

**Bishop Auckland and Shildon Methodist Circuit**

**Charity Registration number: 1162844**

**Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 August 2025**

# **Bishop Auckland & Shildon Methodist Circuit**

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## **Bishop Auckland & Shildon Methodist Circuit**

### **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2025**

#### **Information**

**Full name of charity:** Bishop Auckland & Shildon Methodist Circuit

**Charity registration number:** 1162844

**Address:**  
Bishop Auckland Methodist Church  
21 Cockton Hill Road  
Bishop Auckland  
County Durham  
DL14 6EN

#### **Trustees during the year ended 31 August 2025**

Members of Bishop Auckland & Shildon Methodist Circuit meeting are the Charity Trustees. Membership is made up of Ministers, Circuit office holders and representatives appointed by the local Churches as shown below:

#### **Circuit meeting membership**

David Payne	Superintendent and Chair of Circuit Meeting
Rachel Pinkney	Probationer Presbyter, ordained on 29 June 2025
Marion Anderson	Circuit Steward
Carol Bean	Circuit Steward, Circuit Safeguarding Officer, Witton Park representative
Helen Eales	Circuit Treasurer, Dene Valley Representative
Alan Hill	Circuit Assistant Treasurer
Clifford Laverick	Circuit Steward - Property
Jeanne Spencer	Circuit Steward
Edwin Hird	Local Preacher Secretary
Margaret Nodding	Local Preacher Representative
Evelyn Swinbank	Local Preacher Representative
Dorothy Bailey	Quinquennials
Clifford Holliday	Home Mission, Dene Valley Representative
Olive Ingram	MWiB Secretary
Audrey Dinning	MWiB Treasurer
Christine Bennett	MHA
Sheelah Stevens	Supernumerary Presbyter (resigned 25.02.25)

#### From each Church:

Kathleen Biggs	Bishop Auckland
Ralph Ingram	Bishop Auckland
Keith Teasdale	Bishop Auckland
Nora Amess	Cockfield
Dorothy Milroy	Cockfield (to 09.03.26)
Joan Thompson	Cockfield
June Holliday	Dene Valley (appointed 09.09.25)
Shirley Welsh	Dene Valley (appointed 09.10.25)
David Cadman	Etherley
Michael Ellis	Etherley
Diane Hall	Etherley
Enid Clinton	Hamsterley
George Richardson	Hamsterley
David Powell	Heighington
Pauline Clayton	Newton Aycliffe
Dale Cochrane	Newton Aycliffe
Kim Rowling	Newton Aycliffe (appointed 19.03.2025)
Joyce Hird	Shildon

## **Bishop Auckland & Shildon Methodist Circuit**

### **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2025**

John Hodgson	Shildon
Patricia Scott	Shildon
Elly Studham	Shildon
Jennifer Atkinson	Witton Park
Joyce Proctor	Witton Park
Jane Armstrong	Woodhouse Close
Peter Hall	Woodhouse Close
Ross Tonner	Woodhouse Close

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

Jenny Prior	Circuit Support Manager and Circuit Meeting Secretary
Chris Russell	Lay Pastoral Assistant (to 12.09.25)

#### **Structure, governance 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).

#### **Objectives and activities**

The charity's objective is to act as a resource provider within the area around Bishop Auckland and Shildon. 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, weddings 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.
- Taking religious assemblies in local schools.
- Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services.

#### **Circuit 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.

## **Bishop Auckland & Shildon Methodist Circuit**

### **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2025**

#### **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.

#### **Public benefit**

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

#### **Review**

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

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

Rachel, in her second year as a Probationer Presbyter, had care of:

Bishop Auckland

Dene Valley

Witton Park

## **Bishop Auckland & Shildon Methodist Circuit**

### **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2025**

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

We have services available each Sunday throughout the Circuit, as shown on the quarterly 'Circuit Plan'.

The Circuit membership on 1 November 2024 was 323. 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 Church.

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.

After completing the necessary process, we were delighted to extend Rev David Payne's appointment in the Circuit. This was agreed at the Circuit Meeting on 9 September 2024. The extension begins on 1 September 2025 for one year.

In May 2025 Rev David Payne indicated that he intends to "sit down" as Superintendent of our Circuit with effect from 31 August 2026. We have valued his leadership and energy and the Circuit will miss his dedicated and enthusiastic ministry. We entered the stationing process for a Superintendent Minister.

We rejoiced as Rev Rachel Pinkney was received into full connexion at the Methodist Conference in Telford and then ordained at St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury on 29 June 2025. We held a "Welcome Back" Circuit Service for Rachel on 6 July at Bishop Auckland Methodist Church.

