

Charity Number: 1160063

Airedale Methodist Circuit

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

Airedale Methodist Circuit

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Airedale Methodist Circuit

Charity Information

Reference and Administrative Information

Circuit Number: 27/31
Charity Registration Number: 1160063

The Circuit comprised the following churches at 31 August 2024:

Aire Valley (including Bingley, Ilkley Road and Long Lee congregations); Cononley (LEP); Craven (Cross Hills, Eastburn, Silsden and Steeton congregations - Cowling having just ceased to meet); Cullingworth; Eldwick (LEP); Marsh; and Worth Valley (including Lees, Oakworth, Oxenhope and Keighley congregations).

Circuit Staff:

Ordained:

Superintendent Minister: Rev Clare Stainsby

Ministers: Rev Helen (Nel) Shallow
Rev Tracy Birks

Lay:

Church Workers: Glenda Coogan
Pippa Lupton
Chris Partington

New Places for New People
Project Worker: Sarah McDonald-Howard (resigned September 2024)
Adam Denno (appointed April 2025)

Circuit Administrator and
Communications Officer: Esther Gregory-Witham

Finance Officer: Edwin Tate

Finance Assistant: Daniel Spencer (appointed February 2025)

Trustees: The Circuit Meeting members are the Trustees of the
Charity (listed in Note 18).

Circuit Stewards: Claire Corp
Pam Helyar
Peter Howarth (resigned September 2024)
Graham Iliff

Circuit Safeguarding Officer: c/o Rev Clare Stainsby and Esther Gregory-Witham

Circuit Treasurer: Mr Graham Iliff

Circuit Office: Airedale Methodist Circuit Office
80 Kirkgate
Silsden
Keighley
BD20 0PA

Independent Examiner: Jessica Lawrence FCA CTA
Azets Audit Services Limited
12 King Street
Leeds
LS1 2HL

Airedale Methodist Circuit

Trustees' Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

Structure, Governance and Management

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

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 ex officio trustees

Structure: Part of the Yorkshire West District of the Methodist Church
Accountable to the Methodist Conference

Vision and Objectives

Our Vision and Purpose

We are God's people here, listening for God's voice, worshipping, caring, encouraging faith experiences and taking action to build God's Kingdom in a variety of ways.

Worship

The Church exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love.

- We are committed to making worship inclusive, welcoming and accessible for all across the circuit.
- We are encouraging prayer, and seeking new opportunities for prayer experiences.
- We are encouraging people to notice God alive and at work, both in the Bible and in the world today.

Learning and Caring

The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care.

- We offer care to the families of our churches, and to the people of the communities around us.
- We encourage opportunities to learn more about our faith.
- We are committed to hospitality and generosity.

Service

The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice.

- We are ready to offer support to help the needs of our communities, and people of the wider world.
- We are seeking ways of actively caring for creation.
- We are ready and willing to challenge injustice wherever we see it.

Evangelism

The Church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ.

- We are encouraging a willingness among our church people to speak of their own experience of love of God.
- We are committed to living in a way that draws others to Jesus.
- We are seeking ways of sharing our faith with others.

In all these things, we want to be a blessing within and beyond God's Church, for the transformation of the world.

Objectives:

As stated in the Governing Document, the purposes of the Methodist Church are 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.

Airedale Methodist Circuit

Trustees' Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

Structure and Decision Making

The Circuit Meeting is the charity's trustee body that is ultimately responsible for decisions. It meets in autumn and spring and elsewhere as needed.

The Circuit Leadership Team (CLT), comprising the Ministers, Lay Workers and Stewards, are the Circuit's key management personnel in charge of directing and operating it on a day to day basis. Their work includes guiding the Circuit's life and work, preparing proposals for and implementing the instructions of the Circuit Meeting, and discharging its responsibilities in areas that include worship, mission, finance, property, staffing, employment and safeguarding. The CLT has delegated authority such as to approve urgent property repairs, and itself delegates tasks to individual or groups of staff and volunteers, such as the Circuit Property Group.

The responsibilities of the Circuit Stewards include:

- being treasurers of the Circuit funds, with particular input from the Circuit Treasurer and the Finance Officer;
- maintenance and upkeep of the manses, with particular input from the Circuit Property Group; and
- bringing to the Invitation Committee and/or Circuit Meeting proposals about Ministers to serve.

The Circuit staff meet regularly and work as a team sharing responsibilities across the Circuit. The Ministers and Church Workers have pastoral charge of different churches.

