

# SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales · Charity number 1206421

## Details

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**Other names** SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND CIRCUIT

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 2024-01-08

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** Morpeth Methodist Church  
Howard Terrace  
Morpeth  
Northumberland  
NE61 1HU

**Phone** 01670714196

**Email** [seneahome@gmail.com](mailto:seneahome@gmail.com)

## Activities

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

**Activities:** The South East Northumberland Methodist Circuit advances the Christian faith by providing worship, teaching, mission, and pastoral care. It resources local churches, offers buildings and facilities for community use, supports children, families, and older people, and works with others to serve the wider community.

## Classification

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- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- Northumberland

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£290,280	£337,188	-	-
2024-08-31	£1,936,165	£496,375	£1,439,790	4

## Trustees

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Name	Role	Appointed
Rev ANTONY OAKLEY	Chair	2017-09-01
Cathryn Arnold		2024-06-13
Peter Michael Scott		2023-09-01
Rev Alan Douglas McGougan		2023-09-01
Rev Christopher John Wood-Archer BA.BD.MA.		2023-09-01
Rev Denise Harding		2023-09-01
Rev Richard Porter		2023-09-01
Tom Lloyd		2023-09-01

**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

England & Wales - Charity number 1206421

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# Accounts

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**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

**UNAUDITED**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

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**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

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**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

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**Trustees**

Rev A Oakley, Chair  
C Arnold (appointed 10 September 2024)  
M Glass (resigned 18 March 2025)  
Rev D Harding  
T Lloyd  
Rev A D McGougan  
Rev R Porter (appointed 1 September 2023)  
Rev L Sanders  
P M Scott  
Rev C J Wood-Archer

**Charity registered number**

1206421

**Principal office**

Doxford Place Methodist Church  
Doxford Place  
Cramlington  
Northumberland  
NE23 6DY

**Accountants**

Kinnair Associates Limited  
Chartered Accountants  
Aston House  
Redburn Road  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE5 1NB

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## SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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The Trustees present their annual report together with the independently examined financial statements of the South East Northumberland Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2025. This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and the relevant version of the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

#### **Organisational structure**

The Circuit was re-established on 1 September 2023 following the dissolution of the South East Northumberland Ecumenical Area, which had been formed in 2004 through the merger of Methodist Circuits 20/6 (South East Northumberland) and 20/7 (Morpeth), along with five churches from the Newcastle and Northumberland Districts of the United Reformed Church (URC).

The Circuit is governed by the Deed of Union (1932) and the Methodist Church Act 1976 as amended in March 2011. Overall control of the Circuit rests with the Methodist Conference. The Connexional Office implements decisions made by Conference and is also responsible for the stationing of ministers in individual Circuits. Connexional decisions are passed to the Chair of the District and the appropriate Officers of the District for regional implementation. The District passes the control down to Circuit level for local implementation by the Superintendent Ministers, ministerial staff and Circuit Stewards via the medium of the Circuit Meeting.

The appointment of the managing trustees is determined in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church.

The Charity's Trustees are the Superintendent Minister and members of the Circuit Meeting. This body meets two to three times a year with representatives from all churches in the Circuit.

The Circuit's daily management is handled by the Circuit Stewards and the church ministers, who meet every two months. The training of new circuit stewards is facilitated with the assistance of current circuit stewards.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given consideration to general guidance published by the charities commission relating to public benefit.

#### **Legal and administrative information**

The governing bodies of the Circuit is the Annual Conference of the Methodist Church. The Methodist Church Act 1976 gives the authority under which the Methodist Church acts. The constitutional practice and discipline of the Methodist Church govern the activities of the Circuit, including the setting of ministerial stipends.

Following the dissolution of the Ecumenical Area, the South East Northumberland Circuit is now registered with the Charity Commission (Charity Number 1206421).

#### **Objectives and activities**

The Circuit is constituted to advance the effective deployment of the resources of ministry, which include people, property and finance, as they relate to the Methodist Church in the Circuit, to churches of other denominations and to participation in the life of the communities served by the Circuit and in ecumenical work in the Circuit.

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## SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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#### Activities for achieving objectives

Throughout the year, representatives from the Circuit have attended the local Methodist Synod to stay updated on the current situation within the denomination.

Each church within the Circuit has representatives on the Circuit meeting based on their membership. The Circuit meeting meets two or three times a year to deal with the business of the Circuit and that required by the Methodist governing body. The circuit stewards and circuit ministers meet as a Circuit Leadership Team regularly for mutual support, training and to deal with any issues that arise between the Circuit meetings.

With regards to worship, we currently have one local preacher in training, and we continue to seek out and nurture those people who may be able to follow that calling.

Following the cessation of worship at Seghill Methodist Church the property is being disposed of as per the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes' requirements. The anticipated completion of the sale is likely to take place in the 2025-26 connexional year. The congregation at Hauxley Methodist Church ceased worship at Easter 2025. The building in which the congregation met is not Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes property and has been returned to the care of the original owners.

The Circuit continues to think about Vision for the future especially considering its recent reconstitution, reducing congregation numbers & reducing income. Staff, local preachers, and worship leaders meet quarterly for support and training. In addition, staff meet weekly online via video conferencing for mutual support and take counsel together respecting the affairs of the Circuit; to confer, encourage and be accountable.

#### Review of Progress and Achievements

The Circuit continues to explore its calling to mission and ministry. The staff continue to explore new opportunities for mission and ministry, leading to growth in parts of the Circuit. The circuit leadership team has reduced in number over the year, but we are actively looking to recruit replacements.

#### Plans for the Future

Several congregations within the South East Northumberland Circuit have noted an increase in attendance on Sundays, while others have observed a continued decrease in worshipping numbers. Midweek services are consistently reporting growth as habits in worship attendance change. With changes in ministry in the future the Circuit leadership team are updating the Circuit mission plan & vision for the future.

