

Sheffield Methodist District Leading Team

Meeting on Thursday 9 March 2023 at 7.00 pm via ZOOM

<https://zoom.us/j/91297481998?pwd=RFJpamRSNWVoQIRiVTRNZUQwZEwwdz09>



Meeting ID: 912 9748 1998

Passcode: 854808

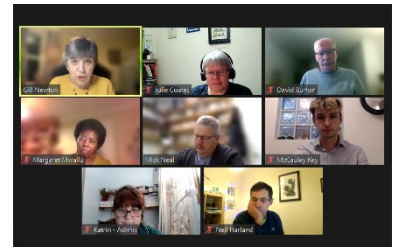
Preliminary items			
1.	19:00	Opening worship	
2.		Apologies for absence McCauley Key	
3.		Minutes of the DLT on 4 January 2022	
4.		Matters arising from the minutes: Presidency Support Group	
5.		Decisions made between meetings for ratification Cost of Living Crisis – Lay Employee support	
Items for discussion and decision			
6.	19:15	Mission Strategy Update	
7.		District Staff Team Away Day reflections	
8.		Mission Enabler – Job Description	
9.		Treasurer's Report a) Approval of Annual Accounts	
10.	19:50	Grant Overview a) St Andrews, Psalter Lane – Spire repair	
11.	20:05	Connexional assessment – Connexional response	
12.	20:15	Lay Authorisations a) Sean Worsley (Doncaster) - New b) Ed Archer-Siddall (Rotherham & DV) – Renewal	
13.	20:25	Election of Methodist Council representative at Synod	Verbal
14.	20:30	DLT Membership – proposal	
Other matters			
15.		Methodist Council Report	Verbal
16.		AOB	
17.	20:55	Closing worship	

Dates for DLT meetings 2022/23

Thursday 11 May

Tuesday 4 July

Sheffield Methodist District Leading Team Meeting on 4 January at 7.00 pm via ZOOM



Present

Gill Newton (GN); Julie Coates (JC); Mick Neal (MN); Dave Burton (DB); Margaret Mwailu (MM); McCauley Key (MK); Neil Harland (NH) (non-voting) Katrin Hackett (KH); Alison Hill (AH)

Opening Business

1. Opening worship : based on John 1: 1-14

2. Apologies for absence

Jon Bellfield (JB);

3. Minutes of the DLT on 8 November 2022

These have been circulated and accepted as an accurate record

4. Matters arising from the minutes:

Presidential Support Group – this has now met twice. It is making good progress. The current plan is to explore getting additional support for the Trinity Circuit to enable JC to cover for GN, chairing meetings etc. This support should be funded from the Conference Office

A moment was taken to give thanks for the life of Griff Wynne, who had served on DLT for many years, and who sadly died just before Christmas

Items For Discussion And Decision

5. Mission Strategy Update

The paper has been circulated. This was mostly an update, but a discussion was held around the level of grant support for New Places for New People (NPNP) projects. Should the cap be increased as outlined on page 5 of the report?

This would mean less funding potentially available for other grants. The suggestion was made to guarantee £40K (half coming from the connexional funds) to start the project with the option for up to an additional £20K down the line if needed. This would give more parity with other projects. It also would encourage circuits to have more ownership of the NPNP. **This proposal met with approval.** A final decision will follow the Budget discussion.

6. District Safeguarding Report & Policy

The report and model policy have been circulated. Alison Hill joined the meeting to talk to the report and answer any questions.

District Policy: The proposal is to accept the Model policy for now while the District Safeguarding Group (DSG) look at it in more detail now that a new Chair for this group has been appointed. There are some gaps in the Model policy which have been noted and will be reported back to the connexional team.

DLT agreed to this proposal.