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:

- suitable insurance cover is in place.
- the Circuit's finances are kept under review and financial policies have been approved.
- the Circuit has adopted the Methodist Church Safeguarding Policy and other related policies, and has rolled these out to the churches; it has 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.
- Circuit Leadership Team continues to monitor risks, seeking professional advice where necessary.

Public Benefit

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

Airedale Methodist Circuit carries out a range of activities in pursuance of its mission. The Circuit will use resources for mission-based projects. These may be paid by the charity in the form of grants to external parties. The Trustees consider that the activities, summarised below, provide benefit to those who are members of the Circuit through the local Methodist churches and to the wider community.

Achievements and Performance

Faith and Outreach

Regular worship across the Circuit included services at congregation, Church and Circuit level, with the shared gatherings giving opportunities to praise God and develop relationships in vibrant larger groups. They included the Barn Carol Service and Summer Praise to which the Chair of District came to preach. Online worship included the Fresh Aire reflections via Facebook and services streamed from Oakworth to reach those who were unable to meet in person.

Pastoral care was given by ministers, lay workers and church support networks as the outworking of Jesus' love and compassion for everyone. Training was offered in Equality, Diversity and Inclusion as well as in safeguarding to help foster a culture of safety, respect and welcome for all. Baptisms, weddings and funerals supported church and local community members at times of particular need and Messy Church and GIFT, the Circuit's youth group, served children, young people and families. Oakworth's Pantomime gave youngsters wonderful opportunities to develop friendships and skills in the supportive context of a faith community.

Airedale Methodist Circuit

Trustees' Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

Achievements and Performance (continued)

The Circuit's New Places for New People (NPNP) Project developed and flourished, bringing exciting opportunities for mission supported by significant Connexional and District funding as well as Circuit contributions. The project seeks to reach out to those who may have no experience of church, and build community and faith in response to Jesus's love. Sarah's employment as the Project's worker led to expansion of the Preloved Shop, with the Circuit providing a second unit in Keighley's Royal Arcade. The purchase and preparation of The New Place property in Keighley enabled a much wider range of activities and it was not long before regular open sessions several times a week began to draw increasing numbers of people across a wide age range into this warm and welcoming environment, supported by volunteers and staff who follow a daily worship pattern.

Significant outreach was also offered from many other venues including the Bingley Foodbank, Keighley Hall's Welcome Café, and several Warm Spaces and other groups in the Circuit's churches.

People and property

Ministers, Lay Employees and Volunteers

At the start of the year, we welcomed our new staff: Rev Tracy Birks as minister; Chris Partington as Church Worker; and Sarah McDonald-Howard for the NPNP Project.

Almost every activity in the Circuit depends on the support of a wide range of faithful and committed volunteers, who often work alongside the staff. The Circuit is blessed by its personnel, but there is recognition that as congregations and churches reduce in number and struggle to fill their own roles, there are fewer people still to draw upon for Circuit roles, at the same time as the need for the Circuit's support continues to grow, in areas such as property, finance and safeguarding.

Recognizing the scale of these challenges, the staff team and Circuit Stewards worked hard to prepare the foundations for developing a sustainable plan for the future, based around the Circuit's Vision and Purpose statement and following the earlier creation of the three multi-congregation Churches. 'Bright Hope for Tomorrow' was launched, with regular newsletters to inform and encourage while exploring how to grow worshipping communities that would remain a faithful and effective witness to God's love and grace for future generations. A key priority here is to release people's time and energy to focus on worship and mission and reduce administrative burdens such as property management, with so many ageing buildings needing to be looked after by such a small number of people.

Thanks were expressed to those who stepped down from their roles, including William Jowitt after many years on Circuit Property Group, and Peter Howarth following many years as a Circuit Steward. The Circuit is thankful for all they have contributed, and grateful that they both continue to serve in many different ways.

Property matters

In January 2024 the purchase of The New Place completed. This newer, smaller church property in Keighley, under the Circuit's Managing Trusteeship, is a replacement for Exley Head and a home for the NPNP Project. It was capitalized in our accounts at a value of £190,000 but the purchase and preparation costs were recorded as expenditure.

In March 2024, the sale of Keighley Methodist Hall (already under the Circuit's managing trusteeship) to the Anglican Church completed for £20,000 which is recorded in the accounts as income. Its congregation remains part of Worth Valley Church. Preparations continued towards the sale of Exley Head, the sale via long lease of Denholme's burial ground, and Circuit Meeting approved the sale of the former Cowling Methodist Church. These properties will be accorded a value in future accounts in line with our accounting policies. Recognizing that these more complicated sales may take some time to complete, Circuit Meeting also approved the sale of the former manse in Sutton-in-Craven which the tenants vacated before the year-end. This was to try to ensure further sale proceeds coming available in good time for when they are needed, which is anticipated to be in the second half of the year ending 31st August 2026. The Circuit also rented out its other former manse in Silsden from April 2024.

