

**DURHAM & DEERNES VALLEY CIRCUIT
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST AUGUST 2020**

REGISTERED CHARITY

1132827

ROBSON LAIDLER (DURHAM) LIMITED
Accountants
Hadrian House
Front Street
Chester-le-Street
County Durham DH3 3DB

**DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2020**

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DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Status, Structure and Purpose

The Governing Instrument of the Circuit is contained in the Methodist Church Act 1976 (Schedule 2) and is detailed in volume 2 of the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church (Part 1 Deed of Union and Part 2 Model Trusts).

The Methodist Church is organized as a Connexion which is divided into Districts which, in turn, are sub-divided into Circuits. Each Circuit is made up of a group of Churches.

The Durham and Deerness Valley Methodist Circuit comprises 14 churches (with 15 buildings and about 600 members). It is responsible for payment of stipends and associated costs to ministers and lay workers and also provision of manse to accommodate 4 ministers. The funding of the Circuit is provided by the churches. Indeed the first charge on the general fund of each church is the sum required to fund the Circuit. In a similar way the Circuit is levied for District and Methodist Church funds. The churches of a Circuit are charities in their own right.

The Circuit is the primary unit in which local churches express and experience their interconnexion in the Body of Christ, for purposes of mission, mutual encouragement and help. It is in the Circuit that ministers, deacons and probationers are stationed and local preachers are trained and admitted and exercise their calling. The purposes of the Circuit include the effective deployment of the resources of ministry, which include people, property and finance, as they relate to the Methodist churches 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 area including, where appropriate, the support of ecumenical Housing Associations. Since every member in the Circuit is as such a member of the Methodist Missionary Society, the purposes of the Circuit include the promotion of understanding of the work of the Society to the end that every member may share in world mission.

The Circuit is a public benefit entity. The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Principal Address:

Circuit Office
Elvet Methodist Church
8 Old Elvet
Durham
DH1 3HL

Auditor:

Robson Laidler (Durham) Limited
Accountants
Hadrian House
Chester-le-Street
County Durham DH3 3DB

Solicitors:

Swinburne Maddison
Venture House
Aykley Heads Business Centre
Aykley Heads
Durham
DH1 5TS

Clearing Bank:

Lloyds TSB Bank plc
6 Market Place
Durham DH1 3NB

DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

In accordance with Methodist Conference requirements the following Trustees were appointed for the period 1st September 2019 to 31st August 2020

Ex-officio	Stationed or Appointed to the Circuit by the Methodist Conference
	Rev John Squares MDiv, BA (Circuit Superintendent)
	Rev Colin Jackson MA, BSc, CTM
	Rev Andrew Longe BA, DipBi
	Deacon Ruth Lackenby BSC, PGCE, DTM
	Rev Peter M Phillips MA, PhD (CODEC)
	Rev Nigel Johnson, (Prison Chaplain)
	Rev Graham Peaden (WA)

Anglican Ministers authorised to serve by the Methodist Church

Rev Joanne Thorns
Rev Canon Caroline Dick

Appointed by Circuit Meeting

THREE Circuit Stewards:	Vacant (treasurer)
	Penny Bissell (staffing)
	John Fairbairn (property)
Circuit Meeting Secretary:	Susan Smith
Local Preachers' Meeting Secretary:	William Offler

Additional persons elected by the Circuit Meeting

Circuit Finance Officer:	Peter Templer
Connexional Funds Treasurer:	Malcolm Wadge
Methodist Homes:	Andrew Sprigg
Circuit Missions Officer	vacant
Network:	vacant
JMA Secretary:	vacant
Action for Children Secretary:	vacant
Missions Secretary:	Barbara Pearson
Quinquennial Inspections Secretary:	John Fairbairn
Youth Work:	
Local Preachers:	Francis Proud, Margaret Wadge and Mark Wilson

**DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

Appointed by each of the 14 Local Churches

ONE Church Steward and ONE Church Treasurer.

