



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period from 1st September 2019 to 31st August 2020

Charity name: The Ashton under Lyne Methodist Circuit 19/23

Charity registration number: 1136791

Objectives and Activities

<p>Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document</p>	<p>The purposes of the Methodist Church are, and shall be deemed to have been, since the date of the Union</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the advancement of 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
<p>Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.</p>	<p>The Trustees have regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion</p> <p>The trustees are committed to reaching out to as many people as possible in the Circuit's geographical area through regular worship at the seven member churches, which provide pastoral care and community activities as part of their outreach and also through regular children's and family activities.</p> <p>To take a lead on the above activities funding is provided to allow for the following :-</p> <p>Two full time presbyters, one of whom fulfils the role of Circuit Superintendent</p> <p>one part time supernumerary presbyter,</p> <p>one part time supernumerary deacon</p> <p>All of their legitimate expenses are covered.</p> <p>Within the circuit there are also five non-stipendiary supernumerary ministers, plus a part time URC minister.</p> <p>The work of the presbyters is supported by four voluntary lay pastors in the following areas:- Godly Play, Children's & Youth Work, Youth Emmaus and working with 3rd/4th Generation</p> <p>There is a team of local preachers from across the churches in the circuit, who contribute to weekly worship services</p> <p>The circuit also employs a part time administrator</p> <p>Prior to the beginning of the financial year two manses were sold and replaced by one newer manse</p> <p>A quarterly preaching plan is produced to ensure that regular acts of worship, open to all, can take place at each of the seven churches – Dukinfield, Hurst, Mossley, Stalybridge, Trinity Audenshaw, Waterloo and West End. Trinity Audenshaw is a local ecumenical partnership with the United Reform Church</p> <p>Support is also offered to the community through Chaplaincy as follows: -</p> <p>Rosehill Methodist Primary Academy</p> <p>Tameside Hospital</p> <p>Ashton under Lyne town centre</p> <p>Asda + a number of other community venues</p>

Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit

It is confirmed that the trustees have regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion

Achievements and Performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.

- An updated 2019/20 Circuit Safeguarding Policy was approved to ensure the correct proceedings are in place, and adhered to.
- The circuit agreed to the merger of the Ashton-under-Lyne, Glossop and Hyde & Denton Circuits to form the Glossop & Tameside Circuit from September 2020. It was felt that working together to support each other would be mutually beneficial and enable us to be better equipped for the future. Planning for this then took place during the remainder of the year.
- The circuit was pleased to approve one of its local preachers, Rachel Collins, to candidate for the ministry and to sanction expenses of up to £250 for Rachel whilst she is candidating.
- Following the sale of two manses and their replacement by a manse in Ashton that was more fit for purpose it was noted the proceeds would go into Circuit Model Trust Fund where they could be used for a variety of areas such as mission/ employment/property etc.
- In accordance with section 275 of the Charities Act 2011, the Ashton-under-Lyne Circuit sought to amend the terms of a Trust Deed which had been set up to support ministers stationed within the circuit, using the income from the trust to provide books, or be used as a contribution towards their holiday expenses. The terms of the trust, which was set up in 1959, have partially failed as there are currently only two ministers within the circuit who can benefit from the annual income received. The ethos of ministry within the circuit is changing as the circuit seeks to fulfil its mission by using the skills of local lay pastors and lay workers to enhance its work in addition to that undertaken by ministers and also local preachers. Approval was sought 'to widen the use of the income from the trust so that the income can be used for the training of Ministers, lay pastors and lay workers to support the Ashton-under-Lyne Methodist circuit (RCN 1136791) in the delivery of its aims and the achievement of its objectives. '
- A half term Holiday Club was held at Rosehill Academy in February with a handful of volunteers and twenty children having an exciting time together. Led by the Rosehill Forest School leader, volunteers from the Circuit and the School organised a range of activities for Rosehill children. Many of the activities were linked to God in creation and nature and ranged from making prickly hedgehogs using clay and pencils, weaving, making wooden "biscuit" medals to whittling twigs to toast marshmallows. The firepit kept everyone warm and the bananas baked in their skins were a revelation!