The standards for the DSG were shared in the report. AH reported that we are weak in Standards 2 & 4 and they will be the focus for the DSG this year. Districts will be internally audited, although we have no timescale on this yet. The focus is mainly on the DSO & DSG but will include conversations with Circuits. At the moment churches will not be included in this. It will be looking at how Safeguarding is led in the district. AH is delighted to report that Katy Spencer-Madden has agreed to be the independent chair of the DSG. **DLT fully support this appointment.**

Thanks were expressed to Alison for the work and support she gives to the district, circuits and churches! AH left the meeting at this point.

7. Church Closures – Duckmanton

A paper from Sean Adair (SA) has been circulated. There were no questions about this.

Proposals from the paper:

(1) that DLT support the request for Duckmanton Methodist Church to cease to meet as presently configured – this was unanimously agreed

(2) that DLT support the proposal that the responsibility for managing trusteeship and the work in Duckmanton village be moved to Bolsover Methodist Church – this was fully affirmed by the DLT.

KH was asked to feed these decisions back to SA.

8. Budget Proposal

The report has been circulated.

The District Advance Fund is being used for purposes wider than the original intention, there were concerns about this direction of travel. There are concerns about the level of the Connexional assessment, especially when churches are struggling. District could say that we are not willing to pay this level of increase, as the only way we could meet it (without passing it on to Circuit/Churches) is via the Advance Fund. The Methodist Council will be approving the Connexional Budget. DLT could express our disquiet either via GN or NH, to feedback that the increase cannot be realistically met. This proposal was approved. **GN & NH will meet to take this forward.** They will also work with DB to help him draft a statement to speak at Council.

Should District carry the 9% rise for one year only or pass on a % increase to Circuits. At some point there will need to be an increase, the original suggestion was for a 3% rise, but peg this year at 2% - again this year only.

DLT voted to agree with the recommendation that the Circuit Assessment be increased by a maximum of 2% (depending on the outcome of the Connexional Budget).

The budget is proposing to stop the Learning & Development grants (including Ministerial Development Review). We would signpost to alternative funding and be willing to support grants in exceptional circumstances. KH & NH will meet to plan how this will be publicised.

Following the Budget discussion, it seems sensible to keep the NPNP funding to the current level. The policy to read “up to £40k with the possibility of additional funding after the 3rd year”. **This was approved.**

NH was thanked for his work on the finances.

9. Lay employees – cost of living crisis

KH & NH left the meeting while this was discussed. An in-principle decision has been made which **GN will discuss with NH.**

10. DLT Membership

Despite appeals, there have been no new recruits to the team. Previously DLT was specific District Officers plus representatives from each circuit. Some Circuits did find it difficult to recruit their representatives. There are less District Office holders due to more Lay Employees. Need to keep the balance of lay/ordained and diversity. DLT are the Trustees of the District. There may be a lack of understanding about the relationship between District and Circuit which could make recruitment difficult. Office Holders have a particular interest but may not want to be involved in the wider work. There was a suggestion to also include some of the Conference Reps. **GN will give this more thought, will have conversations and will bring a proposal to the March meeting!**

Meeting closed with prayer at 21:01

Dates for DLT meetings 2022/23

Thursday 9 March – on Zoom

Thursday 11 May

Tuesday 4 July

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

Our strategy for resourcing your mission 2020-25

LEADING TEAM PROGRESS UPDATE

9 MARCH 2023



This paper sets out progress on key items agreed at previous meetings and other key strategy updates. It only touches on the significant pieces of work with implications across the district or for direction or action by District Leading Team. A full copy of our strategy is available at <https://www.sheffieldmethodist.org/about-us/for-such-a-time-as-this.html>

PASSIONATE CONTEXTUAL WORSHIP

Action	Led by	Since last meeting	Before next meeting	Longer term plans	Challenges not yet resolved
Pooling of WLP tutoring across the district to benefit students and tutors.	Claire Rawlinson			Aim to have pool of tutors in place for those starting training Sept 2023, subject to agreement from stakeholders. Alongside this to publicise stories about new local preachers across the district	Switching between tutors on training software currently outside our control and can be slow This won't solve the parallel challenge of shortages of mentors
Offer recorded online district prayers at moments of significance across the life of the district	Sam Roberts	Daily social posts throughout lent (less effort for circuits than advent videos, although these did have a large reach)		Improved database will allow direct advance liaison with church/ circuit social media editors as to what syndicated content they need.	
Create a hybrid worship community of practice	Neil Harland/ Claire Rawlinson				Whilst there are various hybrid/ digital expressions of worship around the district, most of those involved seem to have multiple commitments, so investing time in next stage of development is hard We (and other parts of Methodism) do not engage with social media platforms now used by young people.

