

# EAST DURHAM CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1161445

## Details

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Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2015-04-27
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

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Address	Houghton-le-Spring Methodist Church Mautland Street Houghton-le-Spring DH4 4BH
Phone	01915846785
Email	<a href="mailto:edcoffice@btconnect.com">edcoffice@btconnect.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.eastdurhammethodists.co.uk">www.eastdurhammethodists.co.uk</a>

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE PURPOSES OF THE METHODIST CHURCH ARE AND SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE BEEN SINCE THE DATE OF UNION THE ADVANCEMENT OF -(A) THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DOCTRINAL STANDARDS AND THE DISCIPLINE OF THE METHODIST CHURCH;(B) ANY CHARITABLE PURPOSE FOR THE TIME BEING OF ANY CONNEXIONAL, DISTRICT, CIRCUIT, LOCAL OR OTHER ORGANISATION OF THE METHODIST CHURCH;(C) ANY CHARITABLE PURPOSE FOR THE TIME BEING OF ANY SOCIETY OR INSTITUTION 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.

**Activities:** Public worship, charity support, groups catering for children, young people, older people. Fundraising for charities at home and abroad.

## Classification

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- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Religious Activities, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- Durham
- Sunderland

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£149,200	£144,748	-	-
2024-08-31	£143,728	£120,252	-	-
2023-08-31	£125,417	£124,678	-	-
2022-08-31	£125,509	£124,355	-	-
2021-08-31	£144,090	£131,384	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ALISON MCLEOD		2017-09-01
ANN FORRESTER RIDING		2016-09-01
AUDREY WILLIAMS		2017-09-01
Aidan Tasker		2024-09-01
Celia Atkinson		2024-03-19
GRAEME PHILIP WALTON		2016-09-01
HEIDI URE		2016-09-01
HILARY BRERETON		2016-09-01
JEAN SHOTTON		2016-09-01
JOHN GILES		2017-09-01
JOHN THOMPSON BRERETON		2016-09-01
JUDITH MONAGHAN		2017-09-01
KATHLEEN ELIZABETH PEARSON		2016-09-01
Laura Hern		2024-09-20
MARGARET WAKEFIELD		2017-09-01
MARY MCBETH		2016-09-01
MAUREEN ANNE SIMPSON		2017-09-01
MRS JUDY TASKER		2016-09-01
PETER WALSHAM		2017-09-01
Patricia Mary Milburn		2018-09-10
ROGER AUSTIN GRANT		2017-09-01
Rev Jennifer Margaret Pryde		2023-09-01
SANDRA GATES		2016-09-01
SUSAN PRITCHARD		2016-09-01
VALERIE ATKINSON		2016-09-01
William Naylor		2024-09-20

**EAST DURHAM CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

England & Wales - Charity number 1161445

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# Accounts

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**EAST DURHAM METHODIST CIRCUIT**  
**Receipts & Payments Account 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2025**

RECEIPTS:-	£
Balance B/F	23475.55
Assessments	99121.36
Bank Loyalty Rewards	2.40
CFB	5000.00
EDF Energy-Credit Seaham	1190.10
Insurance Repayment	1058.93
From Seaham	2521.85
From Sunnyside	1724.18
Sponsor- Rev J Porter-Pryde	510.00
Magnet	96.00
TMCP	14500.00
	-----
	£149200.37
	=====

PAYMENTS:-	
Stipends	74371.81
Ministerial Expenses	5838.49
Bank Charges	138.42
Telephones	1906.26
District Assessment	37690.56
Manse Expenses	5915.90
Printing, Stationery	623.23
Sintons	34.80
Audit	664.00
Hymns A & M	96.00
Grace Wine	64.95
Concept-Copier & Office Expenses	730.73
Quinquennial	2820.00
Other	6262.92
Supernumeraries	704.64
Insurance-Seaham-Sunnyside-Springfield	5187.22
Chester-le-Street	1698.54
	-----
	£144748.47

BALANCE AT BANK 31 <sup>st</sup> AUGUST, 2025	4451.90
	-----
	£149200.37
	=====

Robert Miller & Co  
Chartered Accountants

**EAST DURHAM CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

England & Wales - Charity number 1161445

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# Accounts

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## **Circuit Annual Report 2023-24**

The East Durham Methodist Circuit consists of 7 Methodist Churches.

Our vision is to equip the members of the Circuit to engage in Mission and Growth, both in Faith and Discipleship.

East Durham Methodist Circuit affirms our commitment to:

- Building a more spiritually-aware circuit
- Work with children
- Being a caring church
- Developing outreach into the wider community
- To support one another in our unique ministries, in Methodism and Ecumenically by being grounded in prayer and relying on God's strength and support.

### **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 gather rental income from community lets in all of our properties.

#### **Expenditure**

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

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

#### **Future Plans**

Our financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that we maintain Circuit ministerial staff of one part time Superintendent and one full time Presbyterian. We are looking to sell two church buildings and to sell both manses replacing them with a single, more suitable and affordable manse. Both of these projects will significantly cut costs.

#### **Basis of Preparation and Legal Framework**

The charities annual report and accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> 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 – East Durham Methodist Circuit

Main Contact Address – Circuit Office, Houghton Le Spring Methodist Church, Mautland Street, Houghton le Spring, Co Durham

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

#### **Ministerial Staff**

Rev Jennifer Pryde

Rev Dawn Brown

### **Circuit Stewards**

Miss Mary McBeth  
Mr John Giles  
Mrs Margaret Wakefield  
Mrs Maureen Simpson

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

### **Independent Examiner**

Steven Fletcher, ACA  
Robert Miller & Co.  
43A Front Street  
Cleadon Village  
Sunderland, SR6 7PG,

### **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 Houghton le Spring. 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:

Houghton le Spring  
Hetton  
Trinity Shiney Row

The following groups exist as classes of these churches.

St John’s Fencehouses  
Murton Methodist Church  
East Rainton Methodist Church  
Middle Herrington Methodist Church

### **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. We also meet every few weeks to discuss church and circuit finances.

### **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 East Durham 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 East Durham Methodist Circuit 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. This includes Equality Diversity and Inclusion Training.

### **Activities and Achievements**

We have continued to provide regular services of Worship at the Churches within our Circuit, with Sunday morning services taking place in each of the churches listed above and a midweek service at Houghton le Spring.

Across these churches we run a range of Coffee mornings and social groups for the local communities. We also let rooms to a wide range of charity and advocacy groups which benefit the local community. These include Voice, AA, Sit and be Fit and Sunderland Recovery College. We run a range of classes and study groups to encourage our members in their faith and organise various social events for the community and the church such as nearly new and craft sales, afternoon teas etc.