Bearpark Church	V Ellis, Michele Thorns
Bowburn Church	E Atkinson, F Ndaji
Brandon Church	A Offler, P Hall
(with New Brancepeth)	D Bell
Carrville Church	C Lowrie, R Sibbald
Elvet Church	S Harrison, B Thompson
Esh Winning Church	R Ferguson, H Forster
Framwellgate Church	S Pope, D Blacklock
Langley Park	L Kirby
Newton Hall Church	A Sprigg, A Cross
North Road Church	S Lawson, M Hart
Pittington Church	W Young, M Wadge
Sacriston Church	S Smith, M Wadge
Sherburn Hill Church	J Hannan, P Green
Witton Gilbert Church	B Fox, J Wrightson

Other Representatives

ONE for each 50 members of each church or part thereof

DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2020

Part 1 - Financial Matters

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

Under the Trust Deed and legislation relating to Charities in England, the Trustees are required to prepare accounts for each financial year which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Trust and of the surplus or deficit for that year and which have been properly prepared from and are in agreement with the accounting records of the Trust and comply with relevant disclosure regulations. For the purpose of this all ex-officio and appointed members of the Circuit Meeting are Trustees.

In preparing those accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- * select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- * make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- * follow applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts, and
- * prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Trust will continue its activities.

The Trustees are required to act in accordance with the Trust Deed of the charity, within the framework of the Trust Law. They are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and so enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Risk review

The major risks to which the charity is exposed arise from a reducing membership, increased running costs and heavier workloads falling on fewer and fewer shoulders. We are developing plans to reverse this trend and increase membership. District wide policy is that we work to ensure every church is growing in ten years' time. Our Circuit may have a different shape with a different number of churches in a decade, but we will be working to mitigate the expressed risk and fitting into the District vision.

Reserves policy

Reserves should not be allowed to fall below a fixed amount whose value would be reviewed annually. This year the minimum reserve was fixed at £125,000. If funds fall below this figure the shortfall shall be made good by the Churches of the Circuit.

Financial Review

The results for the year show a decrease of £3,607 (2019 – decrease of £7,378), in unrestricted funds, which considering the Covid 19 pandemic we consider to be an acceptable result. Thus unrestricted funds closed the year on £121,269. Restricted funds decreased to £216,594 following the purchase of a new manse in Gilesgate Durham in September for £195k. The Circuit has sufficient cash in its unrestricted fund (£121,269 together with the expected Church assessments of £222,000) to meet the next year's expenditure. It is anticipated that some churches will struggle to produce the expected income. Some churches rely heavily on lettings that can not be gained due to Covid restrictions. We intend to monitor the situation regularly asking churches working together in four separate groupings to develop business plans. In simplest form the groupings need to add up the assessments from each church in the group together and discuss how we might use our resources to achieve collecting that total requirement.

DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2020

Part 2 – Review of the year's work

Circuit Vision Statement

The Durham and Deerness Valley Circuit of the Methodist Church seeks to be a close union of its individual Churches. Everyone connected with an individual Church should expect to feel that they are an important part of the Circuit family, and can expect the support of this family. Through our common faith in Christ we seek, in prayerful action, to share and spread the love of Jesus throughout the local and wider community.

Significant Developments during the Year

The Circuit leadership team initiated a review of how we best manage our Circuit and align our ministers coming out of Covid 19 restrictions with the aim of improving the systemic difficulties of too many jobs falling on too few shoulders. Four groups have been established: North, South, East and West. Each is responsible for working together to meet our mission objectives and in doing so we hope the group approaches adopting an organic union of the churches working together as one church on different sites.

Achievements during the Year

We advanced the way churches shared services together reducing the number of Own Arrangements on the Plan but also electing to share services during Bible Month for that entire period. As we entered lockdown a series of conversations were launched by the CLT to determine how to come out of it well with the Circuit aligning ministers in groupings of churches. This work was accepted as an appropriate way forward by the Circuit meeting the votes for vs against tallying more than 7 to 1.

Work has gone into making sure services are accessible to everyone whether isolating or coming to public worship. In home service sheets have been introduced in churches. A Church Without Walls has formed on our deacon's driveway and this is extending into online services and prayer walks. Services are happening now under Government Guidelines allowing parishioners to congregate in four of our churches. A hybrid offer of online provision at the same time as the physical gathering is held from the South Group. Facebook streaming has emerged from the East group. West and North are seeing the fruit of their physical services and have introduced an online Coffee Morning during lockdown. We have a regular Zoom service in the afternoon on a Sunday as well. New services are emerging as we speak.

