

Circuit Annual Report 2023-2024

The Chester le Street Methodist Circuit consists of four Methodist Churches, as well as a plant project: Re:new, which meets in a local café in Chester le Street town centre.

As a Circuit our key aims are expressed through the four categories of the Methodist Church's "Our Calling" framework which are: Worship, Learning and Caring, Serving and Evangelism.

As such we exist to:

- Enable individuals and communities to participate in, and encounter God through acts of worship
- Encourage people to explore the Christian life and faith, and grow in knowledge and understanding of God
- Serve the needs of our local communities and demonstrate the love of God in practical ways
- Share the Christian faith in word and deed

A Brief Financial Review of the Year

We have in general achieved our financial targets for the year.

Income

All churches have been able to maintain their assessments

We have continued to receive rental income from the manse on Newcastle Road.

Expenditure

Salaries and stipends were increased in line with the Methodist Church policy and the living wage.

18% of unrestricted income was the Circuit Contribution to the work of the District and Connexion (19% of total costs).

Other expenditure included stipends/salaries, manse maintenance, travel costs etc.

Plans for 2023-2024

Our financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that we maintain Circuit ministerial staff one half time superintendent, one Deacon and one Full time presbyter.

Basis of Preparation and Legal Framework

The charities annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st August 2024 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".

Details

Full Name of Charity – Chester le Street Methodist Circuit

Registered Charity Number – 1159362

Date of Registration – 25th November 2014

Main Contact Address – Circuit Office, Great Lumley Methodist Church, Front Street, Great Lumley, Durham, DH2 4JB

The members of Chester le Street Circuit Meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of our circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches.

Circuit Ministers and Officers

Rev Jenny Pryde
Rev Anne Kilvington
Deacon Linda Watkin

Circuit Stewards

Mr Brian Straughan
Mr Fred Johnson
Mrs Karen Heptinstall
Mrs Kathy Bevan

Brian Straughan acted as the treasurer overseeing the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the circuit during the year.

Independent Examiner

Jillian F Hindmarsh, FCA

Investments and Bank Accounts

Central Financial Board of the Methodist Church
Trustees for the Methodist Church Purposes
Barclays Bank

Aims and Organisation

Charity objective is to act as a resource provider within the area around Chester le Street 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:

- The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and discipline of the Methodist Church.
- Any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, District, Circuit, local or other organisations of the Methodist Church.
- Any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church.

Charitable objectives are delivered through the provision of activities and services, which include:

- The organisation and resourcing of regular public acts of worship open to members of the church and non-members alike.
- Conducting baptisms, wedding and funerals on behalf of the Methodist Church.
- The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.
- The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.

- Provision of community space and support.
- Offering opportunities for worship and faith exploration in local schools.
- Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services.
- Provision of chaplaincy services.

Public Benefit

We confirm that the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commissions guidance on public benefit.

Structure and Management

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

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD). Day to day management of the circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership Team along with the Local Preachers Meeting and the Circuit Finance and Property (part of CLT) and the Circuit Policy Committee (part of CLT).

Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the circuit – specifically the leaflet “The Role of a Trustee in the Methodist Church” is given to all new Circuit Meeting members as induction to their role as Trustees.

Related Parties

The Circuit is part of the Newcastle Upon Tyne Methodist District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The following Methodist Churches are linked to the Circuit:

Birtley
Chester le Street
Great Lumley
West Pelton

Risk Management

Any major risks identified will be recorded by the Circuit Leadership Team (none have been identified) and professional advice will be taken if required.

Risk assessments are carried out for church buildings and for events organised by the Circuit.

Income and expenditure are monitored in total and compared with the approved annual budget on a half yearly basis to detect trends as part of the risk management process to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

Safeguarding

Every person has value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of people in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's recreation 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 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 this 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 the 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, cooperating with the police and local authority 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 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 vulnerable adult.
- In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

The Chester le Street Methodist Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy, government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.

The Chester le Street Methodist Church 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 promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

Activities and Achievements

We have continued to provide regular services of Worship at the Churches within our Circuit, with a morning and evening service at Chester le Street and Great Lumley Methodist Churches, and morning services at West Pelton, Perkinsville, Birtley and Pelton Methodist Churches.

At Birtley Methodist Church we run a weekly community lunch, craft group and we host Gateshead Foodbank on Wednesday mornings in our building.

