funds		Total 2022-23	
	£	(Unrestricted)	Trust £	(unrestricted) £	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income										
1 Donations and legacies									0	
2 Income from monetary investments	951		3,675						4,626	
3 Income from investment properties									0	
4 Assessments on Churches	159,639								159,639	
5 Capital Receipts	2,100		9,069						11,169	
6 Grants received									0	
7 Other charitable income	462		428						890	
8 Total income	163,152		13,172	-	-	-	-	-	176,324	
Expenditure										
9 Grants and donations	19,538		40,000						59,538	
10 Salaries and associated costs	93,204								93,204	
11 Property maintenance	12,530								12,530	
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy									0	
13 District Assessment & Levy	30,480								30,480	
14 Depreciation									0	
15 Office expenses	14,858								14,858	
16 Other outgoings	9,327		4,969						14,296	
17 Total charitable expenditure	179,937		44,969	0	0	0	0	0	224,906	
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments									0	
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties										
20 Net income/(expenditure)	-16,785		-31,797	0	0	0	0	0	-48,582	
21 Transfers between funds	10,000	-	10,000						0	
22 Other gains/(losses)										
23 Net movement in funds	-6,785		-41,797	0	0	0	0	0	-48,582	
24 Total funds brought forward	81,317		140,716						222,033	
25 Total funds carried forward	74,532		98,919	-	-	-	-	-	173,451	

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024

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Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Totals 2023/24 £	Totals 2022/23 £

Fixed Assets

Circuit Manises & Equipment	BS1	1,033,584				1,033,584	1,033,584
Investment properties						0	
Investments						0	
Total fixed assets		1,033,584	0	0	0	1,033,584	1,033,584

Current Assets

Debtors	BS2	375				375	
Loans by the Circuit						0	
Investments with TMCP		802	229,311			230,113	98,919
Central Finance Board Deposits		11,735				11,735	36,437
Cash at Bank and in hand		36,996				36,996	38,095
Total current assets		49,908	229,311	0	0	279,219	173,451

Current liabilities

Creditors (due in under 1 year)	BS3	5,796				5,796	
Grants payable within 2023-24						0	
Total current liabilities		5,796	0	0	0	5,796	0
Net current assets/liabilities		44,112	229,311	0	0	273,423	173,451

Total assets less current liabilities		1,077,696	229,311	0	0	1,307,007	1,207,035
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Long term liabilities

(due after more than one year)							
Grants payable after 2023-24						0	
Loans to the Circuit						0	
Net assets		1,077,696	229,311	0	0	1,307,007	1,207,035

Funds of the Circuit

General Fund (Unrestricted)		1,077,696				1,077,696	
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			229,311			229,311	
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)				0		0	
Total Unrestricted Funds						1,307,007	0
Restricted Funds					0	0	
Endowment Funds					0	0	
Total Funds		1,077,696	229,311	0	0	1,307,007	0

Signed Rev Andrew Parker

Position Superintendent Minister

Date 21/5/25



Notes to the Accounts

Note 1	Interest is received on TMCP accounts and the Central Finance Board Account and includes interest of £10,145 on the refund of contribution towards Methodist Pension Fund deficit paid into the Circuit Model Trust Fund.
Note 2	The circuit comprised of 13 churches, with one congregation ceasing to meet during the year. Each is assessed for a contribution to meet the overall net costs of the Circuit. Assessment on churches is annually determined using a formula which takes into account the number of members in each church and its relative income (after deduction of certain actual and notional expenses). Assessments on churches are paid quarterly in advance.
Note 3	Transfer of funds of £30 following congregation ceasing to meet at Earl Sterndale
Note 4	This include £118,532 refund of contribution towards Methodist Pension Fund deficit
Note 5	The Circuit had 2 Superintendent Ministers during the financial year - Rev Andrew Parker and Rev Keith Sandow. Alongside there are two part-time lay employees undertaking administrative duties. No one person received more than £60,00 in total. No accrual has been made for holiday pay as the holiday year runs from September to August. All staff are paid at or above the living wage.
Note 6	There are two manse which are provided by the Circuit for the Superintendent Ministers. The Circuit maintains the property and pays the Council Tax and Water Charges. These are not disclosed separately as HMRC doesn't regard this as a benefit in kind in the hands of a minister.
Note 7	A number of volunteers including Circuit Stewards and Circuit Treasurer as managing trustees support the work of the circuit. No expenses for any work undertaken on behalf of the Circuit have been paid to any volunteers within the circuit, except for reimbursement of associated project costs. One payment of £300 was made to the company of a spouse of one managing trustee in relation to work undertaken on the Whaley Bridge Manse in preparation for leasing of the property.
Note BS1	The Circuit has two manse, one located in Buxton and the other located in Whaley Bridge
Note BS2	1 quarterly payment paid in Sept 2024 for period June to Aug 2024
Note BS3	Cheques issued during August 2024 but not cashed through the bank until September 2024
Note PY1	In previous years both Circuit Model Trust Fund and TMCP General Funds have been consolidated. In the current year TMCP General Funds are shown under general fund unrestricted



A.ALLEN & SON

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF HIGH PEAK PARTNERSHIP

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st August 2024.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is required.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under Section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 statements below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Darren Cooper BA (Hons) F.C.A. C.T.A.
45 Union Road
New Mills
High Peak
SK22 3EL

9 May 2025

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A Allen & Son Limited

Director: D C Cooper BA (Hons) BFP FCA CTA

Company No: 07120823 Registered in England and Wales

Registered to carry on Audit work in the UK and Ireland by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Details about our audit registration can be viewed at auditregister.org.uk under reference number C002470470