

The Methodist Church

Middlesbrough & Eston Circuit

Trustees Annual Report

For the Period 1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities: Statement of Recommendation Practice 2015 as applicable to the Financial Reporting Standard. (FRSSE)

REFERENCE & ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

Charity Name: Middlesbrough & Eston Methodist Circuit

Registered Charity Number: 1133911

Charity's Principal Address: Circuit Office
Nunthorpe Methodist Church
Connaught Road
Nunthorpe
Middlesbrough
TS7 0BP

Telephone: 01642 323924

Email: mbrocircuit@gmail.com

Website: www.middlesbroughandestonmethodistcircuit.org.uk

Auditors: Leonard Bye,
Chartered Accountants,
80 Borough Road
Middlesbrough
TS1 2JN

Bankers: HSBC
60 Albert Road,
Middlesbrough TS1 1RS

Investment Bankers: Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

The Middlesbrough & Eston Methodist Circuit forms part of the Darlington District of the Methodist Church (Registered Charity No: 1133814). The Governing Documents are the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976)

With effect from 1st February 2010 the Middlesbrough & Eston Methodist Circuit was registered as a Charity with the Charity Commission - Registration number 1133911. The trustees of the Circuit meet regularly, at least twice each year, in the Circuit Meeting. This is the ultimate decision-making body of the Circuit, operating under the terms of Methodist Standing Orders. The circuit meetings were held on September 15th 2022 and March 8th 2023.

An 'Executive Committee', known as the 'Circuit Leadership Team', meets on a two monthly basis between Circuit Meetings. It is made up of the Ministers and Stewards of the Circuit. Meetings are held at Marton Church.

The CLT have created teams to support areas of responsibility across the Circuit.

Team Lead	Team members
Finance : Lesley Duffield	Kay Braithwaite, Pat Barrett
Property: Julie O'Key	Bernard Nixon , Brian Glover
Communications:	Dave Elliott, Elaine Mackintosh
Learning and Development	John Hinton

The Trustees of the Circuit are either ex-officio or appointed by the Church Councils of one of the seven Methodist Churches which make up the Circuit. These Churches are, Grove Hill, Linthorpe Road Chinese Church, Marton, Normanby, Nunthorpe, Trinity and Stainton.

The Trustees for 2023/2024 will be:

Rev David Godfrey	Superintendent Minister (Chair)
Rev Charity Hamilton	Minister
Rev John Howard Norman	Minister
Rev Leonard Karn	Supernumerary Minister

Circuit Stewards

Mrs Julie O'Key	Circuit Steward	Property and Finance
Mrs Lesley Duffield	Circuit Steward	Treasurer
Neil Mapplebeck	Circuit Steward	
Mrs Dawn Harris	Circuit Steward	
Julie Thomas	Circuit Steward	

Mrs Pat Hinton
Circuit Meeting:

Circuit Meeting Secretary **Members/Trustees of the**

Members of Circuit Meeting – for the Connexional year September 2023 – August 2024

Mrs P Barratt
Mrs J Bone
Mrs K Braithwaite
Mr M Braithwaite
Mrs P Brown
Mr D Bye
Mrs P Carter
Mrs L Duffield
Mr D Elliott
Mr B Glover
Rev D Godfrey
Rev C Hamilton
Mrs D Harris
Mr J Harris
Mr J Hinton
Mrs P Hinton – as secretary
Rev J Howard Norman
Mr K Johnson
Rev L Karn
Mrs J Lambert
Mrs R Lewis
Mrs S Loveridge
Rev T Luk
Mr D Lyness – added March 2024
Mr N Mapplebeck
Mr N Marsh – added March 2024
Mr J Martin
Mrs P Martin
Mrs D Mealing
Mrs E Milburn
Mr B Nixon
Mrs J O'Key
Mrs C Roberts
Mrs M Scurrah
Mrs J Sivills
Mrs C Tate
Mrs R Taylor
Mrs J Thomas
Mrs G Wildon
Dr C Ukeje-Eloagu

Trustees from 2023/2024 No Longer Serving

The following were removed as reps to the meeting on 31st August 2023.