SHARING STORIES

Action	Led by	Since last meeting	Before next meeting	Longer term plans	Challenges not yet resolved
Focus on making testimony normal within congregational life	Neil Harland		Next District Gathering to include more testimony relevant to theme	To review impact/ current practice in preparation for future proposed focus on reaching out in Sept 2023 synod	
Media training to improve confidence in sharing stories in local newspapers, radio and TV, then facilitating increased presence to support this	Sam Roberts			Hopefully we can be involved in a Connexional pilot for a small number of people. Sam to provide training for pioneers and others who wish to take up.	
Website baseline support all circuits in having fit for purpose website	Sam Roberts			Development of new websites for Peak and Rotherham & Dearne Valley ongoing. Trinity planned but not yet scheduled	
First Story of the Year print publication distributed around district, to increase non-digital access to district-wide stories	Sam Roberts		Next version to be published to focus on social justice stories from across the district, linking to April 2023 District Gathering		

Sam intends to cancel the District twitter account in the coming months due to it receiving a lower level of engagement than other channels, and proposed increase in cost of scheduling tweets.

GROWING DISCIPLES

Action	Led by	Since last meeting	Before next meeting	Longer term plans	Challenges not yet resolved
Focus on nurturing leaders in September 2022 synod	Gill Newton				
Growing young disciples - restarting district-wide high impact events	Vic Loveday		District youth day to be repeated in spring, with anticipated higher attendance.	Family events to continue to be trialled Increase total 3Generate attendance beyond 75	
Growing young disciples - growing community of practice for CFY leaders	Vic Loveday			Continue & embed monthly community of practice	
Growing young disciples - launching <i>One Programme: District</i> (3 hour internships for 16-23 year olds)	Vic Loveday	Regional training weekend for potential interns had to be cancelled due to rail strike.		First interns to start Sept 2023. Targeted invitations are being made	
Launch Justice Seekers community of practice	Neil Harland/ Jenny Carpenter/ Erica Dunmow	Publicity for “justice quilt” collaborative art project to be released	To be launched at April 2023 District Gathering		

TRANSFORMING MISSION

Action	Led by	Since last meeting	Before next meeting	Longer term plans	Challenges not yet resolved
Support and encourage locally identified opportunities for new Christian communities , learning from District NPNP Pilot and other opportunities	Neil Harland	20 people from across 11 existing or potential communities attended first gathering.	Professional videos from three new Christian communities to be widely shared.	Annual conversations with district safeguarding officer, HR officer, specialist MPP coach in place for all pioneers who wish Six monthly gatherings for pioneer teams Grant applications for more new communities anticipated	Funding and leadership capacity remain key challenges for most circuits.
Provide £500 seed grants to encourage provision of Warm Spaces this winter in response to cost of living crisis (£20k allocated)	Neil Harland	At time of writing 39 grants have been awarded. Informal feedback gathered from a sample of warm spaces.	Grant evaluations from all applicants. “what next” workshop dropped from District Gathering to permit other options. Alternative Zoom discussions to be offered.		

