

Report of the Trustees and
Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 August 2025
for
Oldham Methodist Circuit

Oldham Methodist Circuit

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For the Year Ended 31st August 2025

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Oldham Methodist Circuit
Report of the trustees
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Report for end of year 31st August 2025

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities 'Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 2015 ' in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

Registered Charity number 1194708

Principal address

2 Bannach Drive
Chadderton
Oldham
OL9 0QN

Trustees

The members of the Circuit Meeting are the Charity Trustees. A full list of trustees is included Appendix A of the trustees report.

Solicitor

North Ainley Halliwell
34/36 Clegg Street
Oldham
OL1 1PS

Independent Examiner

Leanne Nield ACA BSc
Arc Accountancy Solutions Limited
51 Laverton Road
Lytham St. Annes
Lancashire
FY8 1EN

Advisers

The charity's investment managers are TMCP, Central Buildings, Oldham Street, Manchester M1 1JQ.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Oldham Methodist Circuit is part of the Methodist Church of Great Britain.

Type of Governing Document: Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976)

How the Charity is Constituted: Act of Parliament

The Charity's Trustees are the members of the Oldham Methodist Circuit meeting. Membership is made up of ministers appointed to the circuit, circuit office holders, representatives appointed by the local churches with a representative for the Local Preachers' and Worship Leaders' Meeting. Full membership is shown in Appendix A to this report.

The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes are the Custodian Trustees of Circuit properties.

ORGANISATION OF OLDHAM METHODIST CIRCUIT

The Oldham Circuit currently provides ministerial oversight and pastoral care for twelve churches in the Oldham area.

Circuit Meetings (trustees' meetings) are held three times per year. The Circuit Leadership Team (the circuit's ministers and circuit stewards) meets six times per year and has limited powers to transact business on behalf of the trustees

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between trustees' meetings, The Circuit Superintendent, if present, chairs meetings of these groups. In the absence of the Superintendent, one of the other ministers takes on the role of Chair.

Sub-committees responsible to the trustees, including both representatives of the trustees and others with appropriate skills and experience, have been established for a number of routine purposes and for day-to-day management of the Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre.

During the accounting period the Circuit was part of the recently merged (*as from 1st September 2024*) North West England District (NWED). Oldham Circuit is a member of the Greater Manchester Plus Mission area within NWED and is accountable to the Methodist Conference.

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church (CPD) by order of the annual conference.

Additional Governance Issues

Induction/Training of Trustees

As is evident from Appendix A, the appointment of a substantial number of trustees is the responsibility of the local churches. On appointment, all trustees are made aware of the duties and responsibilities of trustees through relevant guidance notes issued by the Methodist Connexion and the Charity Commission.

Risk Management

The trustees regularly review the risks faced by the Charity, both financial and otherwise; professional advice is taken, when required. Procedures and guidelines for mitigating risks issued by the Methodist Church are consulted. The Methodist Church's robust safeguarding policy and safeguarding procedures are adopted by the Circuit in the Circuit's Safeguarding Policy which are both reviewed annually. Safeguarding is an agenda topic at every Circuit Meeting.

Related Parties

The churches forming the Circuit are either excepted charities or registered charities and, as they are responsible for their own financial affairs, their accounts are reported separately by the individual churches.

CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES AND MAIN ACTIVITIES

Summary of the Objects of the Charity set out in its Governing Document

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 the discipline of the Methodist Church;
- any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, District, Circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church;
- any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church;
- any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church.

Summary of the Main Activities undertaken for Public Benefit in Relation to these Objects

We confirm that the trustees have regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

The Circuit aims to live out the Calling of the Methodist Church, summarised as:

- to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love;
- to help people to grow and learn as Christians through mutual support and care;
- to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice;
- to make more followers of Jesus Christ.

The trustees are committed to reaching as many people as possible in the Circuit's geographical area. The Circuit produces a quarterly preaching plan to ensure that regular public acts of worship take place at each of the twelve churches. Worship is open to all people (church members and non-members alike) without charge.

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The churches forming the Circuit provide Christian teaching, pastoral care (including visiting the sick and bereaved) and, as part of their outreach, provide activities for a broad section of the whole community (from toddlers to senior citizens). The Circuit supports and encourages the churches in this work and funds the provision of ministers (*presbyters and a deacon*), also supplying and maintaining their accommodation (manses) and covering their legitimate expenses.

The Circuit has a Partnership Agreement with the national debt counselling charity 'Christians Against Poverty' to provide a free debt counselling service to the residents of Oldham.

A number of ministry and mission activities throughout the local area are provided with financial support.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Circuit Staff

During the accounting period the Revd Dr Kennedy Gondongwe is the Circuit Superintendent and Chairperson of the Circuit Trustees. Revd Dr Gondongwe is responsible for The Methodist Church in Royton which includes Trinity, Fir Lane and Gravelhole with support from supernumerary minister Revd R Davies, South Chadderton, Bardsley, Hollins and Limeside churches. Revd Suva Catford is responsible for East Oldham and Zion churches, with continued oversight of Hey with Zion school along with the Oldham Town Centre Mission. Revd Ken McNally is responsible for the three Saddleworth churches of Uppermill, Greenfield and Delph and for Shore Edge Church and St Andrew's churches in Shaw. Deacon Angleena Keizer (appointed 1 September 2023) is leading the pioneer mission project for High Crompton.