### **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.

**EAST DURHAM METHODIST CIRCUIT**  
**Receipts & Payments Account 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2024**

RECEIPTS:-	£
Balance B/F	738.82
Assessments	108250.00
Bank Loyalty Rewards	15.02
TMCP	34000.00
EDF Energy	724.54

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**£143728.38**  
 =====

PAYMENTS:-	
Stipends	61258.68
Ministerial Expenses	5707.28
Bank Charges	177.30
Telephones	1967.46
District Assessment	34963.24
Manse Property Account	8067.72
Printing, Stationery & Expenses	939.52
Sintons	44.80
Bowes Gardner	840.00
Audit	564.00
Hymns A & M	96.00
Grace Wine	86.45
Concept-Copier	385.00
Quinquennial	1200.00
Other	236.31
Supernumeraries	1432.50
Inspectas	480.00
Chester-le-Street	1177.64
Insurance- Sunnside	628.93

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**£120252.83**

BALANCE AT BANK 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST, 2024 23475.55

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**£143728.38**  
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Robert Miller & Co.  
 Chartered Accountants

**EAST DURHAM METHODIST CIRCUIT**  
**Receipts & Payments Account for Manse Property Account**  
**to August 31st, 2024**

<b>INCOME:-</b>	£
Balance B/F	36.92
From Circuit Account	8067.72
Bank Loyalty Rewards	1.87
	-----
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>8106.51</b>
	=====
 <b>PAYMENTS:-</b>	
Insurance	1318.08
 Newbottle	
Repairs and Renewals	326.00
Water Rates	63.00
Council Tax	1522.00
Electric	440.00
	-----
	2351.00
 Seaham	
Water Rates	492.32
Council Tax	1821.00
	-----
	2313.32
	-----
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>5982.40</b>
 Bank Commission	 117.08
 <b>BALANCE AT BANK 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST, 2024</b>	 <b>2007.03</b>
	-----
	<b>8106.51</b>
	=====

Robert Miller & Co.  
Chartered Accountants

THE METHODIST CHURCH  
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

EAST DURHAM Circuit

FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 August 2024

NEWCASTLE	District	Circuit no	2019
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

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

(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:

REV J. PORTERPRIDE  
REV D. BROWN

Circuit Stewards:

MISS M. MCBETH  
MR J. GILES  
MRS M. WAKEFIELD  
MRS M. SIMPSON

Treasurer:

MR J. BRETON

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 August 2024

EAST DURHAM Circuit

SECTION A		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
a1 RECEIPTS	Note	£	£	£	£	£
a2	Assessment/Share	108250				114274
a3	Capital receipts	-				-
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	34015				8015
a5	Grants	-				-
a6	Other receipts	1463				8128
a7	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>143728</b>			(a8)	<b>125417</b>

SECTION B		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
b1 PAYMENTS	Note	£	£	£	£	£
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs	68144				80901
b3	Manse Costs	8067				8083
b4	Administration etc	4033				1501
b5	District Assessment	34963				26616
b6	Grants & donations	-				-
b7		3194				2564
b8	Other payments	1851				4064
b9	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>120252</b>			(b9)	<b>124679</b>

SECTION C		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
c1	<b>NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>23476</b>				<b>738</b>
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	739			(c6)	3475
c3	<b>Sub total</b>	<b>24215</b>				<b>4213</b>
c4	Transfers and adjustments	-			(c7)	-
c5	<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>24215</b>			(c8)	<b>4213</b>

SECTION D		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
<b>FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS</b>						
<b>(these amounts should not be included in total receipts/payments above)</b>						
d1	Balance brought forward from last year					
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations					
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations					
d4	<b>BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)</b>					

**SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATION REPORTING TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING**

**SECTION E** Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Circuit Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross receipts and payments totals of the Circuit. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold of £250,000, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the Circuit and connected Circuit Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1						
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds					(e11)	(e1)
e9 Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	(a8)	(b9)		(c7)	(c6)	(cE)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT					(x)	(y) NONE
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>				

**SECTION F**  
**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2024	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand	-	-
f2 Bank Current Account	739	23476
f3 Bank Deposit Account	-	-
f4 Central Finance Board	164	173
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	46846	25653
f6 Other funds	-	-
f7 SUB TOTAL	47749 (c6)	49302 (cE)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance totals above) (e12)	- (e11)	- (e1)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	47749 (x)	49302 (y)

**SECTION G**  
**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2023	At 31 August 2024
g1 Investments (include Endowments)		-
g2 Land and Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	121362	1,213,162
g3 Other Assets		
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5 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)

Name of Circuit EAST DUEHAM No. 3019

### 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 J. T. Brereton Date 12.12.2024

Name and address of treasurer J. T. BRERETON, 54 LONGACRE  
HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING Post Code DH4 5PZ

#### Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were/will be\* presented to the Circuit meeting held on 6/3/25

Signature of the Chair of the meeting J. P. Longacre

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev. J. P. Longacre Date 6/3/25

#### Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

EAST DUEHAM Circuit

Charity Number .....

#### Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the ..... Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages ... to .... 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 EAST DURHAM No 20/19

**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.

*Robert Miller & Co*

Signature of independent examiner .....

Name of independent examiner STEVEN FLETCHER .....

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ACA .....

Name of firm (where appropriate) ROBERT MILLER & CO .....

Address 43A FRONT STREET, CLEADON VILLAGE  
SUNDERLAND .....

Post Code SR6 7PG

Date 11.12.2024 .....

\* delete or circle as appropriate



**EAST DURHAM CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

England & Wales - Charity number 1161445

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# Accounts

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## **East Durham Methodist Circuit Annual Report 2022-23**

The East Durham Methodist circuit is made up of 9 Methodist Churches, grouped under 3 church councils in order to streamline our governance and support our smaller congregations.

During the year 2022-23 our Circuit churches continued working to build up our presence and outreach in the local communities. As a Methodist Circuit our key aims can be 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 a large number of letting arrangements with community groups working in our buildings. This helps maintain the income for the individual churches and provides a range of services for the local communities.

#### **Expenditure**

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

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

## **Plans for 2023-24**

Our financial plans for the coming year were prepared on the basis that we would be maintaining Circuit ministerial staff of one Superintendent, and one full time Presbyterian. We also have a part-time Circuit Administrator.

## **Basis of Preparation and Legal Framework**

The charities annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st August 2023 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 –East Durham Methodist Circuit

Main Contact Address – Rev Jenny Porterpryde, 9 Gressingham Close, Barley Meadows, Cramlington. NE236AD

The members of the East Durham 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.**

**Rev Alf Waite. ( Circuit Superintendent)**

**Rev Dawn Brown**

Mr John Brereton acted as the treasurer overseeing the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the circuit during the year.

### **Independent Examiner**

### **Investments and Bank Accounts**

## **Aims and Organisation**

Charity objective is to act as a resource provider within Houghton-le-Spring, Hetton-le-Hole, Seaham and the surrounding smaller towns and villages. 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.
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- 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.
- Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and 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 (past 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:

Houghton -le-Spring

Hetton -le-Hole

Trinity Shiney Row

East Rainton

Middle Herrington

St John’s Fencehouses

St Paul’s Murton

## **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 East Durham 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 East Durham 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**

Through the letting of our buildings, we facilitate a wide range of community services and projects. These include groups such as Recovery College, Sit and be Fit, Houghton Old People's Enterprise, Scouts, Voicability, and others. The churches themselves offer weekly worship. Study groups, a Table Talk' event in a local Weatherspoons, mid week services , charity coffee mornings, The Venue ( a parent and child group) Concerts, and Fairs.