PROPERTIES FIT FOR MISSION

Action	Led by	Since last meeting	Before next meeting	Longer term plans	Challenges not yet resolved
Property Advisory Panel to support MPE on £100k+/ complex property projects	Tom Rattigan		Panel members to be safely recruited		
Provide 50% grants (max £1,000 each) for carbon footprint reduction reviews of chapels (£50k allocated)	Tom Rattigan	Continued gradual sign ups from churches		Anticipate at least 50 chapels will be reviewed	Whilst tailored surveys will highlight quick wins, significant carbon savings will require capital investment
Support circuits in exploring Eco Church/ Eco Circuit	Tom Rattigan			Conversation to be had with each circuit about what would be helpful for them	
Launch community of practice for people with property management responsibilities	Tom Rattigan			Continue to grow engagement, including through carbon footprint reviews	
Produce simplified guidance for consents website expectations and other common property matters	Tom Rattigan			Guidance/ checklist for post cease-to-meet options to be discussed with superintendents	
Be alert to mechanisms to lift property management burdens from churches/ circuits, particularly for complex properties or where local people are significantly overstretched.	Tom Rattigan			Discussions ongoing about potential solutions for small number of locations.	

SIMPLIFYING PROCEDURES

Action	Led by	Since last meeting	Before next meeting	Longer term plans	Challenges not yet resolved
Upgrade District database to allow targeted information/ requests to most relevant people	Katrin Hackett	Key point of contact for each key role for each church		Continue to refine contacts through ongoing engagement and annual check	
Seek feedback on simplification needs across the district to develop prioritised action plan	Neil Harland	<p>Katrin has been granted improved access to safeguarding course on TheologyX, giving clarity as to who has successfully completed online training</p> <p>WLP course on TheologyX now recording multiple tutors properly</p>		Focussed conversations to be held to identify common needs	

For such a time as this... being church in a post Christendom liminal season

The District staff team held an away day in February. We focussed on some of the trends we see emerging across our work supporting circuits, churches and individuals, and what these tell us about how we should be responding. We felt it would be helpful to hear the perspective of DLT on these matters.

Liminal ages begin with an ending. The former ways of working no longer function. Activities end. Order collapses. But a new consensus vision, norms of behaviour and fresh operating model have not yet emerged. The liminal age is a wilderness season: beyond the stable drudgery subjection to pharaoh but with land of milk and honey still over the horizon.

Recognising liminality

At our District Mission Forum in 2018, we reviewed a range of statistics about the scale and shape of Methodism across our district. We began our away day by revisiting some of these, where data continues to be available. This makes clear the ending of an era:

- **Membership continues to fall** – total membership across the district fell from 7,300 in 2012, to 5,900 in 2017 and then to 4,600 in 2021
- **Number of chapels is reducing** – between 2012 to 2017 we closed 16 chapel buildings. A further 28 have closed since. We currently have 133.
- **Ministers & pastors just as thinly spread** – our ministers/ lay pastors today have oversight of an average of 3.3 chapels (although models of deploying ministry vary considerably between circuits). This is unchanged since 2018, meaning that closing chapels is not giving us opportunity to for concentrated ministry. In 2018 we did note that our worship attendance was concentrated into a few larger churches (one third of worship attendance was in just 15 churches of 100+ attendees). It is not clear whether this pattern continues
- **Budgets are not balancing** – all of our circuits are running significant deficits. Excluding proceeds from property sales our circuits will run a combined underlying deficit of over £1m this year.
- **Employed lay ministry is being maintained** – whilst some of the roles have changed, total levels of employed lay ministry have held up since 2018, and is now larger than ordained ministry. We have 29 FTE outreach/missional roles and 16 FTE administrative/ supporting roles.

There are however reasons to be hopeful about our future:

- **New members are being confirmed** – having dropped significantly during COVID lockdowns, numbers of new Christians being confirmed into membership are starting to recover, up to 50 during 2021/22.
- **New Christian communities are growing** – we have ten new Christian communities within the district that have reached the developmental stage of new people gathering regularly for worship or to explore Christian faith, with more at an earlier stage or being envisioned.
- **Stories worth sharing** – we could readily identify communities within the district pointing to a hopeful future, such as:
 - Family Fun Church, Rotherham - Stepping outside of existing congregational moulds with scattered families to create a fresh circuit-led congregation centred around the

needs of families with young children at the times that work for them has created a church that new families are joining. Having spread to a second location and time it could potentially become multisite in other places too.