#### Financial Review

Excluding the transfer of £1,301,581 of funds from the South East Northumberland Ecumenical Area in the year ended 31st August 2024 there was a deficit on the net movement in unrestricted funds for 2024 of £290,357 which included a profit on disposal of land at Seghill and Ashington Manse amounting to £157,705. This compares to a comparable deficit in the year ended 31st August 2025 of £53,626. The deficits arose after charging depreciation of £9,395 (2024: £9,395). No grants were provided to churches in either year.

The Circuit's main source of income is from the churches within the Circuit's boundary and the risk of future decline in that income is associated with reducing church membership and hence the ability of churches to maintain their contribution to the Circuit. Trustees will have to constantly monitor this risk and as in the past adjust staffing levels to meet available funding.

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## SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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#### Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Circuit has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.

#### Other Activities

#### Trustees & Governance

The Charity Trustees (members of the Circuit Meeting including ministerial staff and individual Church representatives) who have served during the year and since the year end are set out in the reference and administrative details of the charity.

The principal address of the Circuit's Independent Examiners who were reappointed during the year, and bankers are also set out in the reference and administrative details of the charity.

The Trustees are responsible for the detailed examination of the Financial Statements and for recommending their adoption by the Circuit meeting.

The Circuit comprises of fifteen churches. They are contactable via the principal address of the Circuit.

Funds are transferred to the Circuit on either a monthly or quarterly basis to meet the commitments to the Methodist District for the upkeep of the Circuit.

#### Internal financial controls

The Trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that there is in place an appropriate system of controls, financial and otherwise, to provide reasonable confidence and assurance that:

- the Circuit's administration is operating effectively and efficiently
- the assets of the Circuit are properly safeguarded against unauthorised loss or damages
- proper records are maintained and information produced for management control, fiscal and statutory reasons
- the Circuit complies with the relevant laws and guidelines.

#### Investment policy

Surplus funds of the Circuit are held in a Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church (CFB) deposit account. The Circuit Advance Fund is administered by the Trustees for Methodist Church purposes.

The policies and procedures adopted by the CFB are agreed by Conference.

#### Reserves policy

The reserves policy for the Circuit agreed by the Trustees is to hold the unrestricted reserves, excluding fixed assets, equivalent of the relevant annual expenditure plus an estimate of any known likely fluctuations this would amount to approximately £450,000.

Total reserves amount to £1,409,971 (2024: £1,456,876) of which £836,142 (2024: £845,537) relates to property. The remaining reserves comprise unrestricted £121,456 (2024: £165,687) and restricted £452,373 (2024: £445,652). The unrestricted reserves are therefore below the policy level and have deteriorated further during the year. It is unlikely that the position will improve in the future. The restricted reserves are available for property repairs and to support wage costs throughout the Circuit.

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**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

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**Risk management**

The Circuit's risk management policy is designed to identify and analyse operational and other risks and ensure that it is controlled, monitored and steps taken to mitigate the risks. The Trustees have examined the main risks and are satisfied that proper controls are in place for monitoring and mitigating these risks. The main risks the Circuit faces can be categorised as follows:

1. Strategic and Reputational Risks
2. Financial Risks
3. Compliance Risk
4. Operational Risks.

The Trustees will monitor these risks and report regularly to the co ordinating group.

**Statement of Trustees' responsibilities**

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

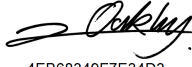
The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS102);
- Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees on 17 March 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

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**Rev A Oakley**  
(Chair of Trustees)

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## SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT

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### INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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#### **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of South East Northumberland Methodist Circuit ('the Charity')**

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 August 2025.

#### **Responsibilities and Basis of Report**

As the Trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

#### **Independent Examiner's Statement**

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the Charity has prepared the accounts in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 2011 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.

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**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

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**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

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This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

DocuSigned by:  
  
Signed: 8228AFA7794A4DC...

Dated: 31 March 2026

Detlev Anderson FCA

**Kinnair Associates Limited**  
Chartered Accountants  
Aston House  
Redburn Road  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE5 1NB

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**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

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**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

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	Note	Restricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	-	254,000	254,000	1,778,323
Investments	4	17,092	18,479	35,571	16,877
Other income	5	-	709	709	157,915
<b>Total income</b>		<b>17,092</b>	<b>273,188</b>	<b>290,280</b>	<b>1,953,115</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable activities	7	10,074	327,114	337,188	496,375
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>10,074</b>	<b>327,114</b>	<b>337,188</b>	<b>496,375</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure) before net gains on investments</b>		<b>7,018</b>	<b>(53,926)</b>	<b>(46,908)</b>	<b>1,456,740</b>
Net gains on investments		3	-	3	136
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>7,021</b>	<b>(53,926)</b>	<b>(46,905)</b>	<b>1,456,876</b>
Transfers between funds	17	(300)	300	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>6,721</b>	<b>(53,626)</b>	<b>(46,905)</b>	<b>1,456,876</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		445,652	1,011,224	1,456,876	-
Net movement in funds		6,721	(53,626)	(46,905)	1,456,876
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>452,373</b>	<b>957,598</b>	<b>1,409,971</b>	<b>1,456,876</b>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 10 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

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**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

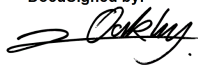
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**BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025**

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	Note	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	12	836,142	845,537
		836,142	845,537
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	13	24,409	203,714
Investments	14	214,998	235,375
Cash at bank and in hand		342,752	178,843
		582,159	617,932
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(8,330)	(6,593)
<b>Net current assets</b>		573,829	611,339
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		1,409,971	1,456,876
<b>Net assets excluding pension asset</b>		1,409,971	1,456,876
<b>Total net assets</b>		1,409,971	1,456,876
<b>Charity funds</b>			
Restricted funds	17	452,373	445,652
Unrestricted funds	17	957,598	1,011,224
<b>Total funds</b>		1,409,971	1,456,876

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 17 March 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

DocuSigned by:  
  
 4EB68349F7E34D3...

**Rev A Oakley**

The notes on pages 10 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

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## SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT

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### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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#### 1. General information

South East Northumberland Methodist Church is a registered charity (number 1206421). The address of the principal office is Doxford Place Methodist Church, Doxford Place, Northumberland, NE23 6DY.