The Circuit approved an environmental policy and encouraged a focus on ecological sustainability, with many churches achieving their bronze or silver Eco Church awards. This aligns with District priorities and the Methodist Church's commitment to Net Zero by 2030.

Airedale Methodist Circuit

Trustees' Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

Achievements and Performance (continued)

Financial Review

The Statement of Financial Activities shows net expenditure after recognised gains for the year of £164,084 (2023 £70,024) and the total reserves at 31 August 2024 stand at £1,878,878 (2023 - £2,042,962). But these figures include the finances of Bingley Foodbank, Exley Head and Keighley, the modest sale proceeds from Keighley Hall and various sale, purchase and other costs including the Model Trust fund levy that fall beyond the core revenue operation of the Circuit. If these transactions were excluded, then, the Circuit would be seen on one calculation to be running at a deficit in the region of £138,000, compared with around £57,000 in 2023).

On this basis, the principal core revenue funding sources were the Assessments from the Circuit's churches, grant funding for the NPNP Project and rental income, while the main items of core revenue expenditure were the employment and (where applicable) accommodation costs of the staff, the Connexional and District Assessments, and operating costs.

The Trustees consider the Circuit's financial position to be satisfactory at present. The significant rise in the deficit results from the planned major staffing increase to drive mission. This has only been possible because of previous sale proceeds, which have also temporarily funded the purchase of The New Place until Exley Head, which it replaces, is sold. With a deficit of this scale, the further planned sales of the Cowling church and Sutton manse properties will be necessary. But the trustees are also well aware that this deficit will need to be significantly reduced as the Circuit looks towards its longer term plans, including for the next stationing term, and the financial position is being carefully monitored.

The Trustees aim to hold sufficient free reserves (unrestricted funds not committed or invested in fixed assets) to cover six months of the Circuit's running costs. For the year ended 31 August 2024, these costs were £239,843 and the free reserves, excluding designated funds were £276,406 (2023 - £614,111) which would sustain the Circuit for nearly 7 months. The reserves policy will be reviewed annually.

Fundraising

We strive to achieve the highest fundraising standards and we value our supportive funders. We stay up to date with developments in Charity regulation, data protection and the Fundraising Preference Service (FPS) to make sure we are legally compliant and adhering to all guidelines. We follow the Institute of Fundraising's Code of Practice.

After the Year End

The Circuit said farewell to Sarah the NPNP Project worker and thanked her for all she had done. The Project's work in The New Place had developed to the point where the Royal Arcade premises were no longer needed, and the Circuit surrendered its leases there. A replacement Project worker was sought, to start as soon as possible.

The Circuit also advertised for a Finance Assistant to join and support the existing staff.

The Bright Hope for Tomorrow initiative took on greater significance as the Circuit moves towards another stationing round and looks towards its staffing and other resourcing needs from September 2026.

Airedale Methodist Circuit

Trustees' Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

Trustees' Responsibilities

The charity Trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

- selected suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently
- observed the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP
- made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- stated whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business

The Circuit Meeting is responsible for keeping records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations.

It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved on 12th June 2025 and signed on behalf of the Circuit by:

Clare Stainsby

Reverend Clare Stainsby
Superintendent Minister and Chair of Trustees

Airedale Methodist Circuit

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Airedale Methodist Circuit

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Airedale Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2024.

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My independent examination work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustees as a body, for my independent examination work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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.

This report, including my statement, has been prepared for and only for the Charity's trustees as a body. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's trustees as a body for my examination work, for this report, or for the statements I have made.