Further New Appointments/Changes in Responsibility

As of 01/09/2024 The Revd Dr Kennedy Gondongwe took the post of Circuit Superintendent Minister following the departure (*new stationing*) of the previous superintendent minister Revd Dr Adrian Burdon. A superintendent welcome service was held on 02/09/24 attended by the Chair of District. Revd Kennedy Gondongwe had joined the circuit as a presbyter through the Ministers from Other Churches and Conferencing (MOCC) stationing process in September 2022. With Revd Kennedy being appointed internally to the superintendent role and Revd Dr Adrian Burdon leaving, the circuit effectively reduced the number of presbyter staff from four full time presbyters to three. The three presbyters being Revd Gondongwe; Revd Kenneth McNally and Revd Suva Catford.

With a reduced number of presbyters there was a reorganisation of the circuit 'mission areas' and pastoral responsibilities.

The pastoral charge of churches was organised as follows:-

Revd K Gondongwe – Bardsley; Hollins; Limeside; South Chadderton and The Methodist Church in Royton which includes Fir Lane, Gravelhole and Trinity churches.

Revd K McNally – Delph; Greenfield, Shore Edge; St Andrew's and Uppermill.

Revd S Catford – East Oldham and Zion and including Hey with Zion Primary School and continuing with her Town Centre mission work (50%).

The Revd Robert Davies continued in his role as supernumerary minister during 2024/25, with an increased paid role, from 20% to 40% of the full standard stipend, for a workload of four sessions per week (16 hours) to be applied throughout the week as circumstances dictated. Revd Davies's main focus of work involved supporting the superintendent with his pastoral charge of his churches, mainly with the newly formed Methodist Church in Royton (*being a combination of Fir Lane, Gravelhole & Trinity Churches*). Revd Davies retired at the end of August 2025.

Deacon Angleena Keizer, appointed September 2023, continued with her work as leader of the pioneer mission project at High Crompton.

In September 2024 Revd Suva Catford requested the curtailment of her presbyter role following the completion of four years (to August 2025) rather than five (to August 2026). The required procedures for early curtailment were followed and it was agreed and confirmed that Revd Suva would leave the circuit as of 31/08/2025.

In view of this, following much debate and discussion regarding the needs and mission directions, circuit entered the Stationing Process to seek a full time presbyter from 01/09/2025. In May 2025 the stationing of Revd Dr Jongikaya Zihle was confirmed for September 2025.

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Worship, Prayer and Discipleship

Worship continued in a variety of patterns across the Circuit. Circuit Prayer Lunches are held each month hosted at various churches across the circuit on a rotating basis.

Funding of Ministry and Mission Projects

Churches and individuals continue to support the Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre Project.

Circuit Properties (Manse)

The Circuit currently owns six manse – 2 Bannach Drive; 2 Braeside; 15 Nudger Green; 1 Spinners Way; 2 The Avenue and 9 The Avenue.

During the finance year the residential properties have been revalued to market value giving an overall gain of £598,000.

With the reduction of ministers the manse at 2 The Avenue became vacant as of August 2024. This manse is in a good location and is a property meeting all the requirements for a minister. Although requiring substantial updating, including some bathroom renovations, it was decided to keep the manse, particularly in view of the possibility of the stationing of a new presbyter for September 2025. During 2024/2025 work was carried out on the manse to bring it to a good standard and ready for occupancy in August 2025.

The vacant manse at Braeside continued to be rented out however, following various tenancy difficulties, the manse became vacant in Spring 2025. This property has required a great deal of work following a leak/flood for which an insurance claim has been approved and problems relating to flooring on the ground floor of the property. Circuit Meeting agreed the property was no longer required for future accommodation. Necessary repair work has been completed and the property is to be put on the open market for sale.

All manse have been inspected regularly to identify essential maintenance issues and to help plan for renewals of major items. Maintenance/repair work at Nudger Green has included a new door and a new window.

The manse at Spinners Way became vacant as of August 2025 due to the departure of Revd Catford. Overall this manse is of a good standard requiring minor maintenance/repairs/updating. Circuit are considering the rental of the property to bring in income whilst decisions are taken as to the future accommodation needs of the circuit.

General Administration

The circuit continue to adhere to the Circuit Safeguarding Policy for Children and Vulnerable Adults, dated September 2024, which continues to reflect current Connexional policy.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Debt Centre

Since Autumn 2012 a free debt counselling service has been provided for local residents. This is a partnership between the Circuit and Christians Against Poverty. The project is managed by a management committee appointed by and responsible to the trustees. The service has proved highly successful in helping clients to deal with debt and related problems. The service continues to serve many clients in a climate of increasing demand for support. The project is home-based and does not need an office.