#### 2. Accounting policies

##### 2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following the Charities SORP (FRS 102) published in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

South East Northumberland Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

The accounts are presented in sterling and rounded to the nearest pound.

##### 2.2 Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

##### 2.3 Income

All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Voluntary income is received by way of assessment income, donations, contributions and legacies and by receipt of grants.

Donations, contributions and legacies are accounted for on a receivable basis. In accordance with this policy, legacies are included when advice has been received from the personal representative of an estate that payment will be made or property transferred and the amount involved can be quantified.

Incoming grants are accounted on a receivable basis. Expended grants are accounted on a payable basis. Grants payable are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when approved. The value of such grants unpaid at the end of the year is accrued.

The Circuits's policy with regard to grants is to support those churches which are in need of capital renewal (via the Circuit advance fund).

Investment income and interest and other income are accounted on an accruals basis.

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## SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT

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### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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#### 2. Accounting policies (continued)

##### 2.3 Income (continued)

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

##### 2.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at Headquarters.

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is made except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

##### 2.5 Government grants

Government grants relating to tangible fixed assets are treated as deferred income and released to the Statement of Financial Activities upon the completion of the relevant performance-related conditions. Other grants that are not subject to performance-related conditions are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities as the grant proceeds are received. Grants received prior to the revenue recognition criteria being satisfied are recognised as a liability.

##### 2.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed assets are stated at the net book value on the date of transfer from the South East Northumberland Ecumenical Area on 1st September 2023.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives. .

Depreciation is charged on the following bases:

Freehold property	- Depreciation is charged at 1% per annum of the original cost of the assets transferred on 1st September 2023 plus any additions.
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**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

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**2. Accounting policies (continued)****2.7 Investments**

Current asset investments are stated at market value less any provision for permanent diminution in value.

Realised and unrealised capital gains and losses on investments are dealt with in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they arise, based on the brought forward valuations or cost of subsequent additions.

**2.8 Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

**2.9 Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

**2.10 Liabilities and provisions**

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

**2.11 Financial instruments**

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

**2.12 Pensions**

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Charity to the fund in respect of the year.

**2.13 Fund accounting**

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.13 Fund accounting (continued)**

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

**3. Income from donations and legacies**

	<b>Restricted funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2025 £</b>
Donations	-	4,000	<b>4,000</b>
Grants - assessments	-	250,000	<b>250,000</b>
<b>Total 2025</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>254,000</b>	<b>254,000</b>

	<i>Restricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
<b>Donations</b>			
Funds transferred from South East Northumberland Ecumenical Area	183,664	1,301,581	1,485,245
Other donations	-	4,000	4,000
<b>Subtotal detailed disclosure</b>	<b>183,664</b>	<b>1,305,581</b>	<b>1,489,245</b>
Grants - assessments	-	286,878	286,878
Government grants - Ukraine family assistance	2,200	-	2,200
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>286,878</b>	<b>289,078</b>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<b>185,864</b>	<b>1,592,459</b>	<b>1,778,323</b>

**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

**4. Investment income**

	<b>Restricted funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2025 £</b>
Rental income	-	10,800	<b>10,800</b>
Income from current asset investments and cash at bank	17,092	7,679	<b>24,771</b>
	<u>17,092</u>	<u>18,479</u>	<u><b>35,571</b></u>

	<i>Restricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Rental income	-	4,500	4,500
Income from current asset investments and cash at bank	9,240	3,137	12,377
	<u>9,240</u>	<u>7,637</u>	<u>16,877</u>

**5. Other incoming resources**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2025 £</b>
Other incoming resources	709	<b>709</b>
	<u>709</u>	<u><b>709</b></u>

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Other incoming resources	210	210
Gain on disposal of land and properties	157,705	157,705
	<u>157,915</u>	<u>157,915</u>

**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

**6. Analysis of grants**

	<b>Grants to Institutions 2025 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2025 £</b>
URC Assessment	28,959	<b>28,959</b>
Payments to the Methodist District	74,854	<b>74,854</b>
	<u>103,813</u>	<u><b>103,813</b></u>
	<i>Grants to Institutions 2024 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
URC Assessment	43,057	43,057
Payments to the Methodist District	74,358	74,358
	<u>117,415</u>	<u>117,415</u>

**7. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities**

**Summary by fund type**

	<b>Restricted funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Total 2025 £</b>
Support activities	10,074	223,301	<b>233,375</b>
URC Assessment	-	28,959	<b>28,959</b>
Payments to the Methodist District	-	74,854	<b>74,854</b>
	<u>10,074</u>	<u>327,114</u>	<u><b>337,188</b></u>

**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

**7. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities (continued)**

**Summary by fund type (continued)**

	<i>Restricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Total 2024 £</i>
Support activities	100,675	278,285	378,960
URC Assessment	-	43,057	43,057
Payments to the Methodist District	-	74,358	74,358
	<u>100,675</u>	<u>395,700</u>	<u>496,375</u>

**8. Analysis of expenditure by activities**

	<b>Grant funding of activities 2025 £</b>	<b>Support costs 2025 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2025 £</b>
Support activities	-	233,375	<b>233,375</b>
URC Assessment	28,959	-	<b>28,959</b>
Payments to the Methodist District	74,854	-	<b>74,854</b>
	<u>103,813</u>	<u>233,375</u>	<u><b>337,188</b></u>

	<i>Grant funding of activities 2024 £</i>	<i>Support costs 2024 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Support activities	-	378,960	378,960
URC Assessment	43,057	-	43,057
Payments to the Methodist District	74,358	-	74,358
	<u>117,415</u>	<u>378,960</u>	<u>496,375</u>

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**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

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**8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)**

**Analysis of support costs**

	<b>Total funds 2025 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Staff costs	148,468	154,042
Depreciation	9,395	9,395
Travel and expenses	10,235	11,611
Telephone	3,246	3,059
Printing and stationery	1,764	1,457
Repairs and furnishings	18,795	8,788
Council Tax and water rates	11,650	13,468
Insurance	7,342	6,763
Donation	-	500
Sundries	11,420	2,930
Levy on sale of property	-	96,621
Legal and professional costs	1,009	-
Governance costs	7,831	8,154
Quinquennial	-	2,820
Bank charges	75	81
Heat and light	2,105	4,023
Ukraine family support expenditure	40	1,251
Donation to URC	-	53,997
	<b>233,375</b>	<b>378,960</b>