In July 2025 Chris Russell arranged "Holiday @ Home", three afternoon sessions to provide some fun, activities and treats for those of our membership who can no longer go away on holiday or indeed don't go very far at all. It was held at Witton Park Methodist Church, with helpers and guests from across the Circuit. Guests were able to be involved in painting, card making, flower arranging and board games. On the final afternoon there was musical entertainment and an afternoon tea.

### **Reserves policy**

The Circuits Reserves Policy is:

- To secure and sustain the Circuit's viability and future.
- To give reassurance to the general public that the Circuit, which is a charity, intends to use all the money coming into its care for the purpose of the charity
- The Circuit's Reserves Policy is to hold a balance of unrestricted funds equivalent to at least six months unrestricted expenditure.
- The Circuit's Superintendent Minister is leaving in August 2026. The Circuit has entered stationing for a replacement and, if successful, the incoming Superintendent's appointment would run until August 2031. The other Minister has a further three years of their appointment to run. The Circuit has sufficient funds to meet its financial obligations in relation to the support of its ministers and maintenance of its two manses.
- It is recognised that regular income is not meeting annual expenditure and that reserves will be further drawn upon going forward.
- The Circuit has sufficient funds to finance its future plans.

### **Property**

Quinquennial Inspections took place at:

Hamsterley Methodist Church on 11 September 2024.

The manse in Shildon on 26 September 2024.

## **Bishop Auckland & Shildon Methodist Circuit**

### **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2025**

#### **Unconscious Bias training**

An Unconscious Bias training session was held on 20 May 2025.

#### **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 9 September 2024, listing Carol Bean as the Circuit Safeguarding Officer.

We have three qualified Foundation Module trainers in the Circuit. The Foundation Module has been re-written by the Methodist Church and our trainers attended their "train the trainers" course to enable them to deliver the new material.

We held a Foundation Module training session at Bishop Auckland Methodist Church on 29 January 2025 when 18 people attended. We invited feedback and asked people to include one key thing they have learnt. Some responses included "how crucial recording of situations is", "the support that is available", and that "Safeguarding is for all".

A Church Safeguarding Officers Meeting was held on 20 May 2025.

#### **Declarations**

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

*David M Payne*

**Rev David M Payne**

## THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Bishop Auckland & Shildon Methodist	Circuit
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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 August 2025**

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

1162844
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If not a registered charity **His Majesty's Revenue and Customs Gift Aid number**

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

Ministers:

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	3	133,954			<b>133,954</b>	105,100
a3	Capital receipts	4					520,846
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		2,356	14,581		<b>16,937</b>	9,845
a5	Grants	5			4,500	<b>4,500</b>	15,299
a6	Other receipts	6	13,112			<b>13,112</b>	5,898
a7	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>149,422</b>	<b>14,581</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>168,503 (a8)</b>	<b>656,988</b>

SECTION B							
b1	<b>PAYMENTS</b>						
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs	7	113,219		2,500	<b>115,719</b>	96,442
b3	Manse Costs	8	8,597			<b>8,597</b>	15,509
b4	Administration etc	9	4,052			<b>4,052</b>	13,567
b5	District Assessment and Levy	10	33,732	16,744		<b>50,476</b>	33,732
b6	Grants & donations	11	500		700	<b>1,200</b>	582
b7	Bridging loan repaid						180,000
b8	Other payments	12	6,159	1,105	688	<b>7,952</b>	66,687
b9	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b>166,259</b>	<b>17,849</b>	<b>3,888</b>	<b>187,996 (b9)</b>	<b>406,519</b>

SECTION C							
c1	<b>NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR</b>	(a7-b9)	<b>(16,837)</b>	<b>(3,268)</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>(19,493)</b>	<b>250,469</b>
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		87,215	339,987		427,202 (c6)	138,193
c3	<b>Sub total</b>	(c1+c2)	<b>70,378</b>	<b>336,719</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>407,709</b>	<b>388,662</b>
c4	Transfers and adjustments		45,000	(45,000)		(c7)	38,540
c5	<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR</b>	(c3+c4)	<b>115,378</b>	<b>291,719</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>407,709 (c8)</b>	<b>427,202 (c6)</b>

SECTION D						
d	<b>FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS</b> (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				2,098	4,085
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations				2,098	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 2025 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)	(e12)
e9 Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	168,503 (a8)	187,996 (b9)	(19,493)	(c7)	427,202 (c6)	407,709 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	168,503	187,996	(19,493)		427,202 (x)	407,709 (y)
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 2025**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	16,469	21,521
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	70,746	94,469
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	339,987	291,719
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL	427,202 (c6)	407,709 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance totals above) (e12)	(e11)	(e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	427,202 (x)	407,709 (y)

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

	At 1 September 2024	At 31 August 2025
g1 Investments (include Endowments)		
g2 Land and Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	460,795	460,795
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)

## Bishop Auckland & Shildon Methodist Circuit

### Notes to the Standard Form of Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025

#### 1. Charity information

The charity (registered number 1162844) is a public benefit entity, established in the UK and governed by The Methodist Church Act 1976. The address of the principal office is: 21 Cockton Hill Road, Bishop Auckland, County Durham DL14 6EN. The nature of the charity's operation and principal activity is the advancement of the Christian faith.

