

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 31st August 2024 have been prepared in accordance with the "Charities Act 2011" and the "Charities Statement of Recommended Practice 2015" as applicable to the "Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102".

Details

Full Name of Charity – 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 1st September, 2023 to 31st August, 2024

RECEIPTS:-

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

=====

£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- Sunnyside	628.93

=====

£120252.83

=====

BALANCE AT BANK 31st AUGUST, 2024

23475.55

=====

£143728.38

=====

Robert Miller & Co.
Chartered Accountants

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

INCOME:-	£
Balance B/F	36.92
From Circuit Account	8067.72
Bank Loyalty Rewards	1.87

TOTAL INCOME	8106.51
	=====

PAYMENTS:-	
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

TOTAL PAYMENTS	5982.40
-----------------------	----------------

Bank Commission	117.08
-----------------	--------

BALANCE AT BANK 31st AUGUST, 2024	2007.03

	8106.51
	=====

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
-----------	----------	------------	------

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

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			3128
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS		143728		(a8)	125417

SECTION B						
b1	PAYMENTS					
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			3564
b8	Other payments		1851			4064
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS		120252		(b9)	124629

SECTION C						
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a7-b9)	23476			738
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		739		(c6)	3475
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	24215			4213
c4	Transfers and adjustments		-		(c7)	-
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	24215		(c8)	4213

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

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)	(c)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT					(x)	NONE (y)
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

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 (c)
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 DUREHAM 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 6PZ

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 DUREHAM 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 2019

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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

I have/have not* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner Robert Miller & Co

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