- Gleadless Valley, Sheffield - This estate church could easily have been closed as its membership dwindled, but members of the circuit leadership took time and had the insight to hear locally owned visions and recognise latent skills. This has then been backed up by the circuit investing ministerial time in presence ministry to restart the church in partnership with the food bank.
- Victoria Hall, Sheffield - growing town centre outreach, particularly amongst marginalised people, and the role of active partnership with other churches underpinning this. It also speaks to finding entrepreneurial ways of funding ministry. Both the building management and missional elements benefited from implementation of thorough external reviews.
- Barnsley Circuit - Taking time to collectively discern and hold to distinctive multisite church and circuit vision is now enabling bold visions such as the new manse and deacon in Barough to begin to be realised.

Expected behaviours

In this chrysalistic inbetween state, Susan Beaumont¹ suggests we should expect the following behaviours:

- **Anxiety rises; motivation falls.** People question their attachment to the organisation or the cause. They wonder if they want to continue the relationship
- **Attendance drops off.** Some people stop attending altogether, planning to take a break until the liminal season is over. Others attend but with less frequency, deciding that this is a good time to pull back, wait to see what emerges next. The detachment of some places additional stress on others who find they must pick up the slack of those taking a breather.
- **Old weaknesses,** long patched over or compensated for re-emerge in full bloom. Old conflict issues re-emerge.
- **Personnel are overloaded.** Signals about what is important are mixed, and systems are in flux and therefore unreliable. It takes more effort to accomplish everything, even the most mundane daily tasks.
- People in the organisation are **easily polarised** between those who want to rush forward into the new thing and those who long to return to the old familiar ways.

She argues that the primary leadership task is to “normalise the experience and to frame/define the season as acceptable and even desirable”

Does this feel familiar? Is it helpful to name and own this context?

How to respond

Beaumont suggests the key liminal season leadership priorities should be:

¹ Susan Beaumont, *How to lead when you don't know where you're going*, p12

- **Deepening group discernment** – transactional management and problem solving alone can't deliver what we need. Neither can a plan created and imposed by a single individual
- **Shaping institutional memory** – retelling authentic testimonies of our collective story so far, giving pastoral space for grief, surrendering and letting go before we can think about the future. Care needs to be taken in the framing of these stories and the messages they reinforce.
- **Clarifying purpose** – Who do we chose to be? Who are we for? What values define us? What do we need to do next? We will need to build the bridge between the old and the new, plank by plank, even as we walk across it
- **Engaging with emergence** – asking “are we there yet?” Encouraging as much disruption and purposeful innovation as can be coped with. Being alert to green shoots and false dawns – expecting a murmuration when the season turns.

As leaders, how much time do we spend doing these? Is there anything else which feels more important?

Setting a compass

In this fog-bound liminal season, a compass feels more helpful than a map. We explored what we hope to see in 2033, that we should encourage movement towards; and what we fear.

Fears	Hopes
Still in the wilderness, lacking vision As we are but smaller	More/ new Christian communities Church re-imagined in different ways which collectively make space for a broad spread of people Fewer buildings Majority of people in our churches are new since 2023
No structure within churches to facilitate prayer	Hope and joy
Lack of collaborative leadership Few people attempting to do everything Disintegration of governance	Greater sense of organic lay-led movement Energised leaders
	Whole community/ neighbourhood transformation
Lack of connection and shared identity between scattered churches	Joined up working between churches pursuing similar projects

Immediate actions we (as district) could take to encourage helpful liminal behaviours include:

- **Voicing liminality** - creating opportunities to talk widely of liminality, expected behaviours and potential responses to give people a framework to understand what is happening to them
- **Sharing stories** – encourage purposeful experimentation, pose the question “who can we chose to be”

- **Protecting green shoots** – be alert to the pressures on group discerned innovation and potential. Spot patterns between what is flourishing in different places. We may need to be creative with our structures to give these time and space to coalesce?
- **Identifying values** – is “learning, changing, joining in” still the right language to describe what district is for?
- **Creating capacity** – what more can we do to give lay and ordained leaders at circuit/church/congregation level the time, space and expertise to flourish in this liminal era?