Mrs B Lindsey
Mrs A Bardsey
Mr P French
Mrs J Bye
Mrs Y Cotton

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Middlesbrough & Eston Methodist Circuit and which will enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church and the Charities Act 1993. They are also responsible for taking reasonable steps to safeguard the assets of the charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities. The Trustees are also responsible for the properties owned by the Circuit, namely our Manses (one of which is rented out to provide a source of income) and the Avenue Church (which has no active congregation) but is operated as a Community Project providing facilities for local residents within the Middlesbrough and Eston area.

Risk Management

The Risk Management arrangements of the Circuit are identified in the Circuit Risk Register and are divided into 4 main risk groups, namely Governance, Operational, Financial and External Risks. The Risk Register was approved by the Circuit Meeting on the 19th June 2014 and is regularly reviewed by the Circuit leadership Team.

Safeguarding

The Circuit has adopted the Statement of Safeguarding Principles agreed by the Methodist Church and the Church of England as identified below:

We are committed to:

- *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.

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

A Safeguarding Policy was approved by the Circuit Meeting on the 14th September 2023 and is reviewed annually.

Sources and Management of funds

Circuit Treasurer.

The Circuit Treasurer is Lesley Duffield and her team.

It has been recognised by the Circuit that the roles and responsibilities of the Circuit Treasurer have increased over the last few years. So to that end the Circuit Leadership team has taken the decision to use a professional financial management firm to take on some of the roles of the Circuit Treasurer due to the increasing work load and complexity of the job. The Accountants Leonard Bye has taken on some of the financial management and staffing responsibilities.

Circuit Funds are obtained in a number of ways:

- The Methodist Churches contribute from their weekly offerings — known as the Assessment;
- Grants from other bodies towards the work in the Circuit. These include: Methodist Church Connexional Funds, The Darlington District of the Methodist Church;
- Income from renting out any vacant properties e.g. Manses.

Investment Policy

A Deposit Fund administered by the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church is utilised to deposit any Circuit General Funds surplus to immediate requirements.

Reserves Policy

It is the current policy of the Circuit Meeting to maintain a basic balance in the reserve of £125,000.

Related Parties

The Middlesbrough & Eston Methodist Circuit maintains close links with:

- The Methodist Asylum Project, Middlesbrough (Registered charity no: 1132820);

- The Linthorpe Road Resource Centre Limited (Registered charity no: 1126421)

Each of these is independent charity with their own boards of trustees and are financially independent of the Methodist Circuit. However, members of staff of these charities have employment contracts through the Middlesbrough & Eston Methodist Circuit.

The circuit also has links with Together Middlesbrough and Cleveland (Reg Charity no.1159355)

OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

Charitable objects:

The purposes of the Methodist Church are the advancement of -

- a) The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church;
- b) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, district, circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church;
- c) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church;
- d) Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church.

Our Circuit Mission:

To Love Christ,
To Grow in Christ,
To Show Christ's love,
To Make Christ known

Our Circuit Vision:

The sense of mission conveyed here can be furthered through a statement of vision which expresses the kind of Circuit we seek to be:

The Middlesbrough and Eston Methodist Circuit seeks to be a connected community, united in Christ to pursue our common mission. We remain dependent on God's grace, dedicated to his service, and underpin our common life with prayer and worship. We seek to nurture Christian discipleship, which can take root, develop and flourish. We seek to share our stories of God's love with others in the hope that they too will come to faith. We also seek to show Christian love in action in support of those who are forgotten, vulnerable or marginalised in our communities. Also see www.memc.uk .

We are embracing and developing our thinking around “The Methodist Way of Life” and so focusing on Worship, Service, Learning and Caring, and Evangelism. As a Circuit we seek to encourage initiatives which connect church and community and which place us alongside those from whom we have become distant for several generations. We also have a deep concern for those who stand on the edge of ‘normal’ society and who struggle to fit in economically and in other ways.

Public Benefit

When planning our activities for the year, the Circuit and the individual Churches are aware of the Commission’s guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. Public benefit will be delivered by adherence to our Vision for the work of the Circuit within the area in which we live.

Ministerial Team

The Superintendent Minister is Rev David Godfrey. The other member of the Circuit team is Rev Charity Hamilton and Rev John Howard Norman.