Independent Examiner's Statement

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Jessica Lawrence

16/06/2025

Jessica Lawrence FCA CTA

Azets Audit Services Limited
12 King Street
Leeds
LS1 2HL

Airedale Methodist Circuit

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds					Total funds 2024	Total funds 2023
		General Fund	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds		
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:								
Donations								
Assessment or Share		189,231	-	-	-	-	189,231	186,615
Donations		-	-	5,517	-	-	5,517	9,192
Sale of church		20,050	-	-	-	-	20,050	-
Charitable activities								
Grants		-	-	-	35,600	-	35,600	3,000
Bingley Foodbank		-	-	-	10,350	-	10,350	11,349
Other income		2,689	-	1,188	773	-	4,650	3,778
Other trading activities								
Lettings		14,250	-	1,755	-	-	16,005	19,675
Investment income		-	27,610	1,827	1,167	-	30,604	24,908
Total income		226,220	27,610	10,287	47,890	-	312,007	258,517
Expenditure on:								
Charitable activities:								
Stipends and salaries	2	224,413	-	-	24,991	-	249,404	152,789
District Assessments		55,716	-	-	-	-	55,716	54,360
Administration and travel		37,498	1,166	-	-	-	38,664	12,721
Insurance and utilities		12,992	-	12,148	432	-	25,572	23,980
Circuit property expenditure		22,963	-	37,740	5,002	-	65,705	43,667
Other expenditure		24,453	-	-	3,220	-	27,673	17,459
Grants payable	10	501	-	2,187	-	-	2,688	2,330
Bingley Foodbank		-	-	-	10,263	-	10,263	16,233
Independent examination		4,000	-	-	-	-	4,000	3,696
Total expenditure		382,536	1,166	52,075	43,908	-	479,685	327,235
Net income /(expenditure) before other recognised gains	4	(156,316)	26,444	(41,788)	3,982	-	(167,678)	(68,718)
Realised and unrealised gains on investments		-	-	324	-	3,270	3,594	(1,306)
Transfers between funds	11	325,313	(343,146)	19,000	(1,167)	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		168,997	26,444	(22,464)	2,815	3,270	(164,084)	(70,024)
Funds brought forward	11	1,408,992	408,962	166,304	18,710	39,994	2,042,962	2,112,986
Funds carried forward	11	1,577,989	92,260	143,840	21,525	43,264	1,878,878	2,042,962

The notes on pages 10 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

A detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the year ending 31 August 2023 is shown at note 20.

There were no recognised gains and losses for 2024 and 2023 other than those included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Airedale Methodist Circuit

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024

	Note	General Fund £	Circuit Model Trust Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Fixed assets:								
Tangible assets	5	1,393,843	-	-	-	-	1,393,843	1,203,843
Investments	6	-	-	9,524	-	43,264	52,788	49,194
		1,393,843	-	9,524	-	43,264	1,446,631	1,253,037
Current assets:								
Debtors	7	23,934	-	-	-	-	23,934	22,408
Bank: Central Finance Board and Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes deposits		144,731	92,260	134,316	-	-	371,307	772,786
Bank		63,933	-	-	21,525	-	85,458	55,600
Total Current Assets		232,598	92,260	134,316	21,525	-	480,699	850,794
Creditors: Due within one year	8	(48,452)	-	-	-	-	(48,452)	(60,869)
Net current assets		184,146	92,260	134,316	21,525	-	432,247	789,925
Total net assets		1,577,989	92,260	143,840	21,525	-	1,878,878	2,042,962
Funds of the circuit:								
General Fund		1,577,989	-	-	-	-	1,577,989	1,408,992
Circuit Model Trust Fund		-	92,260	-	-	-	92,260	408,962
Designated Funds		-	-	143,840	-	-	143,840	166,304
Total Unrestricted Funds		1,577,989	92,260	143,840	-	-	1,814,089	1,984,258
Restricted Funds		-	-	-	21,525	-	21,525	18,710
Endowment Funds		-	-	-	-	43,264	43,264	39,994
Total circuit funds	11	1,577,989	92,260	143,840	21,525	43,264	1,878,878	2,042,962

The notes on pages 10 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 12th June 2025 and signed on its behalf:

Clare Stainsby

.....
Reverend Clare Stainsby
Superintendent Minister and Chair of Trustees

G. Iliff

.....
Graham Iliff
Trustee

Airedale Methodist Circuit

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

Charity information

Airedale Methodist Circuit is a Charity registered with the Charity Commission of England and Wales under registered Charity number 1160063. The Charity's principal office address is Airedale Methodist Circuit Office, 80 Kirkgate, Silsden, Keighley, BD20 0PA.

Basis of preparation of financial statements

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

Airedale Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £1.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the directors continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Funds

The funds held constitute:

General Funds held for any purpose of the Circuit which are unrestricted. The Circuit Model Trust Fund has wide purposes defined in Standing Orders and is categorised as unrestricted.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds represent grants, donations and legacies received which are allocated by the donor for a particular project or activity.

Endowment funds represent gifts, the capital normally being unavailable for spending, and the income from which is either restricted or unrestricted. Details of each material fund are disclosed in note 11 to these financial statements.

