CHESTER LE STREET METHODIST CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

Mrs Karen Heptinstall Mrs Marion Smith Deacon Linda Watkin Mrs Brenda Wood Mrs Doreen Hume Mr Thomas Indian Mrs Jean Auld Mrs Margaret Walton Mrs Kathryn Johnson Mr Stephen Wroe Mrs Dorothy Hedley Mr Brian Straughan Mr Robert Dobson Miss Claire Mordue Mr Trevor Blacklock Rev Ian Kent Mr Frederick Johnson Mr Robert Berry Mrs Freda Raine Mr Derick Lawson

Mr Robert Berry
Mrs Freda Raine
Mr Derick Lawson
Mrs Dorothy Carr
Mrs Joan Moore
Mr N Garlick
Mr T Smith

Charity number

1137919

Independent examiner

Gunnell & Chambers Accountants Limited

8 Fellside Road Whickham

Newcastle Upon Tyne

NE16 4AL

CONTENTS

	Page	
Trustees' report	1 - 4	
Independent examiner's report	5	
Statement of financial activities	6	
Balance sheet	7	
Notes to the financial statements	8 - 14	

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

At the end of the previous year we had to prepare for a year of interim ministry following a Ministerial move. However, the strength of the Lay leadership of Chester-Le-Street Methodist Church indicated that opportunities for growth and development in the ongoing life of the church would be faced.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the 's [governing document], the Charities Act 2011 and "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).

Objectives and activities

Church Mission statement - A permanent commitment by the whole Church to reach out and become more involved in the life of the community of Chester-Le-Street and for the community to be supported by the wider Church family.

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;
- 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

Worshipping God through prayer, song and other acts of worship.

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 and 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 schools, care homes and other institutions as appropriate and when able.

Public Benefit

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

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the should undertake.

Achievements and performance

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Financial review

Over the course of the year, in-person services have continued on a morning and evening basis. The Zoom service which had been in operation was discontinued.

Coffee mornings continue to be welcomed on a three times a week basis. They provide a good opportunity for fostering friendship and fellowship. Coinciding with the Tuesday Coffee Morning, a group calling themselves the 'Knit and Natter' group meet for a drink while busying themselves with their knitting skills - and having a chat, of course.

The 'Thursday Lunches' restarted, as planned, in September providing a 3 course meal plus a hot drink at a very reasonable price. Another opportunity for friendship and fellowship. Thursday Lunches are held twice each month. Wellbeing continues to be a focus of the Church and Cornerstones. On most Saturdays, sessions are held which

provide people with the opportunity to either be creative or to enjoy periods for mediation.

Partnering with TLG, we have continued to support families struggling to feed their children during school holidays through 'Make Lunch'. These lunches are now held on site. We are o longer doing deliveries. The enjoyment of the children was further developed through a Family Fun Day.

November saw another Memorial Service. It was a poignant time of helping not only church members but also the wider community find space to grieve.

Before Remembrance Day, many poppies were knitted. These were attached to our large wooden cross which was lifted out to stand on the steps at the front of the church. This was both admired and appreciated by many people, but particularly by the large group of people who attended the Remembrance Day Service which was held in the market place.

We held another Christmas Fayre which was well supported and after a few years' break we were able to hold a Book Sale in March. This was another example of an event re-starting after the enforced Covid break.

Christmas services which were held included a Christingle service with the emphasis on young children and a service on the morning if Christmas Day. There was also a Carol Service which included a welcome return of the Community Choir where the emphasis had been on enjoyment as well as providing support for the singing of the carols. A new innovation was the making of a Christmas Tree from green knitted squares which were arranged on a metal frame. When the room lights were switched off, the tree lights provided a wonderful sight.

Theo Boys' Brigade and Brownies continue to thrive and the Toddler groups are operating at full capacity. The Women's fellowship has continued to thrive with even more new members.

With fewer volunteers due to age and health issues, we are heavily reliant on faithfully committed church members who give unsparingly of their time and energy. As another year closes, we are reminded of the faithful members who have died - of their faith, their energy and their friendship.

As we approach another new year we will have a new Ministerial team and we look forward to further opportunities for growth and development in the ongoing life of the church.

Income trends

Church income is primarily drawn from the Sunday collections and Gift Aid tax credit paid by the congregation and lettings income paid by external users of the building.

The lettings income particularly relates to the hire of the church halls to various groups in the community.

Expenditure trends

The major cost is in relation to the assessment paid to the Chester-Le-Street Circuit. This amounts to 64.06% of our total cost. The Circuit assessment decreased by 0.40% compared to the previous year.

A significant amount of the Circuit assessment is used to pay the District assessment, stipends and related costs to Ministers.

The other expenditure includes donations to Connexional Funds, property expenditure (caretaking and cleaning costs, utilities costs, insurance and accountancy fees) and other employees' expenses.

The Reserves Policy for the Church is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to 6 months' average expenditure. This equates to £68,764. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on the church building and/or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full expenses including the assessment payable to the Circuit.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Trustees with professional advice taken as required. There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

Income and Expenditure is being monitored in total and is compared with the approved annual budget on a half yearly basis to detect trends as part of the risk management process to avoid unforeseen call on reserves. The pandemic caused some funding concerns and a closer watch on finances has been set up.

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 use of criminal records, disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes
- 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 and 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 Chester-Le-Street \church commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy: government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.

The Chester-Le-Street 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.

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy for the Church is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to 6 months' average expenditure. This equates to £68,764. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on the church building and/or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full expenses including the assessment payable to the Circuit.

GDPR

The Chester-le-Street Church regularly undertakes a review of procedures to ensure that the full implications of GDPR legislation has been incorporated in our day to day operation.

