

**Bishop Auckland and Shildon Methodist Circuit**  
**Charity Registration Number 1162844**

**Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements**

**1<sup>st</sup> September 2023**

**To**

**31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

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The Bishop Auckland & Shildon Circuit embraces 10 churches. The geographical dimensions of the Circuit are approximately 16 miles by 6 miles with a mixture of both town and country churches.

Our Ministers are Rev David Payne and Rev Rachel Pinkney.

David is the Superintendent Minister and had pastoral charge of:

Cockfield  
Etherley  
Hamsterley  
Newton Aycliffe  
Shildon  
Woodhouse Close

Rachel, in her first year as a Probationer Presbyterian, had care of:

Bishop Auckland  
Dene Valley  
Witton Park

St Michael's, Heighington – letter of welcome to former Methodist members of Heighington Methodist Church.

We have two lay employees. Jenny Prior is the Circuit Support Manager and Chris Russell is our Lay Pastoral Assistant who is primarily based in the churches where David is in pastoral charge.

We have services available each Sunday at all of our churches. These are led by our Ministers, Local Preachers and ecumenical colleagues. We also have a “telephone service” available.

The Circuit membership on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 was 340. The larger membership churches are based in the towns of Bishop Auckland (Bishop Auckland and Woodhouse Close), Newton Aycliffe and Shildon. The smaller membership churches are located in more rural locations.

Woodhouse Close is a single congregation LEP with the Church of England (and also includes a Letter of Welcome' to members of the former local URC). Hamsterley is an LEP with the local Anglican and Baptist Churches.

The Church of England at Heighington has a Covenant of Welcome to former members of the Heighington Methodist Church and the normal Sunday morning service is led by a Methodist minister or preacher monthly.

## **Mission Statement**

We are called to worship, love and serve God so that the world may believe.

### **WORSHIP**

The church exists to increase awareness in God's promise and to celebrate God's love.

- The Circuit plan ensures the provision of preachers and services for local churches on Sunday and also midweek.
- Circuit Services provide an opportunity to come together as a family for worship and fellowship.
- The local preachers meeting supports and offers further opportunities for study and enrichment of this calling.
- Make use of technology in services and as a means of reaching those unable to attend, also to be used as a tool for mission.
- Involve children and young people in appropriate activities.

### **LEARNING AND CARING**

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

- Opportunities for learning through Bible studies.
- Opportunities for people to meet for midweek fellowship around the circuit.
- Encourage members to commit to a path of lifelong learning based on God's teachings.
- Show that the church is welcoming, accepting all as children of God.
- Nurture and care for all in our circuit.
- Provide opportunities for groups to meet for relaxation and fellowship.

### **SERVICE**

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

- Supporting the needs of our local communities, providing food and financial help.
- Encourage churches to support Fairtrade.
- Encourage practical responses to the climate crisis, collectively and individually.
- Give generously to those in need at home and abroad.
- Challenge injustice.

### **EVANGELISM**

The church exists to make followers of Jesus Christ.

- Witness to those we meet outside the church in daily life.
- Use opportunities presented at Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Christmas and Easter to share our faith.
- Showing love and respect to all we meet through simple acts of service.
- Working Ecumenically in the community e.g. food bank, holiday club, passion play performance and school and hospital visiting.

“Truly I tell you, inasmuch as you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.”

Matthew 25:40.

## **Trustees from 1st September 2023 - 31st August 2024**

David Payne	Superintendent and Chair of Circuit Meeting
Rachel Pinkney	Probationer Presbyter
Marion Anderson	Circuit Steward
Carol Bean	Circuit Steward and Circuit Safeguarding Officer
Helen Eales	Circuit Treasurer
Alan Hill	Circuit Assistant Treasurer
Cliff Laverick	Circuit Steward - Property
Jeanne Spencer	Circuit Steward
Sheelah Stevens	Supernumerary Presbyter
Edwin Hird	Local Preacher Secretary
Margaret Nodding	Local Preacher Rep
Ev Swinbank	Local Preacher Rep from 20.03.2024
Dorothy Bailey	Quinquennials
Cliff Holliday	Homes Mission
Olive Ingram	MWiB Secretary
Audrey Dinning	MWiB Treasurer
Christine Bennett	MHA
Kath Biggs	Bishop Auckland Church Rep
Ralph Ingram	Bishop Auckland Church Rep
Keith Teasdale	Bishop Auckland Church Rep
Nora Amess	Cockfield Church Rep
Dorothy Milroy	Cockfield Church Rep
Joan Thompson	Cockfield Church Rep
David Cadman	Etherley Church Rep
Mike Ellis	Etherley Church Rep
Diane Hall	Etherley Church Rep
Enid Clinton	Hamsterley Church Rep
George Richardson	Hamsterley Church Rep
David Powell	Heighington Church Rep