Income

Income represents all income which becomes available to the Charity but excludes gains on investments. Grants and donations are recognisable when the Charity becomes entitled to receive the funds, when it is probable that the funds will be received and that they can be measured with sufficient accuracy. Investment income is recognised on an accruals basis and comprises of interest receivable during the accounting period. Sale proceeds from the sale of assets not previously capitalised are shown net of the property levy where there is no replacement scheme for those assets.

Airedale Methodist Circuit

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised in the period in which it is incurred and includes attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the Charity in the deliverance of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be directly allocated to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs include those costs incurred in supporting the work of the Charity.

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Circuit to pay out resources.

Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases, where substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership remains with the lessor, are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they fall due over the period of the lease.

Tangible fixed assets

A tangible fixed asset is capitalised if its expected useful life exceeds one year, and costs £1,000 or more. Freehold land and buildings transferred into the circuit on the merger of the 3 circuits are shown at insurance valuation as at March 2010 and are not revalued annually. Contents are included in the valuation of each property. Properties purchased since that date are included at historical cost.

Freehold land is not depreciated.

Freehold buildings held by the Charity are such that their estimated residual value would mean that any depreciation charge would be immaterial. The trustees undertake periodic impairment reviews to ensure that the carrying value of the properties held by the Circuit does not exceed their realisable value.

Freehold land and buildings may be let on short term tenancy arrangements. These properties remain in fixed assets unless it is felt likely that the property will not be used for charitable purpose in the future.

Transfer of church buildings into the circuit

Where a church building that is no longer under the stewardship of the church but where responsibility for stewardship has been transferred to the circuit following the closure of the church, the following accounting policy is adopted. The property will be included as a current asset net of any levy and included in incoming resources where an acceptable offer has been made for the building during the accounting period and the sale has crystallised after the year end.

Investments

Investments relate to cash held on deposit in interest bearing deposit accounts.

Airedale Methodist Circuit

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

Deposit Funds, such as TIF (Trustee Interest Fund) held via Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes and the Central Finance Board are shown separately from Cash and Bank in the Balance Sheet.

Debtors and prepayments

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any discounts due.

Creditors, loans, provisions and grants payable

Creditors, loans and provisions are recognised where the Charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfers of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement value after allowing for any discounts which may be due.

Grants to local churches for property schemes and other purposes are accounted for as liabilities when they receive formal approval by the Circuit Meeting. Grants awarded to other charitable bodies are accounted for as liabilities in the period in which the award is made.

Financial liabilities are only derecognised when, the Charity's obligations are discharged, cancelled or they expire.

Amounts recognised as provisions are best estimates of the consideration required to settle the present obligation at the reporting end date, taking into account the risks and uncertainties surrounding the obligation.

Pensions and staff costs

The Charity makes payments to the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme '(MMPS)' which is a defined benefit scheme operated by The Methodist Church. The Circuit accounts for contributions paid for by the ministers and the circuit as a defined contribution as no liability for past service sits with the circuit.

The charity operates a defined contribution plan for the lay staff. The assets of the plan are held separately from the Charity in independently administered funds. All circuit contributions to the scheme are charged to the income and expenditure account in the period to which they relate.

Taxation

Airedale Methodist Circuit is a registered charity and as such is potentially entitled to tax exemption under Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 in respect of income and gains arising.

Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value except bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Concessionary Loans

As permitted by paragraph 34.90 of FRS102, Concessionary Loans are initially recognised at the amount received or paid, with the carrying amount adjusted in subsequent years to reflect repayments and any accrued interest and adjusted if necessary for any impairment.

Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Airedale Methodist Circuit

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised, if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Other than the non-depreciation of Freehold property, as disclosed in note 1, the Trustees consider that there are no estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities.

2. Minister and Lay Staff Information

The average number of clergy and lay staff were:

	2024	2023
Clergy	3	3
Lay staff	6	4
	9	7

Ministers' and lay staff costs during the year were as follows:

	Clergy 2024 £	Lay staff 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Clergy 2023 £	Lay staff 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Wages and salaries	91,020	111,125	202,145	70,272	52,485	122,757
Social security costs	9,295	8,262	17,557	6,422	2,719	9,141
Pension costs	23,033	6,669	29,702	18,037	2,854	20,891
	123,348	126,056	249,404	94,731	58,058	152,789

No employees earned £60,000 or more during the year (2023: no employees).

The Charity considers its key management personnel to include the Circuit Staff as set out on page 1. The remuneration of the Circuit Ministers (clergy) are set out above with further details set out in Note 13. The remuneration of lay employees who are also members of the Circuit Meeting is shown in Note 13. No other members of the Circuit Leadership Team receive remuneration from the Circuit.