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)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mrs Karen Heptinstall

Mrs Marion Smith

Deacon Linda Watkin

Mrs Brenda Wood

Mrs Doreen Hume

Mr Thomas Indian

Mrs Jean Auld

Mrs Margaret Walton

Mrs Kathryn Johnson

Mr Stephen Wroe

Mrs Dorothy Hedley

Mr Brian Straughan

Mr Robert Dobson

Miss Claire Mordue

Mr Trevor Blacklock

Rev Ian Kent

Mr Frederick Johnson

Mr Robert Berry

Mrs Freda Raine

Mr Derick Lawson

Mrs Dorothy Carr

Mrs Joan Moore

Mr N Garlick

Mr T Smith

Trustees are appointed at the AGM

Day to day management of the church is undertaken by the Church Leadership team along with the minister.

Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by the Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the church and the role of Trustees is given to the Church Trustees at various meetings and/or training sessions.

Related parties

The church is part of the Chester-Le-Street Methodist Circuit which is part of the Newcastle District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The internal organisations linked to the church are: Women's Fellowship, Boys' Brigade, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Jigsaw and Parents/Toddlers.

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Mr T Smith

Trustees

22 February 2024

J a Smith

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF CHESTER LE STREET METHODIST CHURCH

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Chester Le Street Methodist Church (the) for the year ended 31 August 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

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

Independent examiner's statement

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by 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 now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with 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 as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.

5. Chambers

Steven Chambers

Gunnell & Chambers Accountants 8 Fellside Road Whickham Newcastle Upon Tyne NE16 4AL

Dated: 29 February 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
		2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from: Donations and							
legacies	3	88,669	==	88,669	91,774	49,253	141,027
Charitable activities	4	73,159	31,279	104,438	31,993	60,746	92,739
Investments	5	2,288		2,288	1,514	-	1,514
Total income		164,116	31,279	195,395	125,281	109,999	235,280
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	6	197,200	40,368	237,568	131,040	108,626	239,666
0							
Gross transfers between funds Net expenditure for	the	-			19,388	(19,388)	-
year/ Net movement in fu	ınds	(33,084)	(9,089)	(42,173)	13,629	(18,015)	(4,386)
Fund balances at 1 September 2022		246,278	42,468	288,746	232,649	60,483	293,132
Fund balances at 3 August 2023	1	213,194	33,379	246,573	246,278	42,468	288,746

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

		202	3	2022	2
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Investments	10		76,947		102,657
Current assets					
Debtors	11	5,412		4,400	
Cash at bank and in hand		171,547		182,589	
		176,959		186,989	
Creditors: amounts falling due within					
one year	12	(7,333)		(900)	
Net current assets			169,626		186,089
Total assets less current liabilities			246,573		288,746
Income funds					
Restricted funds			33,379		42,468
Unrestricted funds			213,194		246,278
			246,573		288,746

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 29 February 2024

J. a. Smith

Mr T Smith

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Chester Le Street Methodist Church is a public benefit entity.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the 's [governing document], the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "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 is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements 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 Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the . Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest \mathfrak{L} .

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the .

1.4 income

Income is recognised when the is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 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 are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1.6 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.8 Financial instruments

The has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the 's balance sheet when the becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the 's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.9 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the 's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
2023 £	2022 £	2022 £	2022 £
88,669	91,774	49,253	141,027
	funds 2023 £	funds funds 2023 2022 £ £	funds funds funds 2023 2022 2022 £ £ £

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

4 Charitable activities

	Charitable activities 2023 £	Charitable activities 2022 £
Rental income and fundraising	101,085	84,458
Services provided	1,390	2,099
Other income	1,963	6,182
	104,438	92,739
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	73,159	31,993
Restricted funds	31,279	60,746
	104,438	92,739
		-

5 Investments

	Unrestricted U	nrestricted
	funds	funds
	2023	2022
	£	£
Interest receivable	2,288	1,514

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

6 Charitable activities

	Charitable Expenditure E 2023	2022
	£	£
Wages	66,256	67,391
Cleaning	876	618
Heat & light	13,817	12,725
Rates	538	924
Insurance	4,695	4,237
Repairs	7,195	9,230
Stationery	1,178	463
Organist fees	480	240
Posters	204	453
Accountancy	720	900
Miscellaneous expenses	20,352	15,129
Circuit assessment	79,889	79,356
Connexional funds	1,000	1,000
Church overheads	40,368	47,000
	237,568	239,666
	237,568	239,666
Analysis by fund	-	
Unrestricted funds	197,200	131,040
Restricted funds	40,368	108,626
	237,568	239,666

7 Trustees

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the during the year.

8 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

2023	2022
Number	Number
8	8

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

9 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxationof Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

10 Fixed asset investments

							Listed investments £
	Cost or valuation						-
	At 1 September 2022						102,657
	Valuation changes						(25,710)
	At 31 August 2023						76,947
	Carrying amount						
	At 31 August 2023						76,947
	At 31 August 2022						102,657
11	Debtors						
2.4						2023	2022
	Amounts falling due withi	n one year:				£	£
	Other debtors					5,412	4,400
						9	
12	Creditors: amounts falling	due within d	one year				
						2023 £	2022 £
						~	~
	Trade creditors					7,333	900
						(
13	Analysis of net assets bet			<u></u>	a sar a - a		2011
	· ·	Inrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total U	nrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
		2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022
		£	£	£	£	£	£
	Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:	_		~	~	~	~
	Investments	76,947	-	76,947	102,657	-	102,657
	Current assets/(liabilities)	169,626		169,626	186,089	-	186,089
		246,573	-	246,573	288,746	-	288,746
		=====					

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

14 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2022 - none).