At Chester le Street Methodist Church we have increased our pastoral support working with a retired, Supernumerary Minister, with positive feedback from these visits being received from those who find it more difficult to get to church due to health issues. We have continued our work with local families during the school holidays Make Lunch activities.

At Great Lumley Methodist Church, we run a regular community larder as part of a food waste reduction scheme with local supermarkets providing the produce, we also host a weekly community lunch. Our schoolwork has resumed with a Christmas and Easter journey being hosted at Great Lumley and Birtley Churches, with school children attending in groups.

At Perkinsville Methodist Church we host a weekly coffee morning as well as local community groups.

At West Pelton Methodist Church, we host a weekly Bible Study and coffee morning.

Reserves Policy

The reserves policy for the circuit is to hold a minimum sum of equivalent to 4 months average expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on manses and/or be able to continue in the short-term funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full circuit assessment from churches.

The Circuit Funds Document is attached.

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Chester-le-Street Methodist Circuit
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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2024**

Newcastle upon Tyne	District	Circuit no	20/20
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1159362

If not a registered charity **Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs Gift Aid number**

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(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Ministers:

Reverend Jenny Porterpryde
Reverend Anne Kilvington
Deacon Linda Watkin

Circuit Stewards:

Brian Straughan
Frederick Johnson
Kathy Bevan
Keren Heptinstall

Treasurer:

Brian Straughan

SECTION A			Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
a1	RECEIPTS	Note	£	£	£	£	£
a2	Assessment/Share		163,519			163,519	162,353
a3	Capital receipts						
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		4,537			4,537	2,364
a5	Grants						
a6	Other receipts		14,953		5,793	20,746	14,950
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS		183,009		5,793	188,802 (a8)	179,667

SECTION B							
b1	PAYMENTS						
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs		118,703			118,703	80,210
b3	Manse Costs		14,327			14,327	19,575
b4	Administration etc		4,181		6,625	10,806	9,325
b5	District Assessment		32,500			32,500	30,860
b6	Grants & donations		700			700	700
b7							
b8	Other payments		1,695		500	2,195	451
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS		172,106		7,125	179,231	141,121

SECTION C							
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a7-b9)	10,903		(1,332)	9,571	38,546
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		98,528		20,666	119,194	80,649
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	109,431		19,334	128,765	119,194
c4	Transfers and adjustments						
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	109,431		19,334	128,765	119,194

SECTION D						
d	FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (these amounts should not be included in total receipts/payments above)					
d1	Balance brought forward from last year					
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations					
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations					
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)					

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
Methodist Women in Britain	185	185				
Connexional Funds	4,966	4,966				
	5,151	5,151				
Circuit amounts	188,802	179,231	9,571		119,194	128,765
	193,953	184,382	9,571		119,194	128,765
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward

SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2024

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
Cash in hand		
Bank Current Account	27,039	18,491
Bank Deposit Account		
Central Finance Board	77,190	100,203
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		
Other funds	14,965	10,072
SUB TOTAL	119,194	128,765
Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance totals above) (e12)		
TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	119,194	128,765

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2023	At 31 August 2024
Investments (include Endowments)		
Land and Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)		
Other Assets	8,823	3,733
Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

f5 Include only CFB Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trust accounts this is inserted in line f5)

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2024 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 *B.G. Straughan* Date *23rd June 2025*
Name and address of treasurer *B.J. STRAUGHAN, 21 HAUXLEY DRIVE,*
CHESTER-LE-STREET. CH2 3TE
Brian Straughan

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were presented to the Circuit meeting held on 12th September 2024

Signature of the Chair of the meeting *pp Anne Kilvington*
ANNE KILVINGTON
Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev. Jenny Porterpryde. Date *24 June 2025*

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Chester-le-Street Methodist Circuit

Charity Number 1159362

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Chester-le-Street Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages 3 to 5. 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').

I report in respect of my examination of the Circuit's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Circuit: Chester-le-Street No 20/20.

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~~/have not* 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 J. Hindmarsh

Name of independent examiner JILLIAN F. HINDMARSH

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FCA

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 77 WARKWORTH DRIVE, CHESTER-LE-STREET,

CO DURHAM Post Code DH2 3TH

Date 25/6/2025

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Circuit: Chester-le-Street No 20/20.

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I ~~have~~/have not* 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 J. Hindmarsh

Name of independent examiner JILLIAN F. HINDMARSH

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FCA

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Address 77 WARKWORTH DRIVE, CHESTER-LE-STREET,

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Date 25/6/2025

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