3. Trustees' Remuneration and Trustees' Expenses

There were no expenses paid to trustees during the year other than those referred to in Note 13. All ministers' expenses were incurred in carrying out their roles as ministers. Information on remuneration paid to trustees is included in Note 13.

4. Net Expenditure for the Year

This is stated after charging:	2024 £	2023 £
Independent Examiners fee	1,000	910
Accountancy services provided by the Independent Examiner	2,340	2,170

Airedale Methodist Circuit

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

5. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Total £
Cost:		
At 1 September 2023	1,203,843	1,203,843
Additions	190,000	190,000
At 31 August 2024	1,393,843	1,393,843
Depreciation:		
At 1 September 2023 and 31 August 2024	-	-
Net book value at 31 August 2024	1,393,843	1,393,843
Net book value at 31 August 2023	1,203,843	1,203,843

6. Investments

	£
Market value at 31 August 2023	49,194
Realised and unrealised loss in the year	3,594
Market Value at 31 August 2024	52,788

Investments include unitised funds held in the COIF Charities Investment Fund – Income Units administered by CCLA.

The historical cost of investments held at market value is £35,295 (2023 - £35,295).

7. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Due within one year:		
Debtors	10,357	10,176
Prepayments and accrued income	13,577	12,232
	23,934	22,408

Airedale Methodist Circuit

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

8. Creditors

	2024 £	2023 £
Income received in advance	37,613	55,265
Accruals	10,839	5,603
	48,452	60,868

Income in advance represents assessments paid by circuit churches for the year ended 31 August 2025.

9. Income received in advance

	2024 £	2023 £
Balance at 1 September	55,265	37,789
Released in the year to the statement	(55,265)	(37,789)
Deferred in the year	37,613	55,265
	37,613	55,265

10. Grants Payable

During the year the Charity awarded grants to the following:

	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Grants made to institutions:		
Marsh MC	-	437
Oxenhope MC	-	1,115
Silsden MC	980	170
Cullingworth MC	594	108
Oxenhope MC	614	-
Christian Links in Keighley Schools	500	500
	2,688	2,330

Reconciliation of grants payable	2024 £	2023 £
Commitment at 1 September	-	1,000
Grants committed in the year (as above)	2,688	2,330
Grants paid in the year	(2,688)	(3,330)
Commitment at 31 August (Note 8)	-	-

To comply with Charities SORP (FRS 102) non-performance grants are reported in the SoFA on approval of application. In some cases payment may be spread over a period of time which gives rise to future commitments. These are reported as creditors and shown in note 8.

Airedale Methodist Circuit

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

11. Movement in Funds

For the year ended 31 August 2024	Balance 1 September 2023	Income & Realised/ Unrealised Gains	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31 August 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Endowment funds:					
Hebden Wright Fund	39,994	3,270	-	-	43,264
Restricted funds:					
NPNP Grants	-	36,373	(33,646)	-	2,727
Bingley Foodbank	18,710	10,350	(10,262)	-	18,798
Hebden Wright Fund	-	1,167	-	(1,167)	-
Total Restricted funds	18,710	47,890	(43,908)	(1,167)	21,525
Unrestricted funds:					
General Funds	1,408,992	226,220	(382,536)	325,313	1,577,989
Circuit Model Trust Fund	408,962	27,610	(1,166)	(343,146)	92,260
Total	1,817,954	254,997	(383,702)	(17,833)	1,670,249
Designated funds:					
Manses Funds	21,610	-	(21,074)	20,000	20,536
CAF Grants Funds	9,009	-	(2,187)	-	6,822
Victoria Park Funds	82,757	-	(16,665)	-	66,092
Benevolence Fund	5,620	-	-	-	5,620
Keighley Church Fund	27,061	9,771	(6,525)	(1,000)	29,307
Exley Head Fund	20,247	840	(5,624)	-	15,463
Total designated funds	166,304	10,611	(52,075)	19,000	143,840
Total unrestricted funds	1,984,258	265,608	(435,777)	-	1,814,089
Total funds	2,042,962	315,601	(479,685)		1,878,878

Circuit Model Fund Transfers: to cover grant payments, property transactions and budget support during the year.

Restricted funds

NPNP Grants - funding for the Circuit's pre-loved project.

Bingley Foodbank - funding for the relief of hunger locally

Hebden Wright Fund - funding to support music, worship and repairs at any of the Circuit's churches.

Designated funds:

Manses fund - To cover costs of general repairs and maintenance of the manses.