Kelkina Ackrill, appointed in 2022 as CAP Centre Manager left in September 2024. A new manager, Lisa Woolfenden, was appointed in March 2025.

The paid Manager is assisted and supported by around 20 'befrienders' and other volunteers from the churches in Oldham and the community.

The Debt Centre also operates in partnership with Keyring & Oldham Food Bank and other local agencies helping people in crisis. This project includes running the CAP Life Skills course

The project is funded by a combination of regular and occasional donations from churches and church members and a grant of £8000 per year from Circuit funds which in 2024/2025 has been covered by a contribution from the Model Trust Fund.

Volunteer Contributions

A valuable resource for the Circuit continues to be the many volunteers who assist in various ways with the ministries of the Circuit and CAP Debt Centre.

The Future

Oldham Circuit became part of the newly formed North West England District in September 2024.

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In September 2024 churches in Royton – Fir Lane; Gravelhole and Trinity, formerly joined to create The Methodist Church in Royton (TMCiR). A new church council for TMCiR became into being with its inaugural meeting held on 7th October 2024. Fir Lane and Trinity continue to operate as worships centres with regular Sunday morning worship held at each venue. A joint Sunday worship is held each month. Gravelhole chose to join at Trinity for Sunday worship as from September 2024 and formerly ceased worship as of April 2025 as agreed at District Synod. In light of this and the consideration of the needs for the future, church council confirmed that Gravelhole Church would go up for sale on the open market following completion of necessary procedures and formal approval from district.

The number of circuit churches will reduce from 14 to 12 plus a worship centre (Fir Lane).

Over the past few years the circuit has recognised that membership is declining with the majority of members being 65+.

In June 2024 a Circuit Mission Questionnaire was completed by all circuit churches to help form an overall view of our current situation, to identify needs and to seek opinions on how we might move forward in mission for the future. The completion of this document shared activities ongoing in each church, the involvement of community groups, opinions about church and circuit connections and views about future mission needs and work. The feedback from these questionnaires provided useful information and an insight into members thoughts and circuit vision and were valuable in supporting decisions taken about staffing requirements and the agreement to enter stationing for September 2025. Circuit continue to look at mission and are looking to plan and organise a series of 'workshops' to explore future possibilities.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Review of 2024 - 25 Accounts

General Fund (Unrestricted)

Income and expenditure were broadly in accord with the budget. The main source of income continues to be the assessment contributions from local churches, which brought in £222,000. Churches have experienced financial difficulties, with the continued impact from Covid 19, high energy costs and inflation as well as declining membership affecting some income.

The Circuit agreed to subsidise the budget with £60,000 from the Model Trust Fund with an additional £2,000.00 in recognition of the amalgamation of Royton Churches for what would have been the assessment contribution as a worship centre for Gravelhole Church, totalling a subsidy of £62,000. The total contributions from the Model Trust to support the 2024/2025 Circuit budget comprised of £62,000 assessment subsidy, £4,000 for quinquennial inspections, £35,213 deacon stipend, and £8,000 contribution to CAP totalling £109,213.

The major outgoings are the costs of employing the ministerial team, the Circuit's financial contribution to the North West England District of £57,821 and the costs associated with providing the manses. Manse maintenance and repair costs for 2024/2025 were £22,261. The employment costs were broadly as expected. The Circuit employs a circuit administrator who is the Circuit Safeguarding Officer and person responsible for GDPR. The Circuit also buys in to finance support from the Transforming Churches and Community with the annual service cost for 2024/2025 being £6,700. A grant of £3,000 was donated towards the cost of attending 3 Generate, an annual event for young people across the UK involved with Methodism.

Excluding tangible fixed assets, General Funds at 31st August 2025 amounted to £356,606, including £108,00 designated for deacon stipend costs over the next three years.

Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)

Income and expenditure were broadly in accord with budget. The Circuit Model Trust Fund (CMTF) is an unrestricted fund which holds the proceeds of sales from Model Trust property (local churches, manses etc); these are paid to the custodian trustees (the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes) for investment. The managing trustees of the CMTF are the Circuit trustees who use the fund to support the Circuit's ministry/mission, including some property-related projects, and also to provide grants/loans to local Methodist churches for the same purposes. Grants/donations/loans are also made to other causes which are in accord with the Circuit's own mission purposes. A compulsory annual levy (based on the year-end balance of the fund) is payable from the CMTF to the District Advance Fund – on 01/09/24 £34,851 was deducted.

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A transfer from CMTF for £109,213 to the Circuit CFB Deposit Fund was completed in March 2025 to cover agreed 2024/2025 budget subsidies - £62,000 assessment subsidy, £4,000 for quinquennial inspections, £35,213 deacon stipend, and £8,000 contribution to CAP (*as outlined under General Fund*).

A further transfer from CMTF for £110,000, to the Circuit bank account Unity, was completed in August 2025 to cover agreed budget costs for 2025/2026 -£55,000 assessment subsidy, £4,000 for quinquennial inspections, £43,000 for deacon stipend and £8,000 to CAP.