Invitation and stationing

Rev Charity Hamilton has had her invitation extended by a further two years to August 2026. In her new appointment she will focus most of her efforts on town centre mission and ministry. There has been a welcoming service at Linthorpe Road to inaugurate this new venture.

Lay Employees

Elaine McIntosh	Lay employee Circuit office
Mrs Sharon Sewell	Lay Employee
Andrew Glazebrook	Lay Employee

Safeguarding

The safeguarding policy was approved on 14th September 2023 and DBS verification has taken place for key members of the Churches in the Circuit. Further training events have taken place and there will be a rolling programme of training in the Circuit.

The Circuit continues to be vigilant in its application of safeguarding policy and is aware that there are regular updates coming from Central office that need to be

incorporated into Circuit policy. Training and update sessions are offered in the Circuit when the need arises.

Risk

The Circuit Meeting agreed a risk strategy which was reviewed by the Circuit Leadership Team. The risk assessment will be reviewed this year by the leadership team.

Property

Quinquennial Inspection was completed for Grove Hill Church.

Properties reported in good order with no major repairs required.

Linthorpe Road Methodist Church and Resource Centre

The Chinese church became a member of the Methodist church in 2021 and they meet for worship fortnightly in Linthorpe Road Methodist Church.

The Resource Centre is run by a management team with involvement from the Circuit and it continues to provide services to the community of Middlesbrough. As part of the Linthorpe Road premises there are two shop units that have been refurbished and are now rented out. This has added to the income of the Resource centre.

Key Activities during the Report Year 2023/2024

Churches have been active in reaching out to their local communities. The church café at Trinity is well supported and the play group at Nunthorpe is thriving.

Circuit Review Project

We have asked churches to be active in reviewing our calling and we hope that investigating the Methodist way of Life message we can encourage new projects and forms of worship. This is an on-going process which we hope will give us a pathway for the future.

Within the circuit these are the evidence of continuing mission in the community:

Trinity Methodist Church and Family Friendly Centre

The family centre has continued to support families in the West Middlesbrough area with food and clothes parcels. The extension of the kitchen and café has been welcomed and well used by the local community. There is a Foodbank at the centre and they are supported by donations of food and money from other churches in the Circuit .

The Centre has a garden area and there are some members who are keen gardeners. Funding has been sort and the plan is to develop a community garden.

Grove Hill Methodist Church

The church has just been awarded a Bronze certificate as an Eco Church and this was officially presented by the Chair of District Rev Richard Andrew.

Linthorpe Road Resource Centre

Linthorpe Road Resource Centre has completed its project that was funded initially by the EU.

There is now a new initiative led by Rev Charity Hamilton to develop an inner town presence and to continue connections with the University.

Actions:

- The two shop areas are rented out

MAP (Methodist Asylum Project) is well attended and supported. The need for MAP is more vital than ever with ongoing financial pressures on the cost of living and the Circuit feels this is a vital service in Middlesbrough and the local area.

The leader of the project is Billy Barnes. The need for MAP has increased due to more asylum seekers residing in Middlesbrough and the adjoining borough.

Connect/Junction 42

Connect/Junction 42 works with ex-offenders throughout the North East and Scotland to support new Christians in their Christian journey. They are developing their network in Middlesbrough meeting at Linthorpe Road Methodist Centre.

The Avenue Project

The Avenue Methodist Church is the responsibility of the Circuit. At the Circuit meeting it was agreed that then church and premises will be sold. This is still ongoing.

Nunthorpe Methodist Church

The Christmas celebration included a Carol Service in the open air on Christmas Eve continues to be well attended by the local community. A request from older members

for an “inside “carol service due to weather conditions will be included in next year’s plan.

Families in the play group were offered the opportunity to be involved in the Travelling Nativity and this was well supported.

Plans for 2023/24

Nunthorpe is looking at employing a Family and Childrens’ worker in the next 12 months and also having a feasibility study of the church premise to create a more flexible worship space.

There is also a circuit need to develop more Eco- churches as the Connexional plans “ Action for Hope” are for The Methodist Church to be working towards being carbon neutral by 2030.