**9. Independent examiner's remuneration**

	<b>2025 £</b>	<i>2024 £</i>
Fees payable to the Charity's independent examiner for the independent examination of the Charity's annual accounts	<b>2,310</b>	<b>2,675</b>

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**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

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**10. Staff costs**

	<b>2025</b>	<i>2024</i>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	<b>114,666</b>	122,407
Social security costs	<b>12,149</b>	10,194
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	<b>21,653</b>	21,441
	<b>148,468</b>	154,042
	<b>148,468</b>	154,042

The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the year was as follows:

	<b>2025</b>	<i>2024</i>
	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>
Employees	<b>4</b>	4
	<b>4</b>	4
	<b>4</b>	4

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

The Trust's key management personnel are those persons having authority or responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the charity to whom the Trustees have delegated significant authority in the day-to-day running of the charity. The key management personnel include the Ecumenical Area's four Methodist ministers who received remuneration and benefits (including employer's NI and pension contributions) of £145,422 in the year (2024: £141,765), together with the two United Reformed Church ministers, who are employed by the United Reformed Church and so are not remunerated by the Trust.

**11. Trustees' remuneration and expenses**

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2024 - £NIL).

Rev. A Oakley, Rev. C J Wood-Archer Rev. D Harding and Rev. R Porter, Trustees of South East Northumberland Methodist Circuit, received salary payments totalling £145,422 (2024: £141,765) (including employer's pension contributions) for their work as Methodist ministers. They also were reimbursed expenses totalling £8,735 (2024: £7,276) for provision of services as ministers. Rev. A D McGougan received reimbursed expenses totalling £2,490 (2024: £2,769) for provision of services as a minister but is employed by the United Reformed Church (see note 10 above).

During the year ended 31 August 2025, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2024 - £NIL).

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**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

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**12. Tangible fixed assets**

	<b>Freehold property £</b>
<b>Cost or valuation</b>	
At 1 September 2024	854,932
At 31 August 2025	854,932
<b>Depreciation</b>	
At 1 September 2024	9,395
Charge for the year	9,395
At 31 August 2025	18,790
<b>Net book value</b>	
At 31 August 2025	836,142
<i>At 31 August 2024</i>	845,537

**13. Debtors**

	<b>2025 £</b>	<b>2024 £</b>
<b>Due within one year</b>		
Other debtors	-	183,332
Prepayments and accrued income	17,486	15,811
Grants receivable	6,923	4,571
	<b>24,409</b>	<b>203,714</b>

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**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

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**14. Current asset investments**

	<b>2025</b>	<i>2024</i>
	<b>£</b>	<i>£</i>
Listed investments	<b>1,899</b>	<i>1,896</i>
Unlisted investments (liquid)	<b>213,099</b>	<i>233,479</i>
	<b><u>214,998</u></b>	<i><u>235,375</u></i>

**15. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2025</b>	<i>2024</i>
	<b>£</b>	<i>£</i>
Trade creditors	<b>580</b>	<i>3,383</i>
Accruals and deferred income	<b>7,750</b>	<i>3,210</i>
	<b><u>8,330</u></b>	<i><u>6,593</u></i>

**16. Financial instruments**

	<b>2025</b>	<i>2024</i>
	<b>£</b>	<i>£</i>
<b>Financial assets</b>		
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure	<b><u>557,750</u></b>	<i><u>414,218</u></i>

Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure comprise bank balances and current investments.

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**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

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**17. Statement of funds**

**Statement of funds - current year**

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2025 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
General Funds	1,011,224	273,188	(327,114)	300	-	957,598
<b>Restricted funds</b>						
Circuit Advance Fund	422,238	17,092	(10,034)	(300)	3	428,999
Property Maintenance Fund	20,170	-	-	-	-	20,170
Ukraine family assistance	3,244	-	(40)	-	-	3,204
	<u>445,652</u>	<u>17,092</u>	<u>(10,074)</u>	<u>(300)</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>452,373</u>
<b>Total of funds</b>	<u><u>1,456,876</u></u>	<u><u>290,280</u></u>	<u><u>(337,188)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>3</u></u>	<u><u>1,409,971</u></u>

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**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

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**17. Statement of funds (continued)**

**Circuit Advance Fund**

The Circuit Advance Fund represents funds arising from the sale or other disposition of land which is Circuit property. The authority to sanction schemes for the application of capital money in the fund rests with the Circuit meeting, subject to approval by the Synod.

**Property Maintenance Fund**

The funds are available to be used for the maintenance of the Ecumenical Circuit's properties.

**Ukraine family assistance**

The "Ukraine Family Assistance" fund was set up to support a Ukrainian family hosted in the vacant Amble manse under the government scheme from December 2022. It was funded by donations from local individuals and organisations, and by monthly Government payments.

**Statement of funds - prior year**

	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers</i>	<i>Balance at</i>
	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>in/out</i>	<i>31 August</i>
			<i>£</i>	<i>2024</i>
				<i>£</i>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General Funds	1,758,011	(395,700)	(351,087)	1,011,224
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Circuit Advance Fund	160,580	(99,424)	361,082	422,238
Property Maintenance Fund	30,165	-	(9,995)	20,170
Ukraine family assistance	4,495	(1,251)	-	3,244
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	195,240	(100,675)	351,087	445,652
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total of funds</b>	<b>1,953,251</b>	<b>(496,375)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,456,876</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

**18. Summary of funds**

**Summary of funds - current year**

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2025 £
General funds	1,011,224	273,188	(327,114)	300	-	957,598
Restricted funds	445,652	17,092	(10,074)	(300)	3	452,373
	<u>1,456,876</u>	<u>290,280</u>	<u>(337,188)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1,409,971</u>

**Summary of funds - prior year**

	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
General funds	1,758,011	(395,700)	(351,087)	1,011,224
Restricted funds	195,240	(100,675)	351,087	445,652
	<u>1,953,251</u>	<u>(496,375)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,456,876</u>

**19. Analysis of net assets between funds**

**Analysis of net assets between funds - current year**

	Restricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	836,142	836,142
Current assets	452,373	129,786	582,159
Creditors due within one year	-	(8,330)	(8,330)
<b>Total</b>	<u>452,373</u>	<u>957,598</u>	<u>1,409,971</u>

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**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

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**19. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)**

**Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year**

	<i>Restricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	-	845,537	845,537
Current assets	445,652	172,280	617,932
Creditors due within one year	-	(6,593)	(6,593)
<b>Total</b>	<b>445,652</b>	<b>1,011,224</b>	<b>1,456,876</b>

**20. Pension commitments**

"The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the group in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the group to the fund and amounted to £21,653 (2024: £21,441).