### **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.

**EAST DURHAM METHODIST CIRCUIT**  
**Receipts & Payments Account 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2023**

RECEIPTS:-	£
Balance B/F	3474.64
Assessments	110799.08
Bank Loyalty Rewards	15.47
TMCP	8000.00
From Manse Account	1220.00
EDF Energy	1030.08
Repayment from BT	813.09
Other	65.00
	-----
	£125417.36
	=====
PAYMENTS:-	
Stipends & Allowances	77529.76
Ministerial & Office Expenses	3370.91
Bank Charges	181.55
Telephones	2854.58
District Assessment	26616.00
Manse Property Account	7549.54
Printing & Stationery	483.84
Sintons	538.00
Gradons	1200.00
Audit	564.00
Hymns A & E	143.00
Grace Wine	63.93
Concept-Copier	433.77
Quinquennial	1800.00
Other	211.28
Magnet	366.75
Supernumeraries	242.70
Office	528.93
	-----
	£124678.54
BALANCE AT BANK 31 <sup>st</sup> AUGUST, 2023	738.82
	-----
	£125417.36
	=====

Robt Miller & Co

Name of Circuit ..... EAST DURHAM ..... No 20/19 .....

**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.

*Robert Miller & Co.*

Signature of independent examiner .....

Name of independent examiner ..... STEVEN FLETCHER .....

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ..... A.C.A. .....

Name of firm (where appropriate) ..... ROBT MILLER & CO. .....

Address ..... 43A FRONT STREET, CLEADON VILLAGE .....

..... SUNDERLAND ..... Post Code SR6 7PG .....

Date ..... 7.12.2023 .....

\* delete or circle as appropriate

**EAST DURHAM CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

England & Wales - Charity number 1161445

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# Accounts

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# **East Durham Methodist Circuit Annual Report 2022.**

Registered Charity, number 1161445

Your current contact is an: individual Professional/Charity Advisor: No

**Title:** REV

**Personal Names:** Alfred

**Family Name:** Waite

**Telephone:** 01915846785

**Email:** [edcoffice@btconnect.com](mailto:edcoffice@btconnect.com)

**Your contact details are:** REV ALF WAITE

Houghton Le Spring Methodist Church, Mautland Street. HOUGHTON LE SPRING

Tyne & Wear United Kingdom DH4 4BH

**Financial statements** The Trustees submit their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st August 2022. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) in preparing the annual report "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in 2005 and in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the Charity.

**Preamble:** The Methodist Church is said to have been created after John Wesley's conversion on 24th May 1738, it is a Free Church. The East Durham Circuit came into being on 1st September 2009 at the merger of the former Seaham, Hetton and Houghton Circuits.

**The calling of The Methodist Church is:**

**Worship,** to Increase awareness of God's Presence and celebrate God's love.

**Learning and caring,** to help people to grow and learn as Christians.

**Service,** to be a good neighbour to people in need and challenge injustice.

**Evangelism,** we make more followers of Jesus Christ.

**Structure, Governance and Management**

The Charity's treasurers of the Circuit Fund are the lay Circuit Stewards, of the Managing Trustees listed above all are lay people excepting the 3 Ministerial staff all of whom are employed by The Methodist Church. Circuit Meetings are held 4 times a year and include representatives of all

the Societies [Local Churches] in the Circuit. The Superintendent Minister (who supervises the work of the other Ministers in the Circuit) reports to this meeting as do the Circuit Stewards.

The governing body of the Circuit is the annual conference of The Methodist Church. The Methodist Church Act 1976 gives the authority under which The Methodist Church Acts. The constitution practice and discipline of The Methodist Church together with The Deed of Union (Act of 1929 adopted 1932) govern the activities of the Circuit.

In general, The Methodist Church is excepted from the need to register as a charity by the combined effects of Section 46(4) (A) of The Charities Act 1993 and Paragraph 4(2) (C) of the Charities (exception from registration) Regulations 1996 as amended by Statutory Instrument 2014 No 242. The Circuit, however, is a separate Registered Charity, number 1161445, in England and Wales. The Trustees who have served during the year and since the year-end are set out on page 1. The treasurers (Circuit Stewards) are appointed annually by the Circuit Meeting and the Managing Trustees are appointed either by (a) the Societies of which they are members (b) the Preachers' Meeting (c) by being ex-officio {Ministers in good standing or holding a District Office or duly appointed Lay Workers}. In practice, up to five Circuit Stewards are appointed who serve, generally, for a minimum of 3 years and a maximum of 6.

**The principal address of the Circuit's auditors.**

Robert Miller & Co Chartered Accountant

43a Front Street, Cleadon Village, Sunderland SR7 7PG

**The principal address of the Circuit's Bankers.**

Barclays Bank

**The principal address of the Circuit's Solicitor.**

Sintons LLP Associate

The Cube, Barrack Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 6DB

The Treasurer is responsible for the detailed examination of the Financial Statements and for recommending their adoption by the Circuit Meeting, they do this in consultation with the Circuit Treasurers Meeting.

The Circuit is one of 12 in the Newcastle District and has 5 Local Churches [10 premises]. They are contactable via the principal address of the Circuit. Funds are transferred to the Circuit on a monthly basis to meet the commitments to the District and the upkeep of the Circuit.

**Statement of Trustees' responsibilities** Charity Law requires the Trustees 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 its financial

activities for that period together with its assets and liabilities at the end of the period, and adequately distinguish any material special trust or other restricted fund of the Charity. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.

Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

State whether the policies adopted are in accordance with the appropriate SORP on Accounting and Reporting by Charities and the Accounting regulations and with applicable Accounting Standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements and prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

Objectives and activities The Circuit is constituted to advance the effective deployment of the resources of ministry, which include people, property, and finance, as they relate to the Methodist Churches in the Circuit, the District and Connexion. The Constitution and Enumeration of Circuits is set out year by year in the Stations appointed by the Conference. The public benefit can be clearly demonstrated by the Trustees as they have fulfilled the calling of the Methodist Church in maintaining the witness of the church throughout the area which the Circuit serves in parts of Sunderland and County Durham.