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mossley church were awarded a grant towards the purchase of Godly Play equipment ▪ Hurst was awarded a grant towards the cost of upgrading the church IT system for worship <p>COVID-19 impacted on many activities that had been planned from March onwards:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Experience Easter scheduled to take place over 5 days in Mossley, Hurst and Waterloo. ▪ Expedition Force Holiday Club during Holy Week ▪ Weekend to Celebrate the Life of Ashton-under-Lyne Methodist Circuit ▪ Safeguarding training to ensure all volunteers are trained up to date in line with the Safer Recruiting requirements.. ▪ The work of Minds Matter at Stalybridge who offer free help and advice with such mental health issues as depression, anxiety, financial difficulties, and stress. ▪ Detailed planning for the merging of the three circuits <p>Although its churches were closed during lockdown, the circuit responded positively to the 'new norm', with zoom meetings becoming one of the main ways in which contact could be maintained, as well as contact by email. Online services and Bible study groups were held as well as other meetings. Pastoral contact was maintained through newsletters as well as additional phone calls to members of the church community. Weekly services, Worship notes and reflections have all been well received. For those who can't access email materials have been distributed by hand, or sent through the post. The circuit has adapted well to new ways of working and communicating with the communities it serves. It will continue to review and evaluate the ways in which it relates to all those it serves over the coming months and year.</p>
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Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period Para 1.21	Full, independently examined, accounts for the charity for the period of this report are attached.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held Para 1.22	The Reserves Policy for the Circuit is based on holding a sum equivalent to three months average expenditure, which is regarded as sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on manses and/or to be able to continue in the short term to fund planned activities in the event of the closure of a large church or an inability to raise the Circuit assessment from churches.
Amount of reserves held Para 1.22	£82,000
Reasons for holding zero reserves Para 1.22	

Details of fund materially in deficit	
Para 1.24	
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	As of 01 st September 2020 the Ashton under Lyne Methodist Circuit will merge with the Glossop and Hyde & Denton Methodist Circuits to become the Glossop & Tameside Methodist Circuit
Para 1.23	The full impact on the work of the Circuit in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic has still to be fully measured

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:	
Type of governing document	Deed of Union(1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976)
How is the charity constituted?	Act of Parliament
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	All presbyters are ex-officio trustees Some appointed by Circuit Local Preachers Some trustees appointed by Church Councils
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	A circuit within the Manchester & Stockport Methodist District, accountable to the Methodist Connexion

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Ashton-under- Lyne Methodist Circuit 19/23
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1136791
Charity's principal address	3, Albion Mill Wednesough Green Hollingworth Hyde SK14 8LS

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Rev Hazel Cook	Circuit Superintendent		Ex-officio
2	Rev Karen Hilsden	Presbyter		Ex-officio
3	Rev Stephen Heath	Presbyter		Ex-officio
4	Deacon Jennifer Heath	Presbyter		Ex-officio
5	Rev Graham Tarn	Presbyter		Ex-officio
6	Rev Robert Davies	Presbyter		Ex-officio
7	Mrs Jean Blair	Circuit Steward		Ex-officio
8	Mrs Judith Buck	Circuit Steward		Ex-officio
9	Mrs Helen Chauhan	Circuit Steward		Ex-officio
10	Mrs Val Williams	Circuit Steward		Ex-officio
11	Mrs Rowena Mellor	Circuit Treasurer		Ex-officio
12	Mr Peter Gowers	Circuit Administrator		Circuit meeting