The CMTF balance at the end of August 2025 was £349,311. This includes the net proceeds of the sale of the salt Cellar Resource Centre (£304,020) in the year ended 31st August 2024, which are currently designated by the trustees for town centre mission. It is anticipated that funds in the CMTF account will increase significantly during 2025/2026, following the sale of one of the Circuit manse.

Restricted Funds

Restricted Funds comprise a number of Circuit funds invested with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purpose, CAP Debt Centre, plus other smaller funds. At 31st August 2025, restricted funds totalled £32,723, made up of £28,777 internal organisations (CAP), £3,806 TMCP investments and £140 for the Caleb Tiddlers Tots group.

A total of £26,526 had been granted across 2022-2023 ; 2023-2024 and 2024 -2025 for Pioneer Mission work, which has been fully utilised in each year against the salary costs of Deacon Angleena Keizer for the community work being done in the High Crompton area.

Circuit received a final payment of the Connexional Grant for the High Crompton Mission Project of £7,200.

Endowment Funds

There are two Endowment Funds. The James Cocker Gift, which was brought into the Circuit from the former Union Street Church and the Organ Fund transferred from the former Honeywell Lane Church . The James Cocker fund increased from £31,062 at the start of the year to £33,007 at the end. The trustees are still exploring the potential release of this capital. The Organ Fund stands at £1,458 (*formerly Honeywell Lane endowment fund*)

Tangible Fixed Assets

During the year ended 31st August 2025, the valuations of the six Circuit manse were revised, based upon more recent local market research by the Circuit Property Steward. This resulted in a gain of £598,000 in the valuation of tangible assets (from £1,560,000 to £2,158,000).

Total unrestricted General Funds of £2,514,606 at 31st August 2025 therefore include a contribution of £2,158,000 from tangible assets.

Reserves Policies

General Fund (Unrestricted)

In order to meet its ongoing financial obligations, including payment of minister employment costs monthly in advance, and to provide both for the possibilities of future assessment income failing to keep pace with Circuit expenditure and for unanticipated or emergency expenditure, the Circuit must maintain sufficient 'free' general unrestricted reserves.

'Free' reserves are defined as unrestricted reserves less the investment in tangible assets/property and designated funds. In line with guidance provided by the Methodist Church, the trustees aim to maintain 'free' reserves at a level of between three and six months' typical expenditure i.e. between £100,000 and £200,000.

After the deduction of the value of tangible assets/property (£2,158,000), and funds designated for deacon employment costs over the next three years (£108,000) from General Funds held at 31st August 2025 (£2,514,606), 'free' reserves amount to £248,606, slightly above the target range

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Circuit Model Trust Fund- CMTF (Unrestricted)

The Circuit Model Trust Fund (CMTF) balance at 31st August was £349,311, with £304,020 currently designated for town centre mission, leaving 'free' reserves of £45,291. As mentioned earlier, it is anticipated that funds in the CMTF account will increase significantly during 2025/2026, following the sale of one of the Circuit manses.

Restricted Funds

Restricted funds amounted to £32,723 at 31st August 2025. These funds are restricted for use by the Christians Against Poverty (CAP) project (£28,777); TMCP investments (£3,806); and the toddler group (£140).

OTHER OPTIONAL INFORMATION

No further information.

DECLARATION

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above at the trustees' meeting held on Wednesday 11th March 2026

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.

Signatures 

The Revd Dr Kennedy Gondongwe

Position Superintendent Minister

Date 11/03/2026



Janet Abbott

Senior Circuit Steward

Oldham Methodist Circuit
Report of the trustees
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Appendix A Circuit Trustees

Oldham Circuit Meeting Members as at 31st August 2025

1. The Revd Dr Kennedy Gondongwe	Superintendent Minister Chair of the Meeting
2. The Revd Suva Catford	Circuit Minister
3. The Revd Angleena Keizer	Circuit Minister
4. The Revd Kenneth McNally	Circuit Minister
5. The Revd Robert Davies	Supernumerary Minister
6. The Revd Eddie Gordon	Supernumerary Minister
7. The Revd Lindsay Neal	Supernumerary Minister
8. Janet Abbott	Senior Circuit Steward
9. Dave Allonby	Greenfield Steward
10. Bob Ashton	Hollins Steward
11. Nigel Bacon	The MCiR Treasurer
12. Moira Bergin	Zion Steward
13. Ian Crossley	The MCiR Steward
14. Stephen Foster	Zion Treasurer
15. Allan Gibson	Circuit Archives and Property Records Officer
16. Barbara Howard	Delph Steward
17. Kathryn Heathcote	Circuit Steward (Pastoral)
18. Glennis Kirkwood	Circuit Steward (Property) Hollins Treasurer
19. June Mills	East Oldham Steward
20. Malcom Milwain	Hey with Zion School (Chair of Gows)
21. Janet Mitchell	St Andrew's Shaw Treasurer
22. Susan Nuttall	The MCiR Treasurer
23. Lesley Perry	St Andrews Shaw Steward
24. Graham Radcliffe	Circuit Steward (Mission)
25. Ruth Radcliffe	South Chadderton Steward
26. Dorothy Roberts	Uppermill Steward
27. Gordon Roscoe	East Oldham Treasurer Chair of CAP Management Committee
28. David Schofield	South Chadderton Rep
29. Carol Stopford	The MCiR Steward
34. Margaret Taylor	Delph Finance Committee Rep
35. Dorothy Thorpe	Bardsley Treasurer
36. Paul Titmuss	Greenfield Rep
37. Norman Unsworth	Local Preachers' Secretary
38. Jim Upton	Uppermill Treasurer
39. Pam Walker	Shore Edge Steward
40. John Wilkinson	Representing South Chadderton as Treasurer at the meeting
41. Helen Williams	Shore Edge Shaw Treasurer
42. Michael Wilson	Limeside Treasurer