## **Report of the Circuit Stewards and Managing Trustees for the year ended 31st August 2022.**

Constitution In accordance with S.O. 510 the Constitution of the meeting is:-

Superintendent Minister	...	Rev. A. Waite
Circuit Staff	... ..	Rev. D. Brown, Rev. S. Wigham
Circuit Stewards	... ..	Mrs. J. Shotton, Mr. I. Murray, Miss M. McBeth, Mrs. A. Farrow
Circuit Treasurer	... ..	Mr. J. T. Brereton
Meeting Secretary	... ..	Mr R Grant
Local Preachers' Secretary	... ..	Mr. P. Walsham
Circuit Administrator	... ..	Mrs. H. Brereton
Four Local Preachers	... ..	Mrs. S. Gates, Mrs. M. Simpson, Ms. L. Dowell, Vacancy.
Property Secretary	... ..	Mrs. A. Riding
MWiB Representative	... ..	Mrs. J. Tasker
Education & Youth Secretary	... ..	Mr. G. Walton
Houghton	... Treasurer	Miss H. Ure
	Steward	Mrs. S Pritchard
	Reps.	Mrs. J. Monaghan, Mrs. A. McLeod,
Trinity	... Treasurer	Mrs. P. Milburn
	Steward	Mr. J. Giles
	Reps.	Mr. B. Walton, Mrs. S. Walton

Middle Herrington	Treasurer	Mr C. Orr
	Steward	Dr. M. Farrow
Seaham ...	Treasurer	Mrs. D. Carr
	Steward	Miss M. McBeth
	Reps.	Mr. R. Hurst, Mr. W. Cole
St. Paul's ...	Treasurer	Mrs. A. Boyes
	Steward	Mr. E. Lee
Hetton ...	Treasurer	Miss K. Pearson
	Steward	Mrs. A. Williams
	Reps.	Miss V. Atkinson, Mrs. J. Clough
Sunniside ...	Treasurer	Mr. R. Hartburn
	Steward	Mr. K. Dowell
	Reps.	Mr. W. Hartburn, Mr. K. Shotton
St. John's	Treasurer	Mrs. B. Pigford
	Steward	Mrs. K. Dobson
	Reps.	Mrs. M. Wakefield, Mrs. A. Harding

### **The Circuit.**

During the year the Circuit has found some normality with Sunday Worship continuing in every church. There has however been some disruption through outbreaks of Covid. The streaming of our worship from the Trinity also continues weekly and although numbers watching are lower it is well received and some viewers join us from South Africa. We have a valuable resource in our team of Local Preachers.

We have begun a Healing Service which is well received and has been beneficial to those who attend.

We have had four Circuit Meetings, but the important thing is that it is a resource to the churches not a drain. Being a small circuit it seems easy to support each other.

### **Hetton Charity Commisioners Report 2022**

Sunday worship – Our numbers average 35-40 each Sunday morning but we no longer have an evening service. During Covid and lockdowns the church has been closed but we have had online services for our members or printed services for those who don't have access to the internet. Church opened for worship on December 6<sup>th</sup> with 15 present.

The following activities occurred before lockdown and as yet none have resumed.

SitnbFit – This group continues to meet on a Monday afternoon and continues to have new members. It is greatly enjoyed by everyone both for the exercise and the socialising afterwards. Not all are church goers so is a great mission opportunity.

Tuesday toddler group – This is still a popular group and has reached maximum numbers

Tuesday friendship group – This group has decided to disband their regular Tuesday meetings but meet for Lent course.

Wednesday chat 10am-noon – This is a new initiative aimed at the lonely and their carers. It started in May last year and although there is a good group of volunteers it was slow to get off the ground. Those who do come along are regular visitors (6) and appreciate the group. We play board games, card games, do jigsaws, read or just chat. This is still a very popular group with the same group of people attending.

7.30 Group – This group meets fortnightly on a Friday with an average attendance of 15. We have a variety of speakers and demonstrations and from time to time have an open evening when we think the men will be interested in the talk.

Coffee morning – This still remains a popular Saturday morning event. Proceeds go to church funds or charities.

Our premises are used on a Wednesday evening by a parent drama group and on a Thursday evening by CASA a children's drama group. Both groups give performances for their families and our church members.

## **St Paul's Methodist Church – A class of Hetton Charity Report. 2022.**

This little chapel has been very busy since the covid restrictions were lifted.

Our small worshipping community has not been limited by their size, as they have made their premises a community focused centre in the little village.

With regular Sunday worship attendance being more than 50 % of membership (15 members and 9 Friends). Many of those not in worship on Sunday are as a result their poor health. This close-knit community cares and supports each other.

The Traditional Monday evening meeting has changed to a fortnight Monday afternoon gathering, as many of our Ladies find daytime meetings more accessible.

Friday morning, we spend together in a Coffee morning with our second-hand shop open for the community to pop over and pick up some real gems.

Saturday midday, our hall is transformed into a hive of activities as our children's group the Venue meeting for just on 2 hours. Children enjoying playing together while parents and guardian chat over a cuppa.

We have hosted a Pantomime, which was well support by many.

We had our annual Church Christmas Fayre which raised funds for our church.

During the week our building is used 3 days a week for Zumba classes, twice a week for Football training during the winter months once a week for a dancing lessons and Murton Scouts use the premises every Friday evening.

As a church we enjoy the fellowship with the Murton Churches Together. We meet fortnightly on a Thursday for prayer, business, and Bible study. We share in Holy week services, a Lent program, Church unity week. There is also our Pentecost Praise, Summer Praise, Harvest, Carols and Remembrance Services within the community. We have been given the opportunity on Good Friday as well as a Saturday in December to have a sing-along witness at the Community Shopping Centre, Dalton Park, which is well received by those walking past while doing their shopping.

## **Houghton-le-Spring Methodist Church.**

### Reports for Church AGM 24th April 2022

#### MONDAY CLUB 2021- 2022

Due to various waves of the Covid virus our group has had very few gatherings over the last twelve months. However, on 2nd December 2021 eight went to Donnison School, Sunderland and enjoyed Christmas Afternoon Tea. We shared news and enjoyed each others' company. Just before Christmas 2021 we were sad to learn of the death of Mrs Betty Lawson. Until her illness she had been a regular member of the group. Our annual Pancake Lunch on Shrove Tuesday 2022 was cancelled because of the virus, but several of us took the opportunity to make purchases from the Fair Trade stall which Anne Farrow brought as she spoke at the Shoppers' Service that day. Money raised from the sale of pancakes has usually been given to our Methodist charity, All We Can. It was decided to donate the money from the Thursday coffee mornings for February and March instead. All We Can have donated to the appeal for Ukraine. We have kept in touch with one another through our pastoral system, with phone calls and seeing one another at church and coffee mornings, when the virus has allowed! Will we meet up more frequently from now on? Judy Tasker.

#### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP 2021- 2022

On Wednesday 28th July 2021 eight members answered the call to gather to discuss the future of Women's Fellowship here at Houghton. It was decided to meet weekly, from 1.30pm - 2.30pm. Speakers would be interspersed with 'Open Days'. The group was most anxious that we would begin as soon as possible. Rev Alf Waite was very encouraging and gave dates when he would be able to come to speak to the meeting. A

programme was planned from August - December 2021. We were joined by two friends from Middle Herrington at our Christmas Carols and Readings afternoon in December. In September we were very sad to learn that Mrs Iris Richardson had died, peacefully at home after a long illness. She had been visited regularly and always enquired after friends at church. She is greatly missed. We also miss other friends who cease to meet due to ill health. We were very glad to welcome a new member. In September and October we congratulated Mrs Irene Dolby and Mrs Betty Prudhoe on significant birthdays! After a break during the cold months of January and February we met again on 2nd March 2022. We have a full programme planned until the end of June 2022 with a variety of speakers. On 18th May we will celebrate our anniversary. On 15th June, District MWiB President Designate, Mrs Lynne Graham, is bringing friends to our meeting. It will be an opportunity to get to know her. Once each month we donate our offering to MWiB. Please join us anytime. You will not be disappointed! Judy Tasker.

### MWiB

There was no Easter Offering service held in 2021, but envelopes raised £266.00 in our church. The circuit total was £520.00 for the World Mission Fund. This year the Easter Offering service is on Sunday 8th May at 6pm in our church here at Houghton. A circuit coffee morning held at Hetton in November 2021 raised £247.90 for the President's Project. President Rev Marie Beard came to the event. The connexional event at Swanwick, Derbyshire was on Zoom in 2021. This year 2 women from our circuit are attending this weekend (22nd - 24th April 2022). In April five women from Houghton and one from Hetton attended the District MWiB retreat at Minsteracres when Rev Marie Beard led 'Journey to the Cross.' Houghton Women's Fellowship have given £37.00 to MWiB since August 2021. Circuit Summer Sharing Day is planned for Monday 4th July 2022 at East Rainton, 12 noon - 3pm. Judy Tasker.

### JMA 2021

This year has been a very difficult time for us all but I have pleasure to say we have had an outstanding year for JMA. Our collectors, Rosie, Christopher, Luke, Olivia, Esmie and Jack have in total collected £317 plus £79.25 gift aid. This amount goes towards projects all over the world including the UK in helping young people who are less fortunate than ourselves. During lockdown it was very difficult to see the young people in person so just had to communicate through emails.

Shirley McDermott JMA Secretary

### TUESDAY SHOPPERS SERVICE

The weekly Tuesday morning service is still a very much appreciated event in our church. The worshippers who come along to hear what our speakers have to say go home uplifted by the message given. All the services are different as each speaker chooses his or her own topic, but each one brings a fresh approach to this simple informal service. Thank you to all of our loyal and dedicated speakers who have remained a constant support over the years and to our Tuesday stewards who help to make the 20 minute service run smoothly. Although our numbers have diminished slightly over the last 12 months, those who attend are still extremely grateful for this short period of calm and reflection in what can usually be a very busy time of the week. Why don't you come along and join us, you will find it very worthwhile.

Dorothy E. Stewart

#### MONDAY CRAFT WORKSHOP

The group has reluctantly not resumed meetings after lockdown restrictions were eased as we have been unable to gather together enough participants or helpers to make meeting viable. We are continuing to make greetings cards at home and are keeping in touch with the group of crafters.

Brenda Johnston and June Storey.

#### JUNIOR CHURCH

We have approximately 11 children attending on a regular basis. We have 4 leaders working on a rota basis. We now have just one group which seems to be working well. We particularly welcome the new family who have recently moved into the area and are regular attenders.

We would welcome any additional leaders to help either on a regular or on an ad-hoc basis. If this is something you would like to know more about or would like to offer help, please speak to Heidi. Heidi Ure.

#### CHURCH CHARITY

We have been supporting the MS charity since before covid restrictions and have raised £1169. At the last Church Council meeting it was agreed to start supporting a new charity, KAYAK, from September. Thank you to all for your continuing support.

Ashleigh Pritchard.

#### KEEP FIT

A keep fit session takes place every Wednesday and there are regularly 11 people attending. New members are always welcome. Betty Prudhoe.

**East Rainton Fellowship** Continues to flourish, Sunday Services are small but the interaction with the community has grown in the year. The

building has not been a drain on resources this year. It has been a bonus being connected with Houghton Church which releases us to mission.

**Middle Herrington Methodist Church** continues to meet for services on a Sunday and attempts have been made to invite more people to attend. Our membership has reduced through deaths which has been a blow.

The management group has met to plan the regular programme. During the winter storms there was damage to the roof which was prepared.

#### **Use of Premises**

Monday - Prayer Shawl Knitting Group (fortnightly)

- Crochet and knitting class (weekly)

- Alcoholics Anonymous (weekly)

Wednesday - Coffee mornings.

Thursday - WI Committee (monthly).

Friday - Alcoholics Anonymous (weekly)

### **Sunniside Charity Report 2022.**

Church membership now stands at 13. We have had deaths but have made 2 new members. Community Roll now stands at 3.

All services are now morning services, with the exception of special services e.g. Church Anniversary. Attendance continues to average 10 each Sunday. To assist with the Preaching Plan making, it has been decided to join the congregation at Middle Herrington on one Sunday in the month. This is an acceptable arrangement.

Ladies Fellowship started meeting in September and has a membership of 6. It meets fortnightly on a Tuesday afternoon with guest speakers from the Circuit. The funds raised by the Ladies Fellowship are donated to local, national charities and significantly to Church Funds. Occasionally as part of their programme they meet at a local restaurant for a meal together.

Men's Fellowship membership has now reduced to 5, a reduction of 1 from the previous year. Meeting on a Tuesday afternoon, speakers now come from the circuit and some weeks there is discussion led by the members. Funds raised by the group are mainly donated to church funds. They too meet for a meal a couple of times.

The Church remains available for weddings, Funerals and Baptisms. It is also hired by the Local Authority as a polling Station for local and Parliamentary elections.

A Boxing Club has hired the church hall with the approval of the Church Council. Children of school age (boys and girls) are trained by professional coaches, with the appropriate Safeguarding Policy in place.

### **Seaham Methodist Church Charity Report 2022**

Seaham Methodist Church has a membership of 24, attendance at Sunday Worship is on average 10-13 people. Worship is at 3pm each Sunday the time of the service suits the age of our members who ages range from 68-95. After worship members enjoy tea, cake and fellowship together.

Afternoon teas once a month are well supported by members and friends.

A youth group meets weekly led by one of the members attendance is around 10 young people.

Many of our week day activities and meetings did not recommence after the church was closed due to the pandemic.

The church building is used weekly by a slimming world group.

### **St John's Fence Houses.**

St. John's has had its usual programme of weekday activities, Toddler Group, Cake and Company and Coffee Mornings. These have been well supported though they take a lot of energy from the small band of helpers. Sunday services have been small in numbers but there is a real sense of the presence of God and a desire to be disciplined. The Church has a mission role with its village and will spend this coming year to find that role.