Pauline Clayton	Newton Aycliffe Church Rep
Dale Cochrane	Newton Aycliffe Church Rep
Joyce Hird	Shildon Church Rep
John Hodgson	Shildon Church Rep
Pat Scott	Shildon Church Rep
Elly Studham	Shildon Church Rep
Jennifer Atkinson	Witton Park Church Rep
Joyce Proctor	Witton Park Church Rep
Jane Armstrong	WHC Church Rep
Peter Hall	WHC Church Rep
Ross Tonner	WHC Church Rep
Christine Laidlow	Bishop Auckland Church Rep until 27.06.2024
Allan Crathorne	Newton Aycliffe Church rep until 20.07.2024
Christine Crathorne	Newton Aycliffe Church rep until 20.07.2024
Brenda Hunter	Dene Valley Church Rep until 22.07.2024

**Lay Employees – members of the Circuit Meeting but not trustees:**

Jenny Prior	Circuit Support Manager and Circuit Meeting Secretary
Chris Russell	Lay Pastoral Assistant

## **Trustees Report**

On 1st September we welcomed Revd Rachel Pinkney to the Circuit in her first Ministerial appointment.

The Circuit's Lay Pastoral Assistant, Chris Russell has pioneered a thirty-minute telephone service on a Sunday afternoon. The service is primarily offered to those connected to the church, but who are unable to attend and include some who are housebound or in care homes. This has developed into a worshipping community.

On 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024 we were hosts for the District Synod. We were very grateful to the staff at Bishop Barrington Academy who allowed us to use their premises and provided support both before and during the day.

On Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup> there was a Pastoral Visitors event where they were able to share good practice and fellowship.

We celebrated the 10yr anniversary of the joining together of the Bishop Auckland Circuit and the Shildon Circuit with a Circuit service at Bishop Auckland Methodist Church on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

## **Property**

Quinquennial Inspections took place at Shildon and Witton Park.

Auckland Park – the sale was completed on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024 with a sale price of £95,000.

Cockton Hill Road manse – the sale was completed on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024 with a sale price of £263,000.

South Church – the sale was completed on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024 with a sale price of £33,333.

Wind Mill – the sale was completed on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 with a sale price of £150,000.

## **EDI and Unconscious Bias training**

We offered training courses during the year.

## **Safeguarding**

We are committed to ensuring that our churches are safe places to be. This means that safeguarding is central to the safe operation of the Circuit and at every meeting we seek to affirm that safeguarding is central to what we do.

We signed our Circuit Safeguarding Policy at the Circuit Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023, listing Carol Bean as the Circuit Safeguarding Officer.

In September 2023 there was an opportunity for all the Church Safeguarding Officers to meet and every church was represented. They discussed safer recruitment, the safeguarding policy and looked at where to find documents on the Methodist website. Every church was asked to have the safeguarding contact poster and the policy statement on display.

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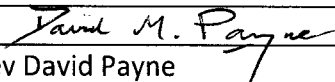
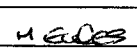
On 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024 the Circuit held an Advanced Module training session, 14 people attended. Three people have completed the Advanced Module online and one person attended a face-to-face session held at a different location.

We have three qualified Foundation Module trainers in the Circuit. The Foundation Module has been re-written by the Methodist Church and we are looking forward to our trainers attending their "train the trainers" course to enable them to deliver the new material in the Connexional year from September 2024.

### Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signatures		
Name	Rev David Payne	Helen Eales
Position	Chair	Treasurer
Date	29.6.2025	29.6.2025



## THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Bishop Auckland & Shildon	Circuit
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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 August 2024**

Darlington	District	Circuit no	13/10
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**Registered Charity - Charity Registration number**

1162844

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 David M Payne
Rev Rachel Pinkney

Circuit Stewards:

Marion Anderson
Carol Bean
Alan Hill
Cliff Laverick
Jeanne Spencer

Treasurer:

Helen Eales
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SECTION A			Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
	Note	£	£	£	£	£	£
a1	<b>RECEIPTS</b>						
a2	Assessment/Share		105,100			<b>105,100</b>	108,200
a3	Capital receipts (net of fees)		4,449	516,397		<b>520,846</b>	152,510
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		1,759	8,086		<b>9,845</b>	4,035
a5	Grants		15,299			<b>15,299</b>	
a6	Other receipts		5,898			<b>5,898</b>	125,383
a7	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>132,505</b>	<b>524,483</b>		<b>656,988 (a8)</b>	<b>390,128</b>

SECTION B							
b1	<b>PAYMENTS</b>						
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs		96,442			<b>96,442</b>	99,236
b3	Manse Costs		15,509			<b>15,509</b>	16,032
b4	Administration etc		13,567			<b>13,567</b>	39,663
b5	District Assessment		33,732			<b>33,732</b>	33,732
b6	Grants & donations		582			<b>582</b>	
b7	Mortgage repaid			180,000		<b>180,000</b>	70,000
b8	Other payments		14,370	52,317		<b>66,687</b>	96,225
b9	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b>174,202</b>	<b>232,317</b>		<b>406,519 (b9)</b>	<b>354,888</b>

SECTION C							
c1	<b>NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>(a7-b9)</b>	<b>(41,697)</b>	<b>292,166</b>		<b>250,469</b>	<b>35,240</b>
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		40,472	97,721		138,193 (c6)	102,953
c3	<b>Sub total</b>	<b>(c1+c2)</b>	<b>(1,225)</b>	<b>389,887</b>		<b>388,662</b>	<b>138,193</b>
c4	Transfers and adjustments		88,540	(50,000)		38,540 (c7)	
c5	<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>(c3+c4)</b>	<b>87,315</b>	<b>339,887</b>		<b>427,202 (c8)</b>	<b>138,193 (c6)</b>

SECTION D							
d	<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					4,085	
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations					4,085	
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	CFB General				(12,632)	12,632	
e2	CFB Building - manses				(12,231)	12,231	
e3	CFB Removals				(5,956)	5,956	
e4	CFB Property - churches				(5,956)	5,956	
e5	CFB Mission & preaching				(1,765)	1,765	
e6							
e7							
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds				(38,540)	38,540 (e11)	(e12)
e9	Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	656,988 (a8)	406,519 (b9)	250,469	38,540 (c7)	138,193 (c6)	427,202 (c8)
e10	<b>TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT</b>	<b>656,988</b>	<b>406,519</b>	<b>250,469</b>		<b>176,733 (x)</b>	<b>427,202 (y)</b>
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		
f2	40,473	16,469
f3		
f4		70,746
f5	97,720	339,987
f6		
f7	<b>138,193 (c6)</b>	<b>427,202 (c8)</b>
f8	38,540 (e11)	(e12)
f9	<b>176,733 (x)</b>	<b>427,202 (y)</b>

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

	At 1 September 2023	At 31 August 2024
g1		
g2	460,795	460,795
g3		
g4		
g5		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

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

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

## Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2024 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit meeting.

Signature of treasurer ..... *H. Eales* ..... Date *29.6.2025* .....

Name and address of treasurer: Helen Eales

31 Haslewood Road, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham DL5 4XF

### 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 19 March 2025

Signature of the Chair of the meeting ..... *David M. Payne* .....

Name of the Chair of the meeting : Rev David M Payne Date *29.6.2025* .....

## Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Bishop Auckland & Shildon Circuit

Charity Number 1162844

### Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Bishop Auckland & Shildon Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages 1 to 3. 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

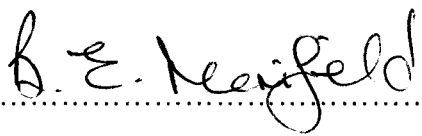
### Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination

- 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 ..... 

Name of independent examiner Barbara Elizabeth Merifield

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ..... N/A

Name of firm (where appropriate) ..... N/A

Address 141 Byerley Road, Shildon, County Durham DL4 1HT

Date ..... 29-6-2026

\* delete or circle as appropriate