What language do you use to articulate our liminal compass bearings? What can we do to encourage good responses for such a liminal time as this?

CIRCUITS	Attendance - weekly				Attendance - Sunday		Methodist members			Chapels			2022/23 finances (£'000)			
	2012	2017	2012	2017	2012	2017	2021	2012	2017	2021	opening cash	income	spend	deficit		
Sheffield	3,274	2,612	2,897	2,334	2,985	2,364	1,569	64	57	50	1,279	1,027	1,518	-491		
Derbyshire North East	943	975	729	713	853	735	635	20	19	15	580	346	535	-189		
The Peak	294	289	294	255	399	219	260	13	13	12	215	131	189	-58		
Doncaster	1,095	935	934	789	955	823	674	22	22	19						
Barnsley	1,197	908	870	749	857	712	600	26	23	17	860	292	379	-87		
Rotherham and Dearne Valley	1,065	813	830	660	777	660	460	18	14	9						
Trinity	670	621	537	398	513	434	367	16	15	11	173	154	266	-112		
Total District	8,538	7,151	7,091	5,896	7,339	5,947	4,565	177	161	133	3,107	1,950	2,887	-937		
2018	Ordained ministers (headcount)						Lay employees (FTE)				excludes proceeds from property sales					
	Methodist	Ecumenical	pastors	Lay Members each	Chapels each		Children & youth ministry	Other	Admin & support							
Sheffield	16	3	1	118	2.9		6.6	3.1	8.5							
Derbyshire North East	5	2		105	2.7		1.0	1.0	0.5							
The Peak	2	1		73	4.3		0.5	0.0	0.0							
Doncaster	4	0	1.5	150	4.0		2.0	2.3	0.4							
Barnsley	5	0		142	4.6		1.3	1.3	1.4							
Rotherham and Dearne Valley	2	2	0.8	138	2.9		4.0	0.0	2.5							
Trinity	3	2		87	3.0		0.0	0.5	0.8							
District staff	2	0					0.0	1.6	2.2							
Total District	39	10	3.3	121	3.3		15.3	9.7	16.4							
Feb-23	Ministers & lay pastors (FTE)						Lay employees (FTE)									
	Methodist	Ecumenical	pastors	Lay Members each	Chapels each		Children & youth ministry	Other	Admin & support	Excludes						
Sheffield	15.3	3.0	0.4	84	2.7		5.1	5.3	5.3	The Foundry, Victoria Community Enterprises						
Derbyshire North East	5.0	1.0	0.0	106	2.5		1.1	1.3	1.5							
The Peak	2.0	0.0	0.0	130	6.0		0.5	0.6	0.5							
Doncaster	2.0	0.0	2.3	156	4.4		1.1	1.0	1.0							
Barnsley	4.0	0.0	0.0	150	4.3		2.9	2.6	1.0							
Rotherham and Dearne Valley	0.4	1.0	1.0	193	3.8		4.5	1.1	0.8	High Street Centre						
Trinity	3.0	1.0	0.0	92	2.8		0.0	0.0	1.6							
District staff	2.0	0.0	0.0				1.0	1.0	3.9							
Total District	33.7	6.0	3.7	115	3.3		16.2	12.8	15.6							
Lay employees excludes cleaners, caretakers & organists																
Ordained ministers includes probationers																