### **Trinity.**

Worship has continued physically through the year. We have also offer a Youtube service on the internet which has been uploaded at lunchtime. The preaching programme has been very much as it was before Covid. Early in September we did an outreach event advertising the fact that we are present in the village. The afternoon involved refreshments, a Folk Band, a magician, some stalls selling crafts and food and craft activities for the children. There was also an Ice Cream Seller where Children could get a free ice-cream. We also gave Gift Bags away. It was well attended by local people. We planned a follow up at Christmas with a visit of 'Puffing Billy' a travelling Santa Train. However, the poor weather made that not possible.

The premises are still well used by outside groups which has helped our income stream. These increase the footfall into the building, especially of non-attenders at worship. One of the goals we set when we refurbished the building was to make the building more accessible to the community this is being met.

## EAST DURHAM METHODIST CIRCUIT

### Receipts & Payments Account 1st September 2021 to 31st August 2022

#### RECEIPTS: -

Balance B/F	
6436.18	
Assessments	
110859.94	
Bank Loyalty Rewards	
19.19	
TMCP	5000.00
Prayer Manuals	
110.85	
EDF Energy	
696.58	
From Manse Account	
2266.41	
Other	
119.50	
-----	
	£125508.65

=====

#### PAYMENTS:-

Stipends and Allowances	
80343.95	
Ministerial & Office Expenses	2967.54
Bank Charges	211.40
Telephones	
1646.69	
District Assessment	
25379.40	
Manse Property Account	
9413.96	
Printing & Stationery	
669.32	
Sintons	936.00
Prayer Manuals	164.95
Audit	522.00
Roots	
337.75	

Concept-Copier	209.39
Quinquennial	
720.00	
Magnet	143.00
Supernumeries	496.65
Other	
153.00	

-----  
-  
£  
124355.00

BALANCE AT BANK 31st AUGUST, 2022 1153.65

=====

£125508.65  
Robert Miller & Co.  
Chartered Accountants

Rev Alf Waite  
December 2022

**EAST DURHAM CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

England & Wales - Charity number 1161445

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# Accounts

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# **East Durham Methodist Circuit Annual Report 2020.**

Registered Charity, number 1161445

Your current contact is an: individual Professional/Charity Advisor: No

**Title:** REV

**Personal Names:** Alfred

**Family Name:** Waite

**Telephone:** 01915846785

**Email:** [edcoffice@btconnect.com](mailto:edcoffice@btconnect.com)

**Your contact details are:** REV ALF WAITE

Houghton Le Spring Methodist Church, Mautland Street. HOUGHTON LE SPRING

Tyne & Wear United Kingdom DH4 4BH

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Robert Miller & Co Chartered Accountant

43a Front Street, Cleadon Village, Sunderland SR7 7PG

**The principal address of the Circuit's Bankers.**

Barclays Bank

**The principal address of the Circuit's Solicitor.**

Sintons LLP Associate

The Cube, Barrack Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 6DB

The Treasurer is responsible for the detailed examination of the Financial Statements and for recommending their adoption by the Circuit Meeting, they do this in consultation with the Circuit Treasurers Meeting.

The Circuit is one of 12 in the Newcastle District and has 8 Local Churches [10 premises]. They are contactable via the principal address of the Circuit. Funds are transferred to the Circuit on a quarterly basis to meet the commitments to the District and the upkeep of the Circuit.

**Statement of Trustees' responsibilities** Charity Law requires the Trustees 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 its financial

activities for that period together with its assets and liabilities at the end of the period, and adequately distinguish any material special trust or other restricted fund of the Charity. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.

Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

State whether the policies adopted are in accordance with the appropriate SORP on Accounting and Reporting by Charities and the Accounting regulations and with applicable Accounting Standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements and prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

Objectives and activities The Circuit is constituted to advance the effective deployment of the resources of ministry, which include people, property, and finance, as they relate to the Methodist Churches in the Circuit, the District and Connexion. The Constitution and Enumeration of Circuits is set out year by year in the Stations appointed by the Conference. The public benefit can be clearly demonstrated by the Trustees as they have fulfilled the calling of the Methodist Church in maintaining the witness of the church throughout the area which the Circuit serves in parts of Sunderland and County Durham.

## **Report of the Circuit Stewards and Managing Trustees for the year ended 31st August, 2020.**

Constitution In accordance with S.O. 510 the Constitution of the meeting is:-

Superintendent Minister	...	Rev. A. Waite
Circuit Staff	... ..	Rev. S. Hill, Rev. S. Wigham
Circuit Stewards	... ..	Mrs. J. Shotton, Miss M. McBeth,
Circuit Treasurer	... ..	Mr. J. T. Brereton
Meeting Secretary	... ..	Mr R Grant
Local Preachers' Secretary	... ..	Mr. P. Walsham
Circuit Administrator	... ..	Mrs. H. Brereton
Four Local Preachers	... ..	Mrs. S. Gates, Mrs. M. Simpson, Ms. L. Dowell. Vacancy
Property Secretary	... ..	Mrs. A. Riding
MWiB Representative	... ..	Mrs. J. Tasker
Education & Youth Secretary	... ..	Mr. G. Walton
Houghton	... Treasurer	Miss H. Ure
	Steward	Mrs. S. Pritchard
	Reps.	Mrs. J. Monaghan, Mrs. A. McLeod, S. Pritchard (Safeguarding)
Trinity	... ..	Treasurer Mrs. P. Milburn
	Steward	Mr. J. Giles

		Reps.	Mr. B. Walton, Mrs. S. Walton
Middle Herrington		Reps.	Mr C. Orr
Seaham	...	Treasurer	Mrs. D. Carr
		Steward	Miss M. McBeth
		Reps.	Mr. R. Hurst, Mr. W. Cole
St. Paul's	...	Treasurer	Mrs. A. Boyes
		Steward	Mr. E. Lee
		Rep.	Vacancy
Hetton	...	... Treasurer	Miss K. Pearson
		Steward	Mrs. A. Williams
		Reps.	Miss V. Atkinson, Mrs. J. Clough
Sunniside	...	Treasurer	Mr. R. Hartburn
		Steward	Mr. K. Dowell
		Reps.	Mr. W. Hartburn, Mr. K. Shotton
St. John's		Treasurer	Mrs. B. Pigford
		Steward	Mrs. K. Dobson
		Reps.	Mrs. M. Wakefield, Mrs. A. Harding

### **The Circuit.**

The year started off well with Circuit Growth Plan developing well. The Cell Project was being joined by new people to existing groups and a couple of new groups starting. Plan were being developed to employ a Family Worker and funding set aside from our General account that is formed from the assessments levied on the churches, Circuit Advance Fund and a Grant from the District. As that was all coming together the pandemic hit so it was thought best to hold back until we know what the position is in the Circuit coming out of lockdown.

We are called to love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ and to share that love as we serve others." We continue where we can, to encourage each church in their individual endeavours to conform to the Connexional statements in 'Our Calling' mentioned earlier in this report. At the end of our church year, we are very thankful to the generosity of the members of the churches to meet their financial commitment to the Circuit.