13	Mrs Glenys Binnie			Church Council
14	Mrs Marion Beswick			Church Council
15	Mrs Carole Borse			Church Council
16	Mrs Rita Brook			Circuit meeting
17	Mrs Sandra Birchall			Church Council
18	Mrs Margaret Briggs			Church Council
19	Mrs Jaqueline Cassidy			Church Council
20	Mr Matt Collins			Church Council
21	Mrs Rachel Collins			Church Council
22	Mrs Lilian Cullen			Church Council
23	Miss Judy Evans			Church Council
24	Mrs Susan Gregory			Church Council
25	Mr John Hepworth			Church Council
26	Mrs Kathlyn Hepworth			Church Council
27	Miss Irene Hirst			Church Council
28	Mrs Lorraine Horrocks			Church Council
29	Mr Brian James			Church Council
30	Mr Alan Mellor			Church Council
31	Mrs Barbara Muir			Church Council
32	Mrs Susan Nuttall			Church Council
33	Mrs Linda Oakes			Church Council
34	Mrs Diana Ogden			Church Council
35	Mr Phillip Pache			Church Council
36	Mrs Margaret Phillips			Church Council
37	Mr Andrew Pickup			Circuit meeting
38	Miss Nora Pollard			Church Council
39	Mr David Pollitt			Church Council
40	Mr Alan Rea			Church Council
41	Mr Alan Reid			Church Council
42	Mrs Rose Reid			Church Council
43	Mrs Lesley Rolls			Church Council
44	Mr Stuart Rolls			Church Council
45	Mrs Audrey Sharples			Church Council
46	Mrs Gail Sheppard			Church Council
47	Mrs Lynne Stretton			Church Council
48	Mrs Margaret Thorp			Church Council
49	Mr Paul Whitworth			Ex-officio
50	Mrs Hilda Woolridge			Church Council
51	Mrs Marian Wynne			Church Council

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
N/A		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes Central Buildings Oldham Street Manchester M1 1JQ		
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Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details - N/A

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Hazel Cook	Rowena Mellor
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Circuit Superintendent	Circuit Treasurer
Date		

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2020

[illegible]

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2020

		Notes to the accounts	Unrestricted funds	CMTF (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2019-20	Totals 2018-19
			£	£	£	£	£	£
	Income and Endowments from:							
1	Grants, Donations & Legacies	4					0	551
	<i>Charitable activities</i>							
2a	Assessments on Churches		150,145				150,145	156,374
2b	Other	5					0	0
3	Other trading activities	6					0	0
4	Investments	7	1,444	2,602			4,046	5,667
4a	Investment Property Income						0	0
	<i>Other income</i>							
5a	Internal organisations				475		475	832
5b	CPF Levy - Manse purchase						0	84,667
5c	Other		1,456				1,456	1,484
6	Total		153,045	2,602	475	0	156,122	249,575
	Expenditure on:							
7	Stipends, Salaries, NIC & Pension Costs	10	93,623				93,623	108,394
8	District Assessment & Levy		31,328				31,328	31,022
9	District & Circuit Payments (CMTF)			5,965			5,965	12,486
10	Telephone, Travel & Expenses		3,041				3,041	5,402
11	Insurance & Utilities		1,763				1,763	1,586
12	Maintenance on Manses		12,260				12,260	7,115
13	Expenditure on Investment Property						0	0
14	Depreciation	11					0	0
	<i>Other Expenditure</i>							
15a	Internal organisations				271		271	3,660
15b	CPF Levy - Investment Property sale			152,260			152,260	36,389
15c	Office & Lay Expenses		2,423				2,423	2,559
15c	Administration Charges		3,975	339			4,314	4,078
15d	Other		15,206	6,350			21,556	17,813
16	Grants & Donations						0	0
17	Total		163,619	164,914	271	0	328,804	230,504
	Net Income/(Expenditure)		-10,574	-162,312	204	0	-172,682	19,071
	Transfers between Funds		30,000	-30,000			0	0
	Transfers between Funds (Internal Organisations)						0	0
	Sub-total		19,426	-192,312	204	0	-172,682	19,071
	Other Recognised Gains / (Losses):							
	Gains/(Losses) Revaluation of Fixed Assets (Manses)		12,000				12,000	126,000
	Gains/(Losses) on Sale of of Fixed Assets (Property)		-487,000	487,000			0	-364,000
	Gains/(Losses) on Investment Assets	12				287	287	377
	Other Gains/(Losses)						0	0
	Net Movement in Funds		-455,574	294,688	204	287	-160,395	-218,552
	Reconciliation of Funds:							
	Total Funds Brought Forward		847,800	169,303	7,088	19,839	1,044,030	1,262,582
	Total funds Carried Forward		392,226	463,991	7,292	20,126	883,635	1,044,030