Joanna Ortiz - Secretary to the meeting/Circuit Admin/Safeguarding

Oldham Methodist Circuit
Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

	Note	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024-25	Total 2023-24
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
1 Donations and legacies		6,440				6,440	-
2 Income from monetary investments		4,147	23,901	155	1,537	29,740	29,983
3 Income from investment properties		8,327				8,327	12,528
4 Assessments on Churches		222,000				222,000	246,216
5 Net capital receipts	2		-			-	304,020
6 Grants received	14			7,200		7,200	10,287
7 Internal Organisations	14			11,441		11,441	12,960
8 Other charitable income	3	24,108				24,108	48,282
9 Transfer of account balances from Honeywell Lane Church investments				276	1,430	1,706	6,339
10 Total income		265,022	23,901	19,072	2,967	310,962	670,615
Expenditure							
Expenditure on charitable activities:							
11 Grants and donations	4	3,000				3,000	3,460
12 Stipends, salaries, NIC and pension costs	5	177,275		7,200		184,475	223,439
13 Property maintenance		52,391				52,391	35,733
14 District Assessment & Levy		57,821	34,851			92,672	71,221
15 Purchase of property	2		-			-	-
16 Depreciation						-	-
17 Office, administration and travel expenses		19,562	1,889	12	107	21,570	30,345
18 Internal Organisations	14			17,351		17,351	19,152
19 Other outgoings	8	28,902				28,902	15,649
20 Total charitable expenditure		338,951	36,740	24,563	107	400,361	398,999
21 Net income before investment losses/gains		(73,929)	(12,839)	(5,491)	2,860	(89,399)	271,616
22 Losses/gains on monetary investments			21	(34)	3	(10)	898
23 Gains on revaluation of fixed assets	9	598,000				598,000	(13,301)
24 Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		524,071	(12,818)	(5,525)	2,863	508,591	259,213
25 Transfers between funds		211,218	(219,213)	7,995		-	-
26 Reclassification of funds	10	-				-	(466,699)
27 Other gains/(losses)						-	-
28 Net movement in funds		735,289	(232,031)	2,470	2,863	508,591	(207,486)
29 Funds brought forward		1,779,317	581,342	30,253	31,602	2,422,514	2,630,000
30 Total funds carried forward		2,514,606	349,311	32,723	34,465	2,931,105	2,422,514

Oldham Methodist Circuit
Balance Sheet
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Note	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024-25	Total 2023-24
	£	£	£	£	£	£

Fixed Assets

Circuit Manses & Equipment	11	1,858,000			1,858,000	1,387,000
Other Properties (resource centre)	11				-	-
Investment Properties	11	300,000			300,000	173,000
Investments	14			34,465	34,465	31,602
Total fixed assets		2,158,000	0	0	2,192,465	1,591,602

Current Assets

Debtors	12	15,354			15,354	17,528
Loans by the Circuit						
Investments with TMCP		63	349,311	3,806	353,180	584,828
Central Finance Board Deposits		77,001			77,001	113,306
Cash at Bank and in hand		267,347		28,917	296,264	119,029
Total current assets		359,765	349,311	32,723	-	834,691

Current liabilities

Creditors (due in under 1 year)	13	3,159			3,159	3,779
Grants payable within 2022-23						
Total current liabilities		3,159			3,159	3,779
Net current assets/liabilities		356,606	349,311	32,723	-	830,912

Total assets less current liabilities		2,514,606	349,311	32,723	34,465	2,931,105	2,422,514
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Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)							
Grants payable after 2022-23							
Loans to the Circuit							
Net assets		2,514,606	349,311	32,723	34,465	2,931,105	2,422,514

Funds of the Circuit

General Fund (Unrestricted)		2,514,606				2,514,606	1,779,317
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			349,311			349,311	581,342
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)							
Total Unrestricted Funds						2,863,917	2,360,659
Restricted Funds				32,723		32,723	30,253
Endowment Funds					34,465	34,465	31,602
Total Funds	14	2,514,606	349,311	32,723	34,465	2,931,105	2,422,514