In July we said goodbye to the Rev Steven Hill who retired from Circuit Ministry. Unfortunately, we were not able to say an official farewell but gifts were given from the collection made from our churches. Extensive work was then done to the Seaham Manse in preparation to us welcoming our new minister and her family from South Africa in August.

## **Hetton Charity Commissioners Report 2020**

**Sunday worship** – Our numbers average 35-40 each Sunday morning but we no longer have an evening service. During Covid and lockdowns the church has

been closed but we have had online services for our members or printed services for those who don't have access to the internet. Church opened for worship on December 6<sup>th</sup> with 15 present.

The following activities occurred before lockdown and as yet none have resumed.

**SitnbFit** – This group continues to meet on a Monday afternoon and continues to have new members. It is greatly enjoyed by everyone both for the exercise and the socialising afterwards. Not all are church goers so is a great mission opportunity.

**Tuesday toddler group** – This is still a popular group and has reached maximum numbers

**Tuesday friendship group** – This group has decided to disband their regular Tuesday meetings but meet for Lent course.

**Wednesday chat 10am-noon** – This is a new initiative aimed at the lonely and their carers. It started in May last year and although there is a good group of volunteers it was slow to get off the ground. Those who do come along are regular visitors (6) and appreciate the group. We play board games, card games, do jigsaws, read or just chat. This is still a very popular group with the same group of people attending.

**7.30 Group** – This group meets fortnightly on a Friday with an average attendance of 15. We have a variety of speakers and demonstrations and from time to time have an open evening when we think the men will be interested in the talk.

**Coffee morning** – This still remains a popular Saturday morning event. It draws people from across the community. Proceeds go to church funds or charities

**Lettings** - Our premises are used on a Wednesday evening by a parent drama group and on a Thursday evening by CASA a children's drama group. Both groups give performances for their families and our church members.

We often hold at least one annual concert in the church. Our last concert was performed by Durham County Youth Choir and Prince Bishops Brass Ensemble.

Since like all churches we need money for upkeep we hold regular fund-raising events – these could include afternoon teas, a beetle drive, Christmas fairs,

demonstrations, sales of goods from outside agencies and many other events. We had an auction of talents just before lockdown.

We also have a working men's team who do a lot of DIY in the building.

It goes without saying that all of this has gone on before lockdown but during lockdown our pastoral visitors have kept in regular touch with our members.

## **Houghton-Le-Spring**

Steward's Report: There is a need for new stewards to serving our Church, having reduced to 3 on the team. We are exploring Vestry Stewards to help plug the gap. The stewards are responsible for Sunday morning worship and all weekday services where a steward's presence is beneficial. Several stewards are involved in fund-raising events, and also help with the preparation and serving of food at social events. It is thanks to the support of others that these events continue to run successfully. It is the stewards' responsibility to ensure that the church is ready for worship and to liaise with the preacher, before and during their visit. They arrange readers, when requested, and contact the organist with hymn choices. In order to try and help things go as smoothly as possible within the life of the church, we meet with our minister, Rev. Alf, to plan any special events or deal with any problems or queries that arise. This year was the 40<sup>th</sup> year of Houghton Methodist Church, with coming together of two separate congregation. Due to Covid 19 it was decided to abandon plans, postponing them for 2021. Worship stopped in March and opened again in June under government guidelines.

Tuesday morning services are still a very much appreciated. All those who come along to hear what our speakers have to say, go home uplifted by the message given. Each speaker brings a fresh approach to this simple informal service. The numbers have remained constant, an average of 30 people come to worship.

Monday Crafts Workshop is very friendly group. Crafts include cardmaking, knitting, crochet, tapestry, beadwork, patchwork - to name but a few! We feel the fellowship and talk-time are very important to the ladies who join us.

Women's Fellowship continued to meet weekly until March, on Wednesday afternoons, usually in our church Meeting Room, where we welcome speakers who come to us with a variety of both secular and religious topics, always as part of an act of worship. Each week we begin with a cup of tea around 1.30pm when we can share our news and concerns in fellowship with one another and close about 2.50pm. At the end of our year we give a donation from our offerings to the church. From our carol

service and AGM meetings we give our offerings to the church charities. Otherwise from the last meeting of each month we give our offerings to Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB), for which some members continue to save five pence coins.

The Monday Club is an extremely flexible group which tries to incorporate those who are still in employment or retired, whatever age!! So we try to have a very varied programme. There are usually 10 to 15 who meet together. Needless to say, because the programme is so varied, we do not always meet in the Church building. Part of the ethos is to include others, thus we do help various charities as well Pancake Tuesday which is not only fun but raises funds for "All We Can". We also help with serving refreshments when required. I believe I can truthfully say we work well together, enjoy a laugh, and enjoy fellowship.

In the Junior Church Report there is approximately 10 children attending on a regular basis. We have 5 leaders working on a rota basis. This would be particularly helpful to integrate the older crèche children into our Junior Church groups.

The "New Beginnings Parent and Toddler Group" was started in 2001 as a result of the "Lift-Off 200" Stewardship campaign. We continue to meet on Friday afternoons 1.30-3pm during school term time. Currently there are 11 children on our register. In December we held our annual Christmas party, where the children enjoyed a party tea and received a card and gift each. We continue to be supported by a good group of parents/grandparents who recommend our group to others.

East Rainton Fellowship is now fully integrated Class of Houghton Methodist Church, the partnership is going well. The management group has met twice in the year to plan events and strategy for our mission, this reports to the Church Council at Houghton. We have had further building issues but continue to overcome them. It was decided that while we are restricted by Covid 19 rules we would meet fortnightly when allowed to be open we would meet as our Cell Group and follow Cell material set by the Circuit. Our numbers remain small. We also have begun to make the building available for outside lettings. We hope to have community groups but also look to offer the church as a Day Retreat Venue as it is set in a lovely village. That work has been halted for the moment as there has appeared the need to replace the floor which has begun to warp due to dampness.

## **Middle Herrington Methodist Church**

**Annual Report for Charity Commissioners September 2019 - August 2020.**

## **Use of Premises**

In addition to the main Sunday service of worship, the premises were well used by a variety of church and community groups as follows:

Monday - Prayer Shawl Knitting Group (fortnightly)

- Crochet and knitting class (weekly)
- Alcoholics Anonymous (weekly)

Tuesday - Toddlers, Sugarcraft, (weekly)

Wednesday - Needlecraft and coffee mornings.

Thursday - WI Committee (monthly). Herrington Heritage (quarterly)

Friday - Alcoholics Anonymous (weekly)

With the refurbished school room we had hoped to build on the community use of the building but that was halted by Covid 19. We know that the groups that do use the premises are keen to return. With the loss of community lettings, we have lost 75% of income but the generous donations from the small congregation have enabled us to continue. We were the first chapel to open for worship on a Sunday.

Membership has reduced to 7 members with the transfer out of 2 members and losses through death. In the light of that, we now operate under the Church Council of Houghton Methodist Church and order our church life with a management team.