Church	Circuit	Confirmations 2013-2017	Church	Circuit	Confirmations 2018-2021
TKCC, Hexthorpe	Doncaster	21	MC Barnsley South	Barnsley	14
Totley Rise	Sheffield	21	Greenhill	Sheffield	11
St John's Swinton	Rotherham & DV	21	South Anston	Trinity	11
Emmanuel	Barnsley	20	Bolsover	Derbyshire North East	9
Central Chesterfield	Chesterfield	19	TKCC, Hexthorpe	Doncaster	9
Greenhill	Sheffield	16	Tickhill	Doncaster	8
Eastwood Mission	Rotherham & DV	15	Barnby Dun	Doncaster	7
Central Aston Cum Aughton	Rotherham & DV	12	MC Barnsley North East	Barnsley	7
Stocksbridge	Sheffield	11	Central Chesterfield	Derbyshire North East	6
Broom	Rotherham & DV	10	St John's Swinton	Rotherham & DV	6
Wickersley	Rotherham & DV	9	Bents Green	Sheffield	4
The Crossing	Trinity	9	Cantley	Doncaster	4
Bents Green	Sheffield	8	Central Aston Cum Aughton	Rotherham & DV	4
Wisewood	Sheffield	8	Sprotbrough Road	Doncaster	4
Bolsover	Derbyshire North East	7	Staveley	Derbyshire North East	4
Milhouses	Sheffield	7	Totley Rise	Sheffield	4
Bakewell	The Peak	7	Walkley Ebenezer	Sheffield	4
High Green	Sheffield	7	46 other churches		78
The Church of Christ in Darnall	Sheffield	7	Total		194
Auckley	Doncaster	7	% membership confirmed in last 4 years		4.2%
72 other churches		183			
Total		425		2018 total	77
% membership confirmed in last 5 years		7.1%		2019 total	71
				2020 total (covid)	22
average per year		85		2021 total (covid)	24
				2022 provisional total	50

MISSION ENABLER – ROLE DESCRIPTION

BACKGROUND

When the Mission Development Support Worker role was first created, it was a part time role which we were later able to make full time with the support of a Connexional “Our Calling” grant. The role title has also changed during the period of the appointment to that of Mission Enabler, with the permission of the District Leading Team.

We have been blessed by the work of Neil Harland who has inhabited that role from the start and whose contribution in a range of ways has made a considerable difference to the life and mission of the district.

As usual, at each annual appraisal, the question is asked of lay employees, whether their current role description still accurately describes the work they do. At the most recent appraisal with the Mission Enabler, it was apparent that as a result of Covid and of the changing nature of our context and mission, the work in which he was engaged has evolved quite considerably. It was therefore agreed that thought should be given to changing the role description to reflect the work currently being done, providing it resonates with what the district requires of the post-holder.

ACTIONS TAKEN

A revised role description for the Mission Enabler has therefore been drawn up in liaison with the postholder and given careful consideration and affirmation by the District HR Officer, Andrew Crawford.

The original role description, the revised role description and person specification are all included in this document at Appendix A and the DLT is invited to consider the revised role description and approve it as the role that they wish the Mission Enabler to fulfil in the future.

RESOLUTION

- **The DLT confirms the revised role description for the Mission Enabler.**
- **The DLT confirms that a new letter of Terms and Conditions including the revised role description should be issued to the Mission Enabler.**

ORIGINAL ROLE DESCRIPTION

Sheffield Methodist District

Serving the Methodist Church in South Yorkshire,
North Nottinghamshire and North East Derbyshire



Role Outline for a Mission Development Support Worker

Role title	Mission Development Support Worker within Sheffield Methodist District
Location	Appointed by Sheffield Methodist District to serve initiatives within the District.
Overall purpose	<p>To support, and where appropriate deliver, development and implementation of mission initiatives. These might include employment of personnel, property development and evangelistic projects.</p> <p>To develop relevant competencies and knowledge of other District officers and local lay and ordained leadership so as to build sustainability and capacity of this work.</p>
Responsible to	Management group appointed by District
Relationships	<p>Members of local churches</p> <p>Ministers & Lay Workers</p> <p>District Leadership Team</p> <p>District Synod</p> <p>District officers (including Administrator, Property Secretary, Lay Employment Adviser, Grants Secretary, PPRDE)</p> <p>Other support organisations (including Freedom 2 Serve, Freedom Community Project)</p>
Duration of appointment	Funding available for initial three years, continuation reliant on the role becoming self-sustaining through generation of applicable income for the District