CAF grants fund - To cover small property repairs for local churches.

Victoria Park fund - Monies put aside by the circuit to cover expenditure for any special projects.

Benevolence fund - To cover donations in cases of particular hardship at the discretion of the Ministers.

Keighley Church Fund - To cover costs for the day to day running of Keighley church.

Exley Head Fund - To cover costs for the day to day running of Exley Head church.

Airedale Methodist Circuit

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

11. Movement in Funds (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2023	Balance 1 September 2022	Income & Realised/ Unrealised Gains	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31 August 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Endowment funds:					
Hebden Wright Fund	40,779	(785)	-	-	39,994
Restricted funds:					
NPNP Grants	-	3,000	(3,000)	-	-
Bingley Foodbank	23,594	11,349	(16,233)	-	18,710
Hebden Wright Fund	-	1,157	-	(1,157)	-
Total Restricted funds	23,594	15,506	(19,233)	(1,157)	18,710
Unrestricted funds:					
General Funds	1,813,854	213,476	(265,137)	(354,358)	1,408,992
Circuit Model Trust Fund	63,159	12,419	(1,630)	335,014	408,962
Total	1,877,013	225,895	(266,767)	(19,344)	1,817,954
Designated funds:					
Manses Funds	28,322	-	(22,712)	16,000	21,610
CAF Grants Funds	6,339	-	(1,830)	4,500	9,009
Victoria Park Funds	85,448	-	(2,691)	-	82,757
Benevolence Fund	5,620	-	-	-	5,620
Keighley Church Fund	24,020	11,060	(8,019)	-	27,061
Exley Head Fund	21,851	4,379	(5,983)	-	20,247
Total designated funds	171,600	15,439	(41,235)	20,500	166,304
Total unrestricted funds	2,048,613	242,491	(308,002)	20,500	1,984,258
Total funds	2,112,986	257,211	(327,235)	-	2,042,962

Airedale Methodist Circuit

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

12. Analysis of Net Assets by Fund

For the year ended 31 August 2024	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	1,393,843	-	-	-	1,393,843
Investments	-	9,524	-	43,264	52,788
Net current assets	276,406	134,316	21,525	-	432,247
	1,670,249	143,840	21,525	43,264	1,878,878

For the year ended 31 August 2023	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	1,203,843	-	-	-	1,203,843
Investments	-	9,200	-	39,994	49,194
Net current assets	614,111	157,104	18,710	-	789,925
	1,817,954	166,304	18,710	39,994	2,042,962

13. Related Party Transactions

Ministers

Stipends and allowances for presbyters and deacons (collectively ministers) are set annually by the Methodist Conference, and the Circuit is responsible for meeting those costs for all ministers stationed by the Conference in the Circuit. The following ministers received the below stipends for the year:

Name	Position	2024 Salary £	2023 Salary £
Rev C Stainsby	Minister	29,040	27,104
Rev H Shallow	Minister	29,040	27,104
Rev T Keen	Minister	-	13,371
Rev T Birks	Minister	29,040	-

All the above were provided with living accommodation as required by the church's Standing Orders.

In addition to the basic stipend, a Connexionally agreed Superintendent Ministers allowance of £2,904 (2023: £2,692) was paid to Rev C Stainsby.

Lay employees

The following members of the Circuit Meeting are/were also employees of the Circuit and are/were in receipt of salaries for the work they undertake in the capacities indicated. They do not receive payment for acting as trustees:

Name	Position	2024 Salary £	2023 Salary £
Glenda Coogan	Church Worker	17,680	16,393
Pippa Lupton	Church Worker	22,866	12,637
Chris Partington	Church Worker	21,216	-

Other ministers

No trustees were paid preaching fees in the year (2023 –none).

Other payments

No travelling or course fees were paid to trustees (2023 –none).

Airedale Methodist Circuit

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

14. Pension Scheme

The Charity makes payments to the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS) which is a defined benefit scheme. The Circuit accounts for contributions paid for by the ministers and the circuit. Those contributions are paid over to The Methodist Church. The circuit contributes 26.9% (2023 – 26.9%) of ministers' stipends to the Methodist Church.

The cost of the pension scheme to the circuit for the year ended 31 August 2024 was £23,033 (2023: £18,037). At 31 August 2024 £1,551 (2023: £1,953) was prepaid in respect of the scheme.

During the year the Charity made arrangements for a defined contribution pension for its lay employees. The cost of the pension scheme to the circuit for the year ended 31 August 2024 was £6,669 (2023: £2,854). There were no amounts outstanding at the year end (2023: £nil).