Oldham Methodist Circuit
Cash Flow Statement
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Statement of cash flows	2025 £	2024 £
Cash from operating activities		
Net cash used in operating activities	(119,301)	(62,471)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Dividends and interest from investments	29,740	29,983
Net proceeds from the sale of tangible fixed assets	-	304,020
Cash balance transferred from Honeywell Church	1,706	6,339
Net cash provided by investing activities	31,446	340,342
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	87,855	277,871
Cash and cash equivalents at the date of merger (1 st September 2021)	848,765	570,894
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	760,910	848,765

Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities	2025 £	2024 £
Net income for the period (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	508,591	(207,486)
Adjustments for:		
Dividends and interests from investments	(29,740)	(29,983)
(Gains)/losses on property revaluations and disposals	(598,000)	13,301
Capital receipts and bank/investment account closure transfers	(1,709)	(310,359)
Reclassification of property funds	-	466,699
Increase in debtors	2,174	15,158
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(620)	(9,801)
Total cash generated from operating activities	(119,301)	(62,471)

Analysis of cash and cash equivalent	2025 £	2024 £
Cash at bank	387,645	119,029
Central Finance Board Deposits	77,001	113,306
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes deposits	296,264	616,430
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	760,910	848,765

Oldham Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

1 Basis of accounting policies

i Accounting standard

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2014 version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 – the Charities SORP (FRS102) and taking note of the Update Bulletin 1 issued in 2016.

ii Public benefit entity

The Oldham Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical costs or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s) below.

iii Funds

The funds held constitute: General Funds held for any purpose of the Circuit which are Unrestricted. The Circuit Model Trust Fund has wide purposes defined in Standing Orders and is categorised as unrestricted. Restricted funds which are held for a narrower purpose. There are also Endowment funds as listed. Details of each material fund are disclosed in the final note to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

iv Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that investments are shown at their market value at the end of the year. The accruals basis has been used and trustees present accounts that show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

v Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research, and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £ Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

vi Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2024, the trustees believe that the Circuit is a going concern.

vii Consolidation

The Circuit has denominational regulatory oversight in respect of the work of the Churches within the Circuit but has no legal or operational control of those Churches and their governing bodies except in extreme circumstances. For this reason, the financial statements of Churches within the Circuit are not consolidated into these financial statements.

viii Income recognition

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Circuit becomes entitled to the resources, and the trustees are reasonably certain they will receive the resources; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Individual amounts categorised as *Other income* in the SOFA will be shown separately if they are considered material.

The Circuit acts as agent in two matters:

- the collection from Churches and payment over of their contributions to various funds controlled and administered by The Methodist Church
- "Connexional Funds"
- the administration (application, collection and disbursement) of grants requested by Churches within the Circuit from, but not limited to, the District and Connexion. In all these matters the transactions are not reflected in the SOFA because they are the income of either the Connexion or Churches as appropriate. Instead, the transactions are disclosed in the Notes to the Accounts as required by SORP (FRS102), module 19.12n.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the time of volunteers is not recognised. If goods are donated, a value will be shown in the SOFA or Notes where the value is considered material.

ix Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the Circuit to pay out resources.

Oldham Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

x Grants

Grants made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment. When the grant is recurrent over more than one year the balance payable in future years is treated as a provision for future commitments in the Balance Sheet against the appropriate fund, the provision being released in future years as instalments are paid in accordance with the originally agreed terms.

xi VAT

Since the Circuit is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged with the expenses to which it refers.

xii Critical accounting estimates and judgements

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

The trustees have made judgements and estimates in respect of: the fair value of tangible assets, and investment properties shown at fair value. The trustees have determined that any differences arising between actual amounts realised upon sale and fair value estimates will have no impact on the Circuit's ability to continue as a going concern.

xiii Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £500.

The freehold and/or long leasehold residential property is shown in the accounts at fair value determined by the trustees based on market value research. The land component is not recognised in these figures. No depreciation is provided on the residential properties because the trustees consider the current residual fair value of the manse buildings (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year-end) to be not less than its current value. Any depreciation would not be material. The residential properties have been reviewed for impairment.

xiv (a) Investment Properties

Investment property, which is property held to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation, is measured using the fair value model and stated at its fair value at the reporting end date. The surplus or deficit on revaluation is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

From time to time the Circuit may hold residential property (formerly manses) which is surplus to its normal staffing requirements. When the intention is to hold the property for capital appreciation or its rental income, the property is classified as investment property and carried at fair value.

xiv (b) Investments

The Circuit's investments are in monetary assets classified as basic financial instruments under FRS102 and are held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees. The valuations, at market value, are those provided by TMCP. The unrealised gains arising on investments are shown in the SOFA.

xv Debtors and Prepayments

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the Circuit or prepaid.

xvi Creditors and Accruals

Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any trade discounts, or the amount advanced to the Circuit. Creditors include both sundry expenses and specifically the 1st quarter assessment received in August.

xvii Ministers' manse costs

The Circuit is required to provide accommodation for each minister in the Circuit and their families and this is seen as a benefit to the Circuit. Ministers are expected to occupy the manse provided for them. The Circuit bears the cost of repairs, maintenance, buildings insurance, Council Tax and water charges. These figures are not separately disclosed as benefits-in-kind for ministers as HMRC does not seek to tax these receipts in the hands of ministers.

