

HIGH PEAK PARTNERSHIP

(Formerly High Peak Methodist Circuit)

Charity Registration No. 1159245

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ended 31 August 2025

Introduction

The Trustees present their Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2025. 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.

2024/25 saw the Partnership continue to build upon the new ways of working together that had been established following COVID. One church regularly provides online provision each Sunday morning which enables those who cannot travel to join in worship each week. Provision for families through Messy Church in Hayfield and Monyash has continued with Disley Methodist now having children's worship once a month. 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 or to undertake development to their premises so that they can continue to serve their local communities.

Staffing has been augmented by the appointment of a Circuit Operations Manager to support the Leadership Team in setting in place new systems and supporting property matters across the circuit. A new Deacon will join the Partnership in September 2025.

Fund balances

As at August 31st, 2025, the net current assets of the Partnership were £272,981.

Plans for 2025/26

The appointment of a new Deacon will provide the opportunity for the Leadership Team to develop a mission strategy that will support the life of the churches within the Partnership, enabling them to build on and extend connections within their communities and improve confidence in sharing the gospel.

The Partnership will continue to support local churches with local projects including eco projects and maintenance improvements.

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	Peter Helps	Ron Sinclair
John Anfield	Donna Hodgson	Samuel Smith
Sheila Booth	Peter Johnson	Jeanette Saxby
Philip Botham	Wendy Jones	Tim Saxby
Stephen Crook	Anne Mayo	Ian Stubbs
Claire Crook	John Morten	Hazel Thompson
Philip Deacon	Wendy Mellor	Angela Timothy
Michael Doughty (till Dec 25)	Julie Murdy	Albert Warrington
Briony Evans	Nicole Parry	Jennifer Wheeldon
Diane Farrow	Sandy Picot	Alan Woolley
Ken Gibson	Stephen Picot	Charles Winterbottom
Rev David Harrison	Glyn Rowlands	
Ruth Hayter	Richard Silson	

Partnership Ministers and Officers

Partnership Ministers –	Rev Andrew Parker
Partnership Treasurer -	Julie Murdy
Partnership Administrators -	Claire Losel, Catherine Sims, Laura Krautheim

Partnership Stewards -

Michael Doughty (till Dec 25), 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
Fernilee	Monyash
Flagg	Whaley Bridge Uniting Church*

*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 manses and / or to be able to continue in the short-term funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full assessment from Churches.

However, given the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic, the Trustees have agreed to hold at least 12 months average expenditure and this will be regularly reviewed. The reserves at the end of the financial year stood at £272,98. However, this figure will reduce over the next few years as the Partnership seeks to resource itself with appropriate staff members and continues to support the mission of the Partnership in the communities served.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees

Signature



Dated 29/4/26

Full Name

Rev Andrew Parker

Position

Superintendent Minister

Name of Circuit

High Peak Partnership

Circuit No 01/15

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

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024-25
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
1 Donations and legacies							0
2 Income from monetary investments	1	454	10,265				10,719
3 Income from investment properties							0
4 Assessments on Churches	2	151,122					151,122
5 Capital Receipts	3	672	13,382				14,054
6 Grants received							0
7 Other charitable income		10,481					10,481
8 Total income		162,729	23,647	-	-	-	186,376
Expenditure							
9 Grants and donations	4		29,068				29,068
10 Salaries and associated costs	5	74,021					74,021
11 Property maintenance	6	15,567					15,567
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy	8		9,711				9,719
13 District Assessment & Levy		31,919					31,919
14 Depreciation							0
15 Office expenses		1,917					1,917
16 Other outgoings		24,608					24,608
17 Total charitable expenditure		148,040	38,779	0	0	0	186,819
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments							0
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties							
20 Net income/(expenditure)		14,689	-15,132	0	0	0	-443
21 Transfers between funds							0
22 Other gains/(losses)	-	1					1
23 Net movement in funds		14,688	-15,132	0	0	0	-442
24 Total funds brought forward		44,112	229,311				273,423
25 Total funds carried forward		58,800	214,179	-	-	-	272,981

Name of Circuit	High Peak Partnership						Circuit No	01/15 (previously 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		

Name of Circuit

High Peak Partnership

Circuit No 01 15

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2025

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

Fixed Assets

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

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Current Assets

Debtors	375					375	375
Loans by the Circuit						0	0
Investments with TMCP	1,474	214,179				215,653	230,113
Central Finance Board Deposits	14,908					14,908	11,735
Cash at Bank and in hand	42,047					42,047	36,996
Total current assets	58,802	214,179	0	0	0	272,981	279,219

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Current liabilities

Creditors (due in under 1 year)						0	5,796
Grants payable within one year						0	
Total current liabilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,796
Net current assets/liabilities	58,802	214,179	0	0	0	272,981	273,423

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Total assets less current liabilities	1,092,386	214,179	0	0	0	1,306,565	1,307,007
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Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)							
Grants payable after one year						0	
Loans to the Circuit						0	
Net assets	1,092,386	214,179	0	0	0	1,306,565	1,307,007

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Funds of the Circuit

General Fund (Unrestricted)	1,092,386					1,092,386	1,077,696
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)		214,179				214,179	229,311
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)			0			0	
Total Unrestricted Funds						1,306,565	1,307,007
Restricted Funds				0		0	
Endowment Funds					0	0	
Total Funds	1,092,386	214,179	0	0	0	1,306,565	1,307,007

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Signed Julie Murdy



Circuit Treasurer

Notes to Accounts

2025

Includes interest on Circuit Model Trust Fund, various TMCP Accounts and Central Finance Board deposit

1 account

The circuit comprised of 12 churches. One ceased to meet during the financial 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

2 advance.

3 Capital receipts include sale of land owned by the Circuit and transfer of TMCP funds to the Circuit
Grant given to one church to support a project to develop part of the church to provide income to support

4 future mission of the church

The Circuit had 1 Superintendant Minister during the financial year. Additional Operations support has been provided by a new post which was recruited to in year. 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

5 at or above the living wage.

There are two manses which are provided by the Circuit for the Superintendant 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. Some support to churches for

6 property repairs has been provided this year.

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 £420 for Pest control services was made to the company of a spouse of one managing trustee in relation to work

7 undertaken on the Whaley Bridge Manse whilst the property was empty.


Note BS1 The Circuit has two manses, one located in Buxton and the other located in Whaley Bridge

Note BS2 1 quarterly payment paid in Sept 2025 for period June to Aug 2025

Name of Circuit High Peak Partnership No...01/15.

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-based accounts for the year to 31 August 2025 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit meeting.

Signature of treasurer  Date... 4/3/26

Name and address of treasurer Julie Murdy, 39 Links Road, Chapel-en-le-Frith,

...High Peak, Derbyshire..... Post Code...SK23 9TX.....

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 were presented to the Circuit meeting held on: 4 March 2026

Signature of the Chair of the meeting: 

Name of the Chair of the meeting: ...Rev Andrew Parker..... Date ...4 March 2026



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CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

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

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st August 2025.

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

11 March 2026

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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



A.ALLEN & SON

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

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

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11 March 2026

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