15. Commitments

There were no capital commitments at 31 August 2024 (2023: no capital commitments).

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Within one year	1,457	1,457
Between two and five years	4,005	5,462
	5,462	6,919

16. Contingent Liabilities

There were no contingent liabilities as at 31 August 2024 (2023: no contingent liabilities).

17. Hebden Wright Endowment

The Hebden Wright Endowment has been reported within Airedale Methodist Circuit's accounts since the year ending 31 August 2015. Originally it was held by a separate charity relating to Hermit Hole and then Wesley Place Methodist Churches, both long since closed. During 2016-17 the Charity Commission approved a change in the application of income to allow it to be used to support music, worship and repairs at any of the Circuit's churches. The Hebden Wright charity was dissolved in July 2022. The capital of £43,264 has been shown as an endowment at 31 August 2024 (2023: £39,994) and the generated income of £1,167 (2023 : £1,156) has been shown as restricted.

Airedale Methodist Circuit

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

18. Trustees

The following trustees have held office since 1 September 2023:

Jean Ainsworth	Kath Neal
Richard Arnold (resigned March 2025)	Christopher Partington (appointed September 2023)
David Ayrton	Anne Pearson
Maurice Baren	Mary Peet
Tracy Birks (appointed September 2023)	Jenni Presland (appointed September 2024)
Denise Butcher	Olwyne Pullen
Lindsey Butler	Brenda Quail
Janet Clark (resigned August 2024)	Lena Robinson (resigned August 2024)
David Clegg	Louise Rouse (resigned August 2024)
Glenda Coogan	Eileen Sergeant
Claire Corp	Helen Shallow
Phil Corp	Tim Sharp
Kathleen Crabtree	Graham Sheard (resigned August 2024)
Sue Cutter	Julie Smith (appointed September 2024)
Tony Denning	Clare Stainsby
Clare Dewhirst	Joanne Stokes
Fiona Green	Maureen Studholme (resigned August 2024)
Christine Hambley	Emma Sutcliffe
Judith Hargreaves	Ron Thompson (appointed September 2024)
Joyce Hartley (appointed May 2024)	Dorothy Walker (appointed September 2024)
Pam Helyar	Katherine Watson
Andrew Houldsworth	Christine Wood
David Howarth	
Peter Howarth	
James Huntington	
Graham Iliff	
Pat Keene (appointed September 2024)	
Philippa Lupton	
Tricia Mitchell (appointed September 2024)	
Bryn Morgan (appointed September 2024)	
Ann Murgatroyd	

19. Post balance sheet events

There have been no post balance sheet events to note in the financial statements for the year ending 31 August 2024.

Airedale Methodist Circuit

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

20. Comparative Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

	Unrestricted Funds					Total funds 2023
	General Fund	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:						
Donations						
Assessment or Share	186,615	-	-	-	-	186,615
Sale of chapel	-	-	9,192	-	-	9,192
Charitable activities						
Grants	-	-	-	3,000	-	3,000
Bingley Foodbank	-	-	-	11,349	-	11,349
Other income	1,128	-	2,650	-	-	3,778
Other trading activities						
Lettings	16,495	-	3,180	-	-	19,675
Investment income	10,395	12,419	938	1,156	-	24,908
Total income	214,633	12,419	15,960	15,505	-	258,517
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
Stipends and salaries	149,789	-	-	3,000	-	152,789
District Assessments	54,360	-	-	-	-	54,360
Administration and travel	11,091	1,630	-	-	-	12,721
Insurance and utilities	14,661	-	9,319	-	-	23,980
Circuit property expenditure	19,717	-	23,950	-	-	43,667
Other expenditure	11,823	-	5,636	-	-	17,459
Grants payable	-	-	2,330	-	-	2,330
Contributions to District Advance Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bingley Foodbank	-	-	-	16,233	-	16,233
Independent examination	3,696	-	-	-	-	3,696
Total expenditure	265,137	1,630	41,235	19,233	-	327,235
Net income /(expenditure) before other recognised gains	(50,504)	10,789	(25,275)	(3,728)	-	(68,718)
Realised and unrealised gains on investments	-	-	(521)	-	(785)	(1,306)
Transfers between funds	(354,358)	335,014	20,500	(1,156)	-	-
Net movement in funds	(404,862)	345,803	(5,296)	(4,884)	(785)	(70,024)
Funds brought forward	1,813,854	63,159	171,600	23,594	40,779	2,112,986
Funds carried forward	1,408,992	408,962	166,304	18,710	39,994	2,042,962