Oldham Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

2. Net Capital Receipts

Capital receipts relates to the sale of the Salt Cellar Resource Centre. All sales of Methodist property are subject to a levy by the Connexion calculated on a sliding scale based on the gross sale price. The figure is shown net of this CPF Levy. Also, any historic grants made by the Connexion to the closed church are reclaimed from the proceeds of sale before the CPF Levy is applied.

	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Total 2024-25	Total 2023-24
	£	£	£	£	£
Gross sale (Salt Cellar Resource Centre)		-		-	466,699
CPF Levy on property sales		-		-	(162,680)
Total proceeds		-		-	304,020

3. Other Charitable Income

	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Total 2024-25	Total 2023-24
	£	£	£	£	£
Contribution towards manse costs	3,000			3,000	3,000
Pension reserve refund of previous contribution made				-	35,000
Salary recharges	21,019			21,019	9,417
Other	89			89	865
Total	24,108	-	-	24,108	48,282

* Salary Recharges relates to the East Oldham Children & Youth Worker and a CAP worker. Both are recharged back to either East Oldham Church or the CAP debt centre.

4. Grants and donations paid

	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Total 2024-25	Total 2023-24
	£	£	£	£	£
Caleb Tiddlers Tots				-	360
Donation for 3 Generate tickets	3,000			3,000	3,000
Other				-	100
Total	3,000	-	-	3,000	3,460

Oldham Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

5. Staff Costs

Staff Costs paid during the year were:

	Ministers (trustees)	Lay staff	Total 2024-25	Total 2023-24
£	£	£	£	£
Stipends, salaries and benefits in kind	132,870	12,963	145,833	168,038
Social security costs	13,628	809	14,437	15,030
Pension costs	23,265	202	23,467	39,537
Apprenticeship levy	672	67	739	834
Total staff costs	170,435	14,040	184,475	223,439
Expenses (Travel, accommodation and other expenses incurred in the normal course of employment)	7,907	16	7,923	10,925
Average number of staff employed during the year were:	5	1	6	7

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

Wages and salary costs includes £nil in respect of redundancy payments in 2025 (2024: £nil).

6. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
Payments made to trustees for additional services provided to the Circuit by agreement with the Circuit Meeting	0	0
Number of trustees who were paid expenses relating to trustee duties	0	0
Total amount paid	0	0
There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 August 2025 (2024: £nil) other than that paid to ministers and lay staff in the normal course of their duties and disclosed above.		

7. Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
Independent examiner's or auditors' fees for reporting on the accounts	1,600	1,725
Other fees (eg: advice, accountancy services) paid to the independent examiner or auditor	0	0
Total	1,600	1,725

Oldham Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

8. Other outgoings

	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
Bad debt written off			-	5,840
Stationing	7,998		7,998	-
Salary recharges	20,904		20,904	7,243
Salt Cellar Resource Centre outgoings			-	2,566
Total	28,902	-	28,902	15,649

The bad debt written off in the prior year related to a 2011-12 assessment due from Honeywell Lane Church.

9. Property Disposals/Revaluations

The net gains or losses are detailed below. During the year and in accordance with note 1.xiii (Tangible fixed assets) the residential properties have been assessed for fair value and been determined by the trustees as needing to be revalued to market value.

Details	2023-24 Fair Value	Sale	2024-25 Fair Value	Gain/(loss)
	£	£	£	£
2 The Avenue, Shaw – unrealised	200,000		370,000	170,000
15 Nudger Green – unrealised	357,000		520,000	163,000
1 Spinners Way – unrealised	300,000		340,000	40,000
2 Bannach Drive – unrealised	228,000		300,000	72,000
9 The Avenue, Shaw – unrealised	302,000		328,000	26,000
Brae Side – unrealised	173,000		300,000	127,000
Total	1,560,000	-	2,158,000	598,000

10. Reclassification of Funds

Circuit property is always carried in the General Fund but upon sale the net proceeds are processed through the Circuit Model Trust Fund. This requires an adjustment and any such sales during the year are reflected below at the gross sale price. There was a net reclassification in the prior year from the sale of the Salt Cellar Resource Centre.

	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Total 2024-25	Total 2023-24
	£	£	£	£	£
Sale of Salt Cellar Resource Centre	-	-	-	-	(466,699)
Total	-	-	-	-	(466,699)

Oldham Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

11. Fixed Assets (including investment properties)

Manses	Manses held as investment properties	Other buildings	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
£	£	£		£

Cost or valuation

Balance brought forward	1,387,000	173,000	0	0	1,560,000
Additions					-
Revaluations (+/-)	471,000	127,000			598,000
Disposals (-)					0
Transfers * (+/-)					0
Balance carried forward	1,858,000	300,000	0	0	2,158,000

Accumulated depreciation

Balance brought forward	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation charge for year (-)					0
Revaluations (+/-)					0
Disposals (-)					0
Transfers* (+/-)					0
Balance carried forward	0	0	0	0	

Brought forward	1,387,000	173,000	0	0	1,560,000
Carried forward	1,858,000	300,000	0	0	2,158,000

The fair value of the manses includes the land on which they are built. The fair value of the manses has been determined by the trustees by comparing the properties to market values of similar properties in the area through online research.