#### 2. Basis of the preparation of the Standard Accounts

The accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis. In previous years the accounts were prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis with the exception of Share income and Stipends which were included on an accruals basis. Adjustments in respect of 2024 accruals are shown in notes 3 and 7 to these accounts.

#### 3. Assessment/share income

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Share income received in the year	109,954	-	-	109,954	105,100
Adjustment re accruals basis	24,000	-	-	24,000	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	133,954	-	-	133,954	105,100

#### 4. Capital receipts

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Sale of Churches</u>					
Wind Mill	-	-	-	-	146,638
Auckland Park	-	-	-	-	90,293
South Church	-	-	-	-	29,276
<u>Sale of manse</u>					
Bishop Auckland	-	-	-	-	254,639
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	-	-	-	520,846

#### 5. Grants

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
District grant received: bridging loan interest	-	-	-	-	10,799
District grants received: other	-	-	4,500	4,500	4,500
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	-	4,500	4,500	15,299

## Bishop Auckland & Shildon Methodist Circuit

### Notes to the Standard Form of Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025

#### 6. Other receipts

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and gift aid tax	4,220	-	-	4,220	4,165
Income relating to Churches closed in previous years	3,657	-	-	3,657	1,254
PAYE & NIC refund re 2017	4,861	-	-	4,861	-
Other income	374	-	-	374	479
	<u>13,112</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,112</u>	<u>5,898</u>

#### 7. Stipends, salaries, NIC, pension and travel costs

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Gross salaries	82,201	-	2,500	84,701	71,502
Pension costs	12,174	-	-	12,174	15,356
Employer's National Insurance	7,925	-	-	7,925	6,181
Apprenticeship levy	485	-	-	485	454
Travel	3,432	-	-	3,432	3,075
Adjustment re accruals basis	7,002	-	-	7,002	(126)
	<u>113,219</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>115,719</u>	<u>96,442</u>

#### 8. Manse costs

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Council tax	5,583	-	-	5,583	7,995
Water services	489	-	-	489	950
Repairs and maintenance	508	-	-	508	230
Insurance	1,297	-	-	1,297	6,334
Quinquennial reports	720	-	-	720	-
	<u>8,597</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,597</u>	<u>15,509</u>

#### 9. Administration etc.

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Salaries, NIC and pension costs	-	-	-	-	9,577
Hire of room as office	500	-	-	500	500
Postage, stationery and printing	1,199	-	-	1,199	1,116
Sundry expenses and supplies	1,770	-	-	1,770	1,897
Telephone	583	-	-	583	477
	<u>4,052</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,052</u>	<u>13,567</u>

# Bishop Auckland & Shildon Methodist Circuit

## Notes to the Standard Form of Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025

### 10. District assessment and levy

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
District assessment	33,732	-	-	33,732	33,732
Annual CMTF contribution	-	16,744	-	16,744	-
	<u>33,732</u>	<u>16,744</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>50,476</u>	<u>33,732</u>

### 11. Grants and donations

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Grants awarded to Circuit Churches	500	-	700	1,200	582
	<u>500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>700</u>	<u>1,200</u>	<u>582</u>

### 12. Other payments

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Bridging loan interest	-	-	-	-	10,799
Light and heat: unoccupied Churches	868	-	-	868	1,300
Quinquennial inspections	720	-	-	720	1,440
Repairs and maintenance: Churches	194	-	-	194	-
Insurance: unoccupied Churches	3,246	-	-	3,246	-
Insurance: liability	526	-	-	526	-
Outreach	-	-	688	688	-
Other	605	-	-	605	831
Annual CMTF contribution	-	-	-	-	2,443
Administration fee	-	1,105	-	1,105	278
CPF levies - sale of Churches	-	-	-	-	49,596
	<u>6,159</u>	<u>1,105</u>	<u>688</u>	<u>7,952</u>	<u>66,687</u>

## **Bishop Auckland & Shildon Methodist Circuit No 13/10**

### **Declarations and Scrutiny**

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2025 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 21/02/2026

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 2025 were/~~will be~~\*  
presented to the Circuit meeting held on 9 March 2026

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

*David M Payne*

Date 03/06/2026

Name of the Chair of the meeting : Rev David M Payne

## Bishop Auckland & Shildon Methodist Circuit No 13/10

### Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Bishop Auckland & Shildon Methodist 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 Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2025 set out on pages 6 to 11. 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.

#### 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 *B E Merifield*

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 23/05/2026

\* delete or circle as appropriate