**21. Related party transactions**

The related parties to the Circuit are the Methodist Churches of Alnmouth, Amble, Bedlington Colliery, Blyth Central, Cowpen, Cramlington – Doxford Place, Cramlington – Welcome, Hauxley (closed May 2025), Morpeth, Pegswood, Stakeford and Widdrington, together with the Local Ecumenical Partnerships of the Methodist Church and United Reformed Church in Ashington, Bedlington, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea and Seaton Delaval. Each church contributes grants referred to as "Assessments" as agreed with the Circuit Treasurer and funds are contributed either monthly or quarterly.

The Ecumenical Circuit, on occasion, provides grants to churches within the Circuits to fund exceptional repair costs.

**22. Post balance sheet events**

In September 2025 the Circuit sold Seghill Methodist Church with a net gain on sale of £142,349 before paying an associated levy on sale of £32,940 to the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

**23. Controlling party**

The Circuit is governed by the Deed of Union (1932) and the Methodist Church Act 1976 as amended March 2011. Overall control of the Circuit rests with the Methodist Conference.

**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

England & Wales - Charity number 1206421

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# Accounts

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**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

**UNAUDITED**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

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**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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**Trustees**

Rev A Oakley, Chair (appointed 1 September 2023)  
Rev A D McGougan (appointed 1 September 2023)  
Rev L Sanders (appointed 1 September 2023)  
P M Scott (appointed 1 September 2023)  
T Lloyd (appointed 1 September 2023)  
Rev C J Wood-Archer (appointed 1 September 2023)  
M Glass (appointed 1 September 2023)  
Rev D Harding (appointed 1 September 2023)

**Charity registered number**

1206421

**Principal office**

Doxford Place Methodist Church  
Doxford Place  
Northumberland  
NE23 6DY

**Accountants**

Kinnair Associates Limited  
Chartered Accountants  
Aston House  
Redburn Road  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE5 1NB

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## SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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The Trustees present their annual report together with the independently examined financial statements of the South East Northumberland Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2024. This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and the relevant version of the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

#### **Organisational structure**

The Circuit was re-established on 1 September 2023 following the dissolution of the South East Northumberland Ecumenical Area, which had been formed in 2004 through the merger of Methodist Circuits 20/6 (South East Northumberland) and 20/7 (Morpeth), along with five churches from the Newcastle and Northumberland Districts of the United Reformed Church (URC).

The Circuit is governed by the Deed of Union (1932) and the Methodist Church Act 1976 as amended in March 2011. Overall control of the Circuit rests with the Methodist Conference. The Connexional Office implements decisions made by Conference and is also responsible for the stationing of ministers in individual Circuits. Connexional decisions are passed to the Chair of the District and the appropriate Officers of the District for regional implementation. The District passes the control down to Circuit level for local implementation by the Superintendent Ministers, ministerial staff and Circuit Stewards via the medium of the Circuit Meeting.

The appointment of the managing trustees is determined in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church.

The Charities Trustees are the superintendent minister and members of the Circuit Meeting. This body meets three times a year with representatives from all churches in the Circuit.

The Circuit's daily management is handled by the circuit stewards and the church ministers, who meet every two months. The training of new Circuit Stewards is facilitated with the assistance of current Circuit Stewards.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given consideration to general guidance published by the charities commission relating to public benefit.

#### **Legal and administrative information**

The governing bodies of the Circuit is the Annual Conference of the Methodist Church. The Methodist Church Act 1976 gives the authority under which the Methodist Church acts. The constitutional practice and discipline of the Methodist Church govern the activities of the Circuit, including the setting of ministerial stipends.

Following the dissolution of the Ecumenical Area, the South East Northumberland Circuit is now registered with the Charity Commission (Charity Number 1206421).

#### **Objectives and activities**

The Circuit is constituted to advance the effective deployment of the resources of ministry, which include people, property and finance, as they relate to the Methodist Church in the Circuit, to churches of other denominations and to participation in the life of the communities served by the Circuit and in ecumenical work in the Circuit.

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## SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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#### Activities for achieving objectives

Throughout the year, representatives from the Circuit have attended the local Methodist Synod to stay updated on the current situation within the denomination.

Each church within the Circuit has representatives on the Circuit meeting based on their membership. The Circuit meeting meets two or three times a year to deal with the business of the Circuit and that required by the Methodist governing body. The circuit stewards meet regularly for mutual support, training and to deal with any issues that arise between the Circuit meetings. With regards to worship, we currently have one local preacher in training, and we continue to seek out and nurture those people who may be able to follow that calling. This year, Seghill Methodist Church has ceased worship, and the property will be disposed of as per the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes' requirements. The Circuit continues to think about Vision for the future especially considering its recent reconstitution, reducing congregation numbers & reducing income. Staff, local preachers, and worship leaders meet quarterly for support and training. In addition, staff meet weekly online via video conferencing for mutual support and take counsel together respecting the affairs of the Circuit; to confer, encourage and be accountable.

#### Review of Progress and Achievements

The Circuit continues to explore its calling to mission and ministry. The staff continue to explore new opportunities for mission and ministry, leading to growth in parts of the Circuit. In September 2023, the Circuit welcomed a probationer minister to its full-time staff. The circuit leadership team has reduced in number over the year, but we are actively looking to recruit replacements.

The sale of the plot of land, previously a chapel in Annitsford, has been completed.

#### Plans for the Future

Several congregations within the South East Northumberland Circuit have noted an increase in attendance on Sundays, while others have observed a continued decrease in worshipping numbers. Midweek services are consistently reporting growth as habits in worship attendance change. With changes in ministry in the future the Circuit leadership team are updating the Circuit mission plan & vision for the future.

#### Financial Review

The Income and Expenditure for the year on unrestricted funds was a deficit of £10,671 (2023: deficit £69,384). This deficit arose after charging depreciation of £9,395 (2023: £11,671) and providing grants to churches of £nil (2023: nil). Last year's result included a profit on disposal of land at Seghill and Ashington manse amounting to £157,705.

The Circuit's main source of income is from the churches within the Circuit's boundary and the risk of future decline in that income is associated with reducing church membership and hence the ability of churches to maintain their contribution to the Circuit. Trustees will have to constantly monitor this risk and as in the past adjust staffing levels to meet available funding.

#### Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Circuit has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.

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## SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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#### Other Activities

#### Trustees & Governance

The Charity Trustees (members of the Circuit Meeting including ministerial staff and individual Church representatives) who have served during the year and since the year end are set out in the reference and administrative details of the charity.

The principal address of the Circuit's Independent Examiners who were reappointed during the year, and bankers are also set out in the reference and administrative details of the charity.

The Trustees are responsible for the detailed examination of the Financial Statements and for recommending their adoption by the Circuit meeting.

The Circuit comprises of fifteen churches. They are contactable via the principal address of the Circuit.

Funds are transferred to the Circuit on either a monthly or quarterly basis to meet the commitments to the Methodist District for the upkeep of the Circuit.

#### Internal financial controls

The Trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that there is in place an appropriate system of controls, financial and otherwise, to provide reasonable confidence and assurance that:

- the Circuit's administration is operating effectively and efficiently
- the assets of the Circuit are properly safeguarded against unauthorised loss or damages
- proper records are maintained and information produced for management control, fiscal and statutory reasons
- the Circuit complies with the relevant laws and guidelines.

#### Investment policy

Surplus funds of the Circuit are held in a Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church (CFB) deposit account. The Circuit Advance Fund is administered by the Trustees for Methodist Church purposes.

The policies and procedures adopted by the CFB are agreed by Conference.

#### Reserves policy

The reserves policy for the Circuit agreed by the Trustees is to hold the unrestricted reserves, excluding fixed assets, equivalent of the relevant annual expenditure plus an estimate of any known likely fluctuations this would amount to approximately £450,000.

Total reserves amount to £1,439,790 (2023: £1,482,000) of which £845,537 (2023: £1,048,000) relates to property. The remaining reserves comprise unrestricted £172,280 (2023: £250,000) and restricted £445,652 (2023: £184,000). The unrestricted reserves are therefore below the policy level and have deteriorated further during the year. It is unlikely that the position will improve in the future. The restricted reserves are available for property repairs and to support wage costs throughout the Circuit.

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**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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**Risk management**

The Circuit's risk management policy is designed to identify and analyse operational and other risks and ensure that it is controlled, monitored and steps taken to mitigate the risks. The Trustees have examined the main risks and are satisfied that proper controls are in place for monitoring and mitigating these risks. The main risks the Circuit faces can be categorised as follows:

1. Strategic and Reputational Risks
2. Financial Risks
3. Compliance Risk
4. Operational Risks.

The Trustees will monitor these risks and report regularly to the co ordinating group.

**Statement of Trustees' responsibilities**

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).


The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS102);
- Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees on 23 June 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Signed by:  
  
76C1008C6E7D464...

**T Lloyd**

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## SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT

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### INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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#### **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of South East Northumberland Methodist Circuit ('the Charity')**

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 August 2024.

My independent examination has taken place instead of an audit as a result of an audit dispensation granted under Regulation 34(3)(b) of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 by the Charity Commission on 1st May 2025.

#### **Responsibilities and Basis of Report**

As the Trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

#### **Independent Examiner's Statement**

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the Charity has prepared the accounts in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 2011 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.

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**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

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**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Signed: 8228AFA7794A4DC...

Dated: 23 June 2025

Detlev Anderson FCA

**Kinnair Associates Limited**  
Chartered Accountants  
Aston House  
Redburn Road  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE5 1NB

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**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

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**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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	Note	Restricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
<b>Income from:</b>				
Donations and legacies	3	185,864	1,592,459	1,778,323
Investments	4	9,240	7,637	16,877
Other income	5	-	157,915	157,915
<b>Total income</b>		<b>195,104</b>	<b>1,758,011</b>	<b>1,953,115</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>				
Raising funds	6	-	117,415	117,415
Charitable activities	7	100,675	278,285	378,960
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>100,675</b>	<b>395,700</b>	<b>496,375</b>
<b>Net income before net gains on investments</b>		<b>94,429</b>	<b>1,362,311</b>	<b>1,456,740</b>
Net gains on investments		136	-	136
<b>Net income</b>		<b>94,565</b>	<b>1,362,311</b>	<b>1,456,876</b>
Transfers between funds	17	351,087	(351,087)	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>445,652</b>	<b>1,011,224</b>	<b>1,456,876</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>				
Net movement in funds		445,652	1,011,224	1,456,876
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>445,652</b>	<b>1,011,224</b>	<b>1,456,876</b>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 11 to 23 form part of these financial statements.

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**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**


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**BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024**

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	Note		2024 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	12		845,537
			845,537
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	13	203,714	
Investments	14	235,375	
Cash at bank and in hand		178,843	
			617,932
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(6,593)	
			611,339
<b>Net current assets</b>			611,339
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			1,456,876
<b>Net assets excluding pension asset</b>			1,456,876
<b>Total net assets</b>			1,456,876
<b>Charity funds</b>			
Restricted funds	17		445,652
Unrestricted funds	17		1,011,224
			1,456,876
<b>Total funds</b>			1,456,876

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 23 June 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Signed by:  
  
 76C1006C6E7D464...