12. Analysis of debtors

<u>Due within one year</u>	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
Trade debtors	51	2,170
Prepayments	14,553	14,858
Accrued grant income	750	500
Total	15,354	17,528

Oldham Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

13. Analysis of creditors

Amounts falling due within one year	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
Trade Creditors	879	1,993
Other Creditors	2,280	1,786
Total	3,159	3,779

14. Detailed analysis of individual fund movements

Unrestricted and Designated Funds

Unrestricted Fund Name	Brought forward funds	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers & Reclassification	Gain/(losses)	Closing Balance	Purpose of the fund
General - property	1,560,000	-	-	-	598,000	2,158,000	Property of the Circuit
General - designated	-	-	-	108,000	-	108,000	Deacon salary costs for the High Crompton Mission Project
General - free	219,317	265,022	(338,951)	103,218	-	248,606	Free reserves for the general purposes of the Circuit
Total General Fund	1,779,317	265,022	(338,951)	211,218		2,514,606	
Model Trust Fund - other	581,342	23,901	(36,740)	(523,233)	21	45,291	Support for the mission of the Circuit
Circuit Trust Fund - designated	-	-	-	304,020	-	304,020	Proceeds from the Salt Cellar reserved for Town Centre Mission
Total Model Trust Fund	581,342	23,901	(36,740)	(219,213)	21	349,311	
Totals	2,360,659	288,923	(375,691)	(7,995)	598,021	2,863,917	

Restricted Funds

Restricted Fund Name	Brought forward funds	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Gain/(losses)	Closing Balance	Purpose of the fund
TMCP Investments	3,426	431	(12)	(5)	(34)	3,806	Various small bequests/gifts for specific purposes.
Internal Organisations	26,687	11,441	(17,351)	8,000		28,777	Christians Against Poverty
Pioneer Mission	-	7,200	(7,200)			-	Circuit project for pioneer mission work
Caleb Tiddlers Tots	140	-	-			140	Grant gifted for the purpose of the toddler group
Totals	30,253	19,072	(24,563)	7,995	(34)	32,723	

Oldham Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

14. Detailed analysis of individual fund movements (continued)

Endowment Funds

Endowment Fund Name	How the capital is invested	The current value of the capital	Annual income	What the income was used for
James Cocker gift	TMCP (T1473)	33,007	0	
Organ Fund	TMCP (T3585)	1,458	0	
Totals		34,465	0	

Prior year comparatives for detailed analysis of individual fund movements

Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted Fund Name	Brought forward funds	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers & Reclassification	Gain/(losses)	Closing Balance	Purpose of the fund
General	2,210,915	281,278	(334,089)	(365,486)	(13,301)	1,779,317	The general purposes of the Circuit
Model Trust Fund	343,402	364,308	(17,984)	(109,213)	829	581,342	Support for the mission of the Circuit
Totals	2,554,317	645,586	(352,073)	(474,699)	(12,472)	2,360,659	

Restricted Funds

Restricted Fund Name	Brought forward funds	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Gain/(losses)	Closing Balance	Purpose of the fund
TMCP Investments	3,213	158	(14)		69	3,426	Various small bequests/gifts for specific purposes.
Internal Organisations	24,879	12,960	(19,152)	8,000		26,687	Christians Against Poverty
Salt Cellar Resource Centre	7,989	-	(7,989)			-	For closure costs of the Salt Cellar Resource Centre
Pioneer Mission	9,539	9,787	(19,326)			-	Circuit project for pioneer mission work
Caleb Tiddlers Tots	-	500	(360)			140	Grant gifted for the purpose of the toddler group
Totals	45,620	23,405	(46,841)	8,000	69	30,253	

Oldham Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Endowment Funds

Endowment Fund Name	How the capital is invested	The current value of the capital	Annual income	What the income was used for
James Cocker gift	TMCP (T1473)	31,602	0	
Totals		31,602	0	

15. Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:

	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024-25
	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	2,158,000			34,465	2,192,465
Current assets	359,765	349,311	32,723		741,799
Current liabilities	(3,159)				(3,159)
Total	2,514,606	349,311	32,723	34,465	2,931,105

16. Related party transactions

During the year the Circuit received assessment income totalling £222,000 from the various churches within the Circuit (2024: £246,216).

The Circuit incurred assessment costs of £57,821 payable to the District (2024: £54,216).

The Circuit incurred an annual levy to the District Advance Fund of £34,851 payable to the District (2024: £17,005).

Report of the Independent Examiners
To the Trustees of
Oldham Methodist Circuit

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Oldham Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31st August 2025 which are set out on pages 8 – 20.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity'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 charity'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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

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

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



Leanne Nield ACA
Arc Accountancy Solutions Limited
51 Laverton Road
Lytham St. Annes
Lancashire
FY8 1EN

Date:13/3/26.....