

PEAK METHODIST CHURCH

Trustees' Annual Report on Finance and Governance

Charity Number: 1210821

Year ended 31 August 2025

(Peak Methodist Church is part of Peak Methodist Circuit. Circuit Number: 25/13 Charity Registration Number: 1135656)

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 2015.

Principal Office:

Bakewell Methodist Church, Haddon Road, Bakewell, Derbyshire.

Staff:

Superintendent Minister: Rev. Julie Letts (retired 31 August 2025)
Rev. Tim Morris (appointed 1 September 2025)

Children & Families Worker: Dr. Karen Perry
Pioneer Minister: Rev. Jonathan Brook (resigned 31 May 2026)
Peak Wesley Way Manager Ms Alex Harrison

Administration:

Treasurer: Mr Malcolm Letts (resigned 24 September 2025)
Mr Phil Sharp (appointed 15 November 2025)
Administrator: Dr. Karen Perry

The Treasurer acts as the principal officer overseeing the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the Church.

Names of Managing Trustees

The Peak Methodist Church is a multi-site church that was formed on 1 September 2024 from the merger of the following individual Methodist churches within the Peak Methodist Circuit: Bakewell, Bamford, Bradwell, Calver, Castleton, Edale, Hope, Woodlands and Youlgreave. The trustees are the minister and appointed representatives of the individual churches.

A full list of trustees is shown as Appendix A to this report.

Bankers: CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, ME19 4JQ
Central Finance Board, 9 Bonhill Street, London, EC2A 4PE

Investment Managers: TMCP, Central Buildings, Oldham, Manchester, M1 1JQ

Independent Examiner: Andrew John Wood, Enovion Ltd, Ashlea, High Street, Calver, Hope Valley S32 3XP

Mission Statement:

The Peak Methodist Church is an inclusive group of churches seeking to live and share life in all its fullness as offered by Jesus Christ. We will encourage and help enable personal growth in discipleship, listening to God and using the gifts and talents of disciples to support and develop opportunities to share life in all its fullness as offered by Jesus Christ.

Ways of Working:

- The Trustees meet on a bimonthly or quarterly basis as necessary to discuss work across the Church
- Individual churches have their own leadership teams who meet as and when required to discuss matters of local context
- The Church forms a major and integral part of the Peak Methodist Circuit and as such benefits from the organisation and governance of the Circuit. Please refer to the Circuit's annual report for further detail.

Risk Management:

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Finance and Property Committee with professional advice considered and taken as required.

There is a regular annual review process of monitoring income and expenditure in total with the approved annual budget and budget forecast to detect trends as part of the risk management process.

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

"Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people, and adults
 - the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people, and adults when they are vulnerable
 - the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
 - We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.
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- We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child, or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.
- We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person, or vulnerable adult.
- In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice

The Peak Methodist Church commits itself to ensuring the implementation of the Connexional Safeguarding Policy, government legislation, guidance, and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.

The Peak Methodist Church commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable. This training is to be overseen by the Safeguarding team for the Peak Methodist Church and the Circuit Safeguarding Officer. This team has been formed with support from the District Safeguarding Officer (DSO). This will lead to a comprehensive Safeguarding Audit.

Review of progress and achievements:

1. On 1 September 2024, following the decision of the Circuit to move towards multi-site way of working and combine individual churches within the Circuit into one, the Peak Methodist Church was formed. All churches in the Circuit agreed to merge, apart from Hathersage and Sparrowpit. Fountain Square Church (FSC) agreed in principle to join but, being an LEP (Local Ecumenical Partnership) with the URC (United Reformed Church), there are additional complexities that need to be considered and will take time to work through. Trustees were appointed to meet bi-monthly to, in effect, be the Church Council for the multi-site churches. Whilst the Peak Methodist Church is in its infancy, it is believed that it will help develop not just a sustainable way forward but a way forward that will enable growth and freedom for members to engage in mission, as well as develop personal discipleship. This is to be done through reducing the number of office holders required, and developing teams with particular skills to work across all locations e.g. The Safeguarding Team and Discipleship Team.
 2. Examples of the ongoing work of the Church are:
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- a. At Bakewell Academy, there is a ministerial Foundation Governor. A local church member serves as a Foundation Governor also. Collective worship and chaplaincy continue.
 - b. At Bamford, the work of 'Story Keepers' with primary school children continues to thrive. 'Godly Play' is another valued outreach, and this is held in the school. This work is led by the Children and Families Worker. For older people, a fortnightly social gathering when a film is watched or a speaker is invited, continues to be steady, attracting new people. A further development has been the development of closer working together with the local Anglican Church. Joint services of worship are held weekly, alternating between the chapel and the church, under the umbrella name of "Village Church." Both congregations are looking to promote activities, outside of Sunday worship, under the same umbrella.
 - c. In Hope, at the Hub, the presence of the Pioneer Minister, Rev Jonathan Brook, continues to attract all ages to the point where a toddler group and youth group are established, as is the Sunday gathering. The sense of family is enhanced by a WhatsApp group which is constantly receiving new members. Thoughts are now taking place as to how the chapel building can be re-structured to meet the needs of the growing mission work.
 - d. In Bakewell, the outreach group continues to be quietly effective in the town. The long-standing healing ministry has now developed into Healing on the Streets when, on the first Sunday each month, a trained team offer ministry to the public as they pass by the Padlock Bridge. The warm Space continues to thrive.
3. 'The Peak Wesley Way,' a walking pilgrimage between Matlock and Edale, which was launched as a Circuit initiative has made a successful start. A Pilgrimage Manager is in post, a website and Facebook page established, guidebooks and journals created, volunteer welcomers recruited from church and village communities. The increasing bookings received indicate the pilgrimage is going to be a viable outreach both in terms of discipleship, working with the wider communities, and providing income. Responsibility and finances for this project were transferred from the Circuit to the Church at the end of the year.

Financial Review:

This is the first year of the combined Peak Methodist Church but the individual churches that have merged to form it have been in existence for many years. As explained in the notes to the accounts proforma comparative figures have been included to show what the financial position was at the date of the merger and to show of what the prior year's figures would have been had the combination taken place a year earlier. The 2024 figures included below are the proforma comparative figures.

In the year ended 31 August 2025 the Church had receipts of £192,201 (2024: £233,637) and made payments of £208,224 (2024: £235,097). Payments exceeded receipts by £16,023 (2024: £1,460). Total funds at the end of the year were £190,869 (2024: £206,892).

So, while the past two years have seen a depletion in reserves, at the end of the year reserves are still sufficient to cover 11 months of expenditure at 2025 levels.

Income Trends:

The Church's main sources of income are from offerings and lettings. Receipts from offerings have seen a pleasing increase and receipts from lettings are fairly stable. Other receipts are subject to greater fluctuation and are down on the prior year mainly due 2024 receipts being inflated by grants received in connection with Edale's renovation project.

Expenditure Trends:

Circuit Assessment, being the amount paid to the Circuit towards the its costs including those of the Minister and District and Connexional support, have remained stable as have utility costs. Repairs and maintenance costs are down year on year due to less being spent on Edale's renovation project but partly offset by higher costs in other locations. Other payments are also down due to a greater proportion of lay salary costs being paid by Circuit in 2025.

Reserves Policy:

The Reserves Policy of the Church is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to 4 months' average expenditure.

Plans for 2025-26

- A new Superintendent Minister will replace the Superintendent who will be 'sitting down' at the end of the Connexional year.
- Pioneer Worker and Children & Families worker to continue in the Circuit.
- Current staff levels to be maintained.
- Continue to develop 'The Peak Wesley Way.'
- Develop the strategy for the Hub at Hope and the chapel building. If agreed, this is likely to see significant building work being undertaken.
- Sale of Bradwell Bethlehem Sunday School and potentially Bakewell manse to financially facilitate proposed initiatives.

Aims and organisation.

Charity objective is to act as a Resource provider within the area of the Peak District for the Methodist Church.

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 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.
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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.

The organisation and resourcing of regular public acts of worship open to members of the church and non-members alike.

- The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses, or small groups.
- The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.
- Taking religious assemblies in local schools.
- Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services.
- Provision of chaplaincy services to local educational institutions.

Public Benefit

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

Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document for the Church is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976)

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

Day to day management of the Church is undertaken by Trustees working closely with the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) and Circuit Ministers.

Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the Circuit, specifically the leaflet 'The Role of a Trustee in The Methodist Church' is given to all new Circuit meeting members as an induction to their role as trustees.

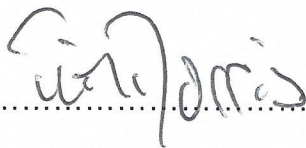
Related Parties

The Church is part of the Peak Circuit which is part of the Sheffield District and is accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The following Methodist Churches are also part of the Circuit -

Hathersage, Sparrowpit; and Fountain Square Church Tideswell. Great Longstone and Baslow have ceased worshipping are included in the Peak Wesley Way as 'champing' venue. Litton has also ceased worshipping.

Approved by the Peak Methodist Church and signed on its behalf by,


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Superintendent Minister

Name: Rev Tim Morris


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Treasurer

Name: Mr Phil Sharp

Date 20th August 2020
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APPENDIX A

Peak Methodist Circuit – Charity Number 1135656

List of Managing Trustees serving throughout the year ended 31 August 2025 and through to the date of this report except where otherwise noted

<u>NAME</u>	
Jonathan Brook	(resigned 09/07/2026)
Susie Brook	
Kate Burnett	
Aline Danks	(appointed 02/10/2025)
Tom Donoghue	
David Down	(resigned 10/07/2025)
Jennifer Fox	
Fran Johnson	
Graham Johnson	
Julie Letts	(resigned 31/08/2025)
Malcolm Letts	(resigned 24/09/2025)
Tim Morris	(appointed 01/09/2025)
Alison Mullins	
Andy Roberts	
Gill Sharp	(appointed 02/10/2025)
Phil Sharp	
Graham Souch	
Sue Souch	(resigned 02/10/2025)
	(reappointed 09/07/2026)
Jean Strath	(appointed 22/01/2026)
Heather Thomas	

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

(SHORT FORM)

Peak MethodistChurch

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2025

Peak	Circuit	Circuit no	25/13
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1210821

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

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

Minister:

Rev Tim Morris

Church Stewards:

The Church Trustees are responsible for its oversight.

The Trustees are listed in the Annual Report.

Treasurer:

Mr Phil Sharp

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

SECTION A		Year ended 31 August 2025	Proforma figures - see Note 2 Year ended 31 August 2024
	Note	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS		
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	74,630	64,215
a3	Bank and CFB interest & investment income	5,980	7,722
a4	Lettings	39,931	40,527
a5	Other receipts	71,660	121,173
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	192,201	233,637
SECTION B			
b1	PAYMENTS		
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	58,938	59,144
b3	Donations	1,178	1,351
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	73,437	80,292
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	40,344	41,124
b6	Other payments	34,327	53,186
b7	TOTAL PAYMENTS	208,224	235,097
SECTION C			
c1	NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS) FOR THE YEAR (a6 - b7)	(16,023)	(1,460)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	206,892	208,352
c3	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR (c1 + c2)	190,869	206,892
c5	State here the total of any liabilities of the Church	30,000	30,000
SECTION D ANALYSIS OF FUNDS			
d1	Balances held at TMCP at 31 August	31,037	50,376
d2	Balances held at CFB at 31 August	86,534	100,941
d3	Bank and cash balances at 31 August	73,298	55,575
d4	TOTAL (= Box c3)	190,869	206,892

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2025 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

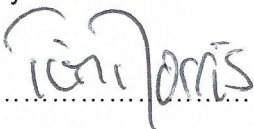
Signature of treasurer  Date..... 20/8/26

Name and address of treasurer - Mr Phil Sharp

9 Gorse Ridge Drive, Baslow, Bakewell Post Code - DE45 1SL

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 were presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 9th July 2026

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting - Rev Tim Morris Date 20/8/26

Independent Examiner’s Report to the Trustees of the
Peak Methodist Church
Charity Number 1210821

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Peak Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2025 set out on pages 1. to 6. As the Church’s trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (‘the Act’).

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

Name of Church - Peak Methodist Church No 1210821

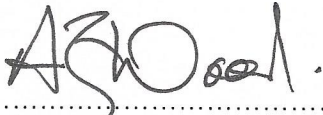
Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

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

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

Signature of independent examiner 

Name of independent examiner ~~ANDREW~~ JOHN WOOD

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner CIMA - CMA

Name of firm (where appropriate) ENOVION Ltd

Address ASKLEA, HIGH STREET, CALVER, HOPE VALLEY

..... Post Code S32 3XP.

Date 20th Aug 2026.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

1 Basis of Preparation of Accounts

As permitted under the Charities Act for a charity of this size, these accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

2 Formation of Peak Methodist Church and Comparative Figures

The Peak Methodist Church is a mulit-site church that was formed on 1 September 2024 from the merger of the following individual churches within the Peak Methodist Circuit:

- Bakewell Methodist Church
- Bamford Methodist Church
- Bradwell Methodist Church
- Calver Methodist Church
- Castleton Methodist Church
- Edale Methodist Church
- Hope Methodist Church
- Woodlands Methodist Church
- Youlgreave Methodist Church

Due to their size, none of these individual churches were previously required to register separately with the Charities Commission but instead followed the internal financial reporting requirements of the Methodist Church.

The gross income of the combined churches is however over the threshold for registration with the Charities Commission. So the merged Peak Methodist Church is required to register and has to report in accordance with the Charities Act from its formation on 1 September 2024.

On 1 September 2024, reponsibility for the all the funds, property and liabilities of the individual churches listed above became that of the Trustees of the newly formed Peak Methodist Church.

In order to provide better context for the first year's figures for Peak Methodist Church, proforma comparative figures have been included showing what the Peak Methodist Church's receipts and payments would have been for the prior year had the merger taken place on 1 September 2023. These figures also set out the combined funds, property and liabilities of the individual churches as at 31 August 2024 that were transferred over to Peak Methodist Church on 1 September 2024.

3 Offerings and Tax recovered

This consists of cash offerings made at church services and offerings paid direct into church bank accounts together with associated Gift Aid receipts.

4 Bank and CFB interest and investment income

Peak Methodist Church ("PMC") holds funds in bank current and deposit accounts. It also has deposits with the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church ("CFB") and the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes ("TMCP"). This is the interest income derived from these deposits and credited to PMC's accounts in the year.

5 Lettings

PMC licences the use of its various premises to third party groups. This benefits the local community in accordance with PMC's objectives and also provides an important source of income.

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

6 Other receipts

Other receipts are mainly from fund raising activities, donations and grants. The amount was unusually high for the year prior to the merger due to grants received by Edale Methodist Church which is undergoing a substantial renovation project.

7 Circuit Assessment or Share

PMC pays an assessment to Peak Methodist Circuit towards the cost ministerial and lay staff who are employed by the Circuit and the costs of Sheffield Methodist District and the Methodist Connexion.

8 Donations

Where funds are raised for other specific charitable causes and passed on to them directly, they are not included in these accounts. However, where funds raised more generally and then donated to chosen causes, they are included here.

9 Repairs and Maintenance

This is the cost of repairing and maintaining the fabric of our churches, their contents and equipment including any improvements. The churches are subject to regular professional independent inspection and programmes of work follow their recommendations. The main expenditure this year and last was in connection with the renovation project at Edale Methodist Church.

10 Utilities

This is payments made to utility companies and insurers for energy, water, communications and insurance.

11 Other payments

Other payments include payments necessary for the running of the churches including administration costs, supplies and resources. It also includes payments to Peak Methodist Circuit for staff working directly on PMC church projects up until 31 May 2025. These include childrens and family work at Bamford and pioneer ministry at Hope. From 1 June 2025 the employment of all lay staff previously employed by Peak Methodist Circuit was transferred to Peak Methodist Church.

12 Liabilities

Edale Methodist Church was granted £30,000 by way of loan from Sheffield Methodist District on 13 November 2023 in connection with its renovation project. The loan is interest free and due for repayment by 31 December 2027.

13 Church premises

PMC's church premises are legally owned by the TMCP but PMC is responsible for their maintenance and PMC retains any letting income derived from them. These accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis and as such no property valuation is included.