## **Charity Donations**

As well as donations to Methodist funds, monthly coffee mornings raised money for Action for Children, Christian Aid, and St Benedict's Hospice.

The Church supports the work of the **Fairtrade Foundation** and

**Traidcraft** and is a collection point for **County Durham Foodbank**.

More information can be found at:

[www.middleherringtonmethodistchurch.org](http://www.middleherringtonmethodistchurch.org)

## **Sunniside**

Church membership continues at 13 during this year, the age range continues to be between 63 to 86. The Community Roll remains at 7. Services of worship was held each week until Covid 19 hit and we had to close under lockdown rules. The Church Council met and agreed to open for worship again then decided to meet just for special services for Church Anniversary, Carol Service, Ladies Fellowship Anniversary. The Ladies Fellowship continued to meet on a Tuesday afternoon from early September till mid-February with guest speakers from within the circuit and beyond. The funds raised by the Ladies Fellowship are donated to Church Funds. Men's Fellowship membership now stands at 8, Speakers came from the circuit and beyond. Funds raised by the group are mainly donated to church funds. Men's Fellowship as all the other groups closed with the pandemic but looks forward to starting again when something like normality returns. The Lunch Club is held on church premises each Tuesday, on behalf of "Age UK". It has an average attendance of 11. It was decided not to open the Lunch Club due to the age and health of the

volunteers. Sadly we have recorded some deaths of our patrons over this year. The premises are also used as a polling Station for Local and Parliamentary Elections.

## **Seaham Methodist Church**

**Church Membership** reduced to 26 with the death of 2 and transfer out of 2 members, The age range is 50 to 90.

**The Community Roll** has grown with new contacts from the growth of the weekday groups. Worship services take place each Sunday afternoon with an average attendance of 12 followed by tea which all members remain for. This obviously ceased with onset of the pandemic and inevitable lockdowns.

**Sit and keep fit:** New members have joined the group, The group meets each Monday Morning for gentle exercising whilst sitting, led by an instructor and is suitable for all ages and abilities to help improve mobility and mental well-being. It is hoped that this group will start up again in 2021.

**Toddlers:** The group meets each Tuesday morning during school term time. Membership now stands at 20 with a waiting list.

**Rock Solid:** This is held each Wednesday evening. The youth group for 7-11yr olds has a membership of 12, and two regular enthusiastic adult volunteers supported by occasional helpers

**Coffee Mornings:** Held each second Saturday of the month featuring a Bake Sale with food goods donated by the congregation. The morning continues to be well attended by the public and generates a regular income for Church funds.

**Occasional Activities:** Agape, Church Anniversary Social afternoon and Christmas Tea, draw together the Church community. The Carol Service and the very popular "Carols into Christmas" held on Christmas Eve generate our largest attendances as do Funerals, Weddings and Baptisms.

The Church is also used weekly on Thursdays and Fridays by Slimming World.

## **St John's Fence Houses.**

Sunday Worship has continued to meet on the afternoon, because of age range of the congregation. We have lost some more members through deaths. The busy weekday programme was continuing until Covid 19 brought about lockdown. The Wednesday night's Children's Club, Toddlers group, the Circuit Fusion Group, monthly Coffee Mornings, lunches as part of the Commemoration of church life, Harvest, Christmas, and Anniversaries, Cake & Company.

## **St Paul's Murton.**

The move to afternoon services continues to have a positive effect on the life of the church. The Hall Shop and Coffee Morning on a Friday continued providing a service to the community. Offering clothes and Bric-a-brac to the general public all at a very reasonable price and fellowship. 'The Venue' which is a play scheme for Parents and Children, has grown again through the year with good numbers attending each week. The families have helped to run the event and show a concern for the church. We have a faithful group of families. The 7.30 Club has had a variety of speakers at its meetings, At Christmas and Harvest special services were held in the church. Many of the ladies who come are not members of the church. During this year we have started a Cell Group in line with Circuit policy. The successful film afternoons with a tea have given another opportunity to fellowship. Social events have also been held to celebrate national Apple Day. St Paul's is a valued member of Murton Churches Together through that a part of the Food Bank. Sadly all the above work came to a halt with onset of the pandemic. Worship did manage to reopen but it was not thought safe to resume our outreach to the community.

## **Trinity.**

With the introduction of technology, a more relevant worship service has been achieved. Slimming World continues at strength, Fatfield Operatic Society enjoy the building, Ward Councillors Surgery also use the building. We are incredibly grateful that God continues to answer our prayers and trust that we will continue to go from strength to strength. The Ministers Surgery has continued this year, it was planned to develop this into a listening post. An idea that came out of one of the Cell Groups. Saturday Coffee Morning, this continues to be a well-supported group with good fellowship shared. It is a space for anyone to join to have a chat and make friends. The Venue is a group for Parents with Children, it operates from 10am to 12noon each Saturday in the Hall. The ages of the children have been from 3 to 6 years and whilst numbers fluctuate there is good support. All the above was working well before Covid 19 hit and we had to stop contact with people not in family bubbles.

## **EAST DURHAM METHODIST CIRCUIT Receipts & Payments Account 1st September 2019 to 31st August, 2020**

RECEIPTS:-

£

Balance B/F	173.15
Assessments	120856.24
Bank Loyalty Rewards	21.24
Prayer Manuals	253.30
EDF Energy	856.39
Circuit Holiday	1500.00
Other	358.05

-----  
£124018.37  
=====

PAYMENTS:-

Stipends and Allowances	79002.40
Office Expenses	450.00
Ministerial Expenses	
2621.38	
Bank Charges	136.16
Telephones	988.85
District Assessment	24516.00
Manse Property Account	7025.42
Printing & Stationery	179.45
Hymns Ancient & Modern	143.00
Norwich Books	124.50
Audit	576.00
Other	300.86
Circuit Holiday	2952.00
Roots	453.25
Supernumeraries	287.50

-----  
119756.77  
4261.60

BALANCE AT BANK 31st AUGUST, 2020

-----  
£124018.37  
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Robert Miller & Co  
Chartered Accountants

**EAST DURHAM METHODIST CIRCUIT**  
**Receipts and Payments Account for Manse Property**

**to 31st August, 2020**

**INCOME:-**

	<b>£</b>
Balance b/f	10.92
From Circuit Account	7025.42
From CAF	30000.00
Bank Loyalty Rewards	6.70
	=====
Total Income	37043.04

**PAYMENTS**

Insurance		970.48
Newbottle		
Repairs and Renewals	135.00	
Water Rates	222.00	
Council Tax	1522.14	
	-----	1879.14
-		
Seaham		
Repairs and Renewals	23700.39	
Water Rates		451,99
Council Tax	1470.83	
	-----	25623.21
		-----
TOTAL PAYMENTS		28472.83
Bank Charges		66.10
To Reserves		8376.24
BANK 31st August 2020		127.87
		-----
		£37043.04

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Robert Miller & Co  
Chartered Accountants