**T Lloyd**

The notes on pages 11 to 23 form part of these financial statements.

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**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

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**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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	2024 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>	
Net cash used in operating activities	<b>(396,909)</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>	
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	17,013
Proceeds from the sale of tangible fixed assets	351,086
Purchase of investments	<b>(84,034)</b>
<b>Net cash provided by investing activities</b>	<b>284,065</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>	
Cash transferred from South East Northumberland Ecumenical Area	291,687
<b>Net cash provided by financing activities</b>	<b>291,687</b>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>	<b>178,843</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	<b>178,843</b>

The notes on pages 11 to 23 form part of these financial statements

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## SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT

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### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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#### 1. General information

South East Northumberland Methodist Church is a registered charity (number 1206421). The address of the principal office is Doxford Place Methodist Church, Doxford Place, Northumberland, NE23 6DY.

#### 2. Accounting policies

##### 2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following the Charities SORP (FRS 102) published in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

South East Northumberland Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

The accounts are presented in sterling and rounded to the nearest pound.

##### 2.2 Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

##### 2.3 Income

All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Voluntary income is received by way of assessment income, donations, contributions and legacies and by receipt of grants.

Donations, contributions and legacies are accounted for on a receivable basis. In accordance with this policy, legacies are included when advice has been received from the personal representative of an estate that payment will be made or property transferred and the amount involved can be quantified.

Incoming grants are accounted on a receivable basis. Expended grants are accounted on a payable basis. Grants payable are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when approved. The value of such grants unpaid at the end of the year is accrued.

The Area's policy with regard to grants is to support those churches which are in need of capital renewal (via the Area advance fund).

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**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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**2. Accounting policies (continued)****2.3 Income (continued)**

Investment income and interest and other income are accounted on an accruals basis.

**2.4 Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Charity to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at Headquarters.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

**2.5 Government grants**

Government grants relating to tangible fixed assets are treated as deferred income and released to the Statement of Financial Activities over the expected useful lives of the assets concerned. Other grants are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities as the related expenditure is incurred.

**2.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Fixed assets are stated at the net book value on the date of transfer from the South East Northumberland Ecumenical Area on 1st September 2023.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives. .

Depreciation is charged on the following bases:

Freehold property	- Depreciation is charged at 1% per annum of the original cost of the assets transferred on 1st September 2023 plus any additions.
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**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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**2. Accounting policies (continued)****2.7 Investments**

Current asset investments are stated at market value less any provision for permanent diminution in value.

Realised and unrealised capital gains and losses on investments are dealt with in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they arise, based on the brought forward valuations or cost of subsequent additions.

**2.8 Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

**2.9 Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

**2.10 Liabilities and provisions**

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

**2.11 Financial instruments**

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

**2.12 Pensions**

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Charity to the fund in respect of the year.

**2.13 Fund accounting**

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

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**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.13 Fund accounting (continued)**

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

**3. Income from donations and legacies**

	<b>Restricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>
<b>Donations</b>			
Funds transferred from South East Northumberland Ecumenical Area	183,664	1,301,581	<b>1,485,245</b>
Other donations	-	4,000	<b>4,000</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Donations</b>	183,664	1,305,581	<b>1,489,245</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Grants - assessments	-	286,878	<b>286,878</b>
Government grants - Ukraine family assistance	2,200	-	<b>2,200</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Subtotal</b>	2,200	286,878	<b>289,078</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>185,864</b>	<b>1,592,459</b>	<b>1,778,323</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

**4. Investment income**

	<b>Restricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>
Investment income	-	4,500	<b>4,500</b>
Investment income - other foreign investments	9,240	3,137	<b>12,377</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	9,240	7,637	<b>16,877</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

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**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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**5. Other incoming resources**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>
Other incoming resources	210	210
Gain on disposal of land and properties	157,705	157,705
	157,915	157,915

**6. Expenditure on raising funds**

**Costs of raising voluntary income**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>
Assessments payable	117,415	117,415
	117,415	117,415

**7. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities**

**Summary by fund type**

	<b>Restricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total 2024 £</b>
Support activities	100,675	278,285	378,960
	100,675	278,285	378,960

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**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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**8. Analysis of expenditure by activities**

	<b>Support costs 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>
Support activities	378,960	<b>378,960</b>

**Analysis of support costs**

	<b>Activities 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>
Staff costs	154,042	<b>154,042</b>
Depreciation	9,395	<b>9,395</b>
Travel and expenses	11,611	<b>11,611</b>
Telephone	3,059	<b>3,059</b>
Printing and stationery	1,457	<b>1,457</b>
Repairs and furnishings	8,788	<b>8,788</b>
Council Tax and water rates	13,468	<b>13,468</b>
Insurance	6,763	<b>6,763</b>
Donation	500	<b>500</b>
Sundries	2,930	<b>2,930</b>
Levy on sale of land and property	96,621	<b>96,621</b>
Accountancy and bookkeeping fees	8,154	<b>8,154</b>
Quinquennial	2,820	<b>2,820</b>
Bank charges	81	<b>81</b>
Heat and light	4,023	<b>4,023</b>
Ukraine family support expenditure	1,251	<b>1,251</b>
Donation to URC	53,997	<b>53,997</b>
	<u>378,960</u>	<u><b>378,960</b></u>

During the year ended 31 August 2024, the charity incurred Independent Examination and accounts preparation fees of £3,210 including VAT.

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**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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**9. Independent examiner's remuneration**

	<b>2024</b>
	£
Fees payable to the Charity's independent examiner for the preparation and independent examination of the Charity's annual accounts	<b>2,675</b>
	<hr style="border-top: 3px double #000;"/>

**10. Staff costs**

	<b>2024</b>
	£
Wages and salaries	<b>122,407</b>
Social security costs	<b>10,194</b>
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	<b>21,441</b>
	<hr style="border-top: 1px solid #000;"/>
	<b>154,042</b>
	<hr style="border-top: 3px double #000;"/>

Included in wages and salaries above is a settlement payment of £11,336.

The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the year was as follows:

	<b>2024</b>
	<b>No.</b>
Employees	<b>4</b>
	<hr style="border-top: 3px double #000;"/>

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

The Trust's key management personnel are those persons having authority or responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the charity to whom the Trustees have delegated significant authority in the day-to-day running of the charity. The key management personnel include the Ecumenical Area's four Methodist ministers who received remuneration and benefits (including employer's NI and pension contributions) of £141,765 in the year, together with the two United Reformed Church ministers, who are employed by the United Reformed Church and so are not remunerated by the Trust.

**11. Trustees' remuneration and expenses**

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits.

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**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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**11. Trustees' remuneration and expenses (continued)**

Rev. A Oakley, Rev. C J Wood-Archer and Rev. D Harding, Trustees of South East Northumberland Methodist Circuit, received salary payments totalling £95,247 (including employer's pension contributions) and reimbursed expenses totalling £7,276 for provision of services as ministers. Rev. A D McGougan received reimbursed expenses totalling £2,769 for provision of services as a minister but is employed by the United Reformed Church (see note 10 above).

During the year ended 31 August 2024, no Trustee expenses have been incurred.

**12. Tangible fixed assets**

	<b>Freehold property £</b>
<b>Cost or valuation</b>	
Additions	1,048,313
Disposals	(193,381)
	854,932
<b>At 31 August 2024</b>	<b>854,932</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>	
Charge for the year	9,395
	9,395
<b>At 31 August 2024</b>	<b>9,395</b>
<b>Net book value</b>	
<b>At 31 August 2024</b>	<b>845,537</b>

Additions represent the net book value of assets transferred from South East Northumberland Ecumenical Area.

**13. Debtors**

	<b>2024 £</b>
<b>Due within one year</b>	
Other debtors	183,332
Prepayments and accrued income	15,811
Assessments, donations and grants receivable	4,571
	203,714
	<b>203,714</b>

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**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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**14. Current asset investments**

	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>
Listed investments	1,896
Unlisted investments (liquid)	233,479
	235,375
	235,375

The market value of the listed investments equates to historic cost.

**15. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>
Trade creditors	3,383
Accruals and deferred income	3,210
	6,593
	6,593

**16. Financial instruments**

	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>
<b>Financial assets</b>	
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure	414,218
	414,218

Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure comprise bank balances and current investments.

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**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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**17. Statement of funds**

**Statement of funds - current year**

	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General Funds	1,758,011	(395,700)	(351,087)	1,011,224
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Circuit Advance Fund	160,580	(99,424)	361,082	422,238
Property Maintenance Fund	30,165	-	(9,995)	20,170
Ukraine family assistance	4,495	(1,251)	-	3,244
	<u>195,240</u>	<u>(100,675)</u>	<u>351,087</u>	<u>445,652</u>
<b>Total of funds</b>	<u><u>1,953,251</u></u>	<u><u>(496,375)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>1,456,876</u></u>

**Circuit Advance Fund**

The Circuit Advance Fund represents funds arising from the sale or other disposition of land which is Area property. The authority to sanction schemes for the application of capital money in the fund rests with the Area meeting, subject to approval by the Synod.

**Property Maintenance Fund**

The funds are available to be used for the maintenance of the Ecumenical Area's properties.

The transfer of funds from unrestricted to restricted funds represents sale proceeds of The Demesne, North Seaton, Ashington and land at Barras Gardens, Annitsford, net of levies.

The transfer of funds from restricted to unrestricted represents the cost of roof repairs at North Seaton, Ashington.

**Ukraine family assistance**

The "Ukraine Family Assistance" fund was set up to support a Ukrainian family hosted in the vacant Amble manse under the government scheme from December 2022. It was funded by donations from local individuals and organisations, and by monthly Government payments.

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**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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**18. Summary of funds**

**Summary of funds - current year**

	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
General funds	1,758,011	(395,700)	(351,087)	1,011,224
Restricted funds	195,240	(100,675)	351,087	445,652
	<u>1,953,251</u>	<u>(496,375)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,456,876</u>

**19. Analysis of net assets between funds**

**Analysis of net assets between funds - current period**

	Restricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	845,537	845,537
Current assets	445,652	172,280	617,932
Creditors due within one year	-	(6,593)	(6,593)
<b>Total</b>	<u>445,652</u>	<u>1,011,224</u>	<u>1,456,876</u>

**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**20. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities**

	<b>2024 £</b>
Net income for the period (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	<b>1,456,876</b>
<b>Adjustments for:</b>	
Depreciation charges	9,395
Gains/(losses) on investments	(136)
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	(17,013)
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets	(157,705)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(187,694)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(15,387)
Funds transferred from South East Northumberland Ecumenical Area	(1,485,245)
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>(396,909)</b>

**21. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	<b>2024 £</b>
Cash in hand	<b>178,843</b>
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>178,843</b>

**22. Analysis of changes in net debt**

	<b>Cash flows £</b>	<b>Funds transferred from South East Northumberland Ecumenical Area £</b>	<b>At 31 August 2024 £</b>
Cash at bank and in hand	(112,845)	291,688	178,843
Liquid investments	84,171	151,204	235,375
	<b>(28,674)</b>	<b>442,892</b>	<b>414,218</b>

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**SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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**23. Pension commitments**

"The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the group in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the group to the fund and amounted to £21,441.

**24. Related party transactions**

The related parties to the Area are the Methodist Churches of Alnmouth, Amble, Bedlington Colliery, Blyth Central, Cowpen, Cramlington – Doxford Place, Cramlington – Welcome, Hauxley, Morpeth, Pegswood, Stakeford and Widdrington, together with the Local Ecumenical Partnerships of the Methodist Church and United Reformed Church in Ashington, Bedlington, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea and Seaton Delaval. Each church contributes grants referred to as "Assessments" as agreed with the Area Treasurer and funds are contributed either monthly or quarterly.

The Ecumenical Area, on occasion, provides grants to churches within the Area to fund exceptional repair costs.

**25. Controlling party**

The Circuit is governed by the Deed of Union (1932) and the Methodist Church Act 1976 as amended March 2011. Overall control of the Circuit rests with the Methodist Conference.