'Open The Book' – the re-telling of Bible stories in schools – takes place in Bearpark by video which can possibly be used in other settings.

During the week before Christmas knitted angels appear outside schools in several localities across the Circuit. This year we will need to see what might be offered safely.

Several schools visit our churches for Harvest, Christmas and Easter services. Again this might be achievable online.

Lunches are served on a weekly basis at Elvet and are very popular whilst the monthly Soup Lunch at Sacriston continues to grow. At lockdown this ceased.

Our churches serve their local communities through coffee mornings, craft groups, activities for older members of society and regular visits to neighbouring care homes. Work continues to grow amongst local Care and Nursing Homes with monthly midweek services held at Lindisfarne, Newton Hall, Melbury Court, Durham, Orchard House, Brandon and Springfield, West Rainton. These services are greatly appreciated by the residents. We will review how these ministries might continue safely.

The churches of the Circuit are unstinting in their support for local, national and international charities – many churches support Foodbanks which serve the local area with a distribution point being created at Elvet. Financial support is extended to projects such as Street Children in Guatemala, local hospices and housing scheme 'Moving On', Christian Aid and Global Care. Churches also respond to 'emergency' appeals from organisations such as All We Can and Christian Aid. A large number of shoebox gifts are sent from churches around the circuit to Eastern Europe through the Samaritans Purse Appeal.

Many church buildings are used on a regular basis for community activities, by outside agencies e.g. probation services, support for refugees and self-help groups. We believe that to keep people Covid safe, in most spaces we are seeking a single user policy.

Ministerial and lay members of the Circuit have continued to under-go the revised Safeguarding training.

**DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY CIRCUIT
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

Significant Changes

We are working as four groups of churches intending to consider becoming four churches working on different sites. This will help us to come in line with Connexional direction setting to trim the number of trustee bodies we offer.

Events relating to these changes

Our District Mission enabler will help us review our situation in each of the groups this fall. Each group is asked to form a business plan – projected costs and how we will raise the money to meet these. We are judging by feel, but Church Councils will be asked to vote on formal unity when the time is right.

Likely developments in the coming year

We will likely repurpose a few of our buildings, become four churches working on different sites and will have a better sense of what we can afford in terms of ministerial provision for the future. We are looking to develop a Pioneering/Church Planting internship in the near future. Work should begin to become clearer in this area..

Contributions of volunteers

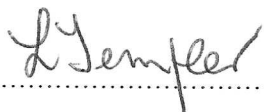
All the work in the Circuit, apart from that of appointed ministers and lay workers, is on a voluntary basis, and includes that of Circuit and church officers, Commissioned Lay Persons, Local Preachers and Worship Leaders, members and secretaries of all the Circuit committees, and those assisting in the running of children's and young people's work.

Relationship with related parties and other charities

There are appointed Circuit secretaries and treasurers for Connexional funds, Methodist Homes and Action for Children. Ecumenical links in youth work are developing in some areas of the Circuit, and several churches ran holiday clubs. Authorised minister status has been granted by Conference to the three clergy of the Durham North Area Team of the Anglican Church. The Chinese Church based at Elvet church has become well established. Many churches are involved in Churches Together, Area Action Partnerships and organising events in the local communities.

Conclusion

The mission of the Circuit continues through the leadership of our dedicated ministers and lay appointees. The work of volunteers will continue to become increasingly important as we seek to enhance our varied outreach and service to the local communities of our Circuit.



Trustee



Trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF
DURHAM & DEERNESS VALLEY
METHODIST CIRCUIT**

I report on the accounts of the Durham & Deerness Valley Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2018, which are set out on pages 8 to 12.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The Circuits Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

The Circuits Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the business and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



J Holbrook
Accountant
Robson Laidler (Durham) Limited
Hadrian House
Front Street
Chester le Street
Co Durham
DH3 3DB

11.1.2021
Date



**CIRCUIT
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
ACCOUNTS**

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Durham and Deerness Valley

Circuit

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 AUGUST 2020

Circuit no

13/11

Registered Charity - Registration number

1132827

If not a registered charity Her 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 2655 of 2007)

Ministers:

The Revd John Squares (Superintendent Minister)

The Revd Colin Jackson

The Revd. Andy Long

Deacon Ruth Lackenby

Circuit Stewards:

Penny Bissell

John Fairbairn

blank

Treasurer:

blank

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Durham and Deerness Valley

Circuit

SECTION A			Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	TOTAL THIS YEAR	TOTAL LAST YEAR
		Note	£	£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS						
a2	Assessment/Share		163,539			163,539	173,276
a3	Capital receipts		0			0	345,883
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		522	1,876		2,398	3,472
a5	Contrib. to Stipends		0			0	3,177
a6	Other receipts + Lettings		8,402		0	8,402	4,580
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS		172,463	1,876	0	174,339 (a8)	530,388

SECTION B							
b1	PAYMENTS						
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs		143,678	0		143,678	158,303
b3	Manse Costs		18,935			18,935	15,679
b4	Administration etc		6,815	1,057		7,872	11,344
b5	District Assessment		0	8,725		8,725	1,977
b6	Grants & donations			0		0	
b7							
b8	Other payments and Manse Purchase		6,642	195,521	0	202,163	3,639
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS		176,070	205,303	0	381,373 (b9)	190,942

SECTION C							
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a7-b8)	-3,607	-203,427	0	-207,034	339,446
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		124,876	420,021	934	545,831 (c6)	206,385
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	121,269	216,594	934	338,797	545,831
c4	Transfers and adjustments					(c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	121,269	216,594	934	338,797 (c8)	545,831 (c6)

SECTION D							
d	FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (these amounts should not be included in total receipts/payments above)						
d1	Balance brought forward from last year						
d2	Offerings/Gifts - rec'd for ext. organisations District Assessment					54,029	51,317
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to ext. organisations District Assessment					54,029	51,317
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)					0	0

SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATION REPORTING TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING**SECTION E****Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete**

Summary of the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Circuit Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose.

This section must be completed to arrive at the total income and expenditure of the Circuit. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts. Contact Resourcing Mission Office, Manchester tel: 0161 236 5194. Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the Circuit and its Internal Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1 Circuit Youth	2		2		262	264
e2			0			0
e3			0			0
e4			0			0
e5			0			0
e6			0			0
e7			0			0
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	2	0	2	0	262 (e11)	264 (e12)
e9 Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	174,339 (a8)	381,373 (b9)	-207,034	0 (c7)	545,831 (c6)	338,797 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	174,341	381,373	-207,032	0	546,093 (x)	339,061 (y)
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2020**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	35,378	4,988
f3 Connexional Manses		
f4 Central Finance Board	80,432	107,214
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		
f6 Other funds (CAF & Chapel Aid)	430,021	226,595
f7 SUB TOTAL OF CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT- Circuit accounts	545,831 (c6)	338,797 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance totals above) (e12)	262 (e11)	264 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	546,093 (x)	339,061 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 29 November 2018	At 15 November 2019
g1 Investments (include Endowments)		
g2 Land and Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	1,103,359	1,394,712
g3 Other Assets - loans by the Circuit		
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5 Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

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

g1 Include any other investments

DECLARATIONS

Circuit Finance Officer

I confirm that I have prepared the accounts from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit Meeting

Signature of
Treasurer



Date

29/12/20

Name

Peter Templer

Address

11 Leyland Close, Bowburn, Durham DH6 5DD

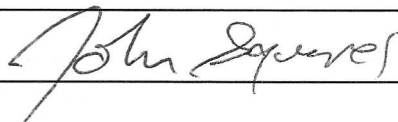
Presentation to the Circuit Meeting for approval.

I confirm that the Accounts have been presented to the Circuit Meeting on

10 Nov 2020

and were approved

Signature of the Chair of the meeting



Name of the Chair of the meeting

Revd. John Squares

Date

5 Jan 21

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Durham & Deerness Valley

Circuit

This Report is on the Church Accounts for the year ended 31st August

2020

carried out under Section 43 of the Charities Act 1993, or in Scotland Section 11 of the charities and

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) or under Regulation 10 (1)(d) of The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (the 2006 Accounts Regulations) and that an independent examination is needed

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act and section 44(1) of the Charities
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 41 of the 1993 Act and Section 44
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of

Name

JOHN HOLBROOK

Signature

J. Holbrook

Relevant Professional qualification or body

FCCA

Address

HADRIAN HOUSE, FRONT STREET, CHESTER-LE-ST
CO. DURHAM DH3 3DB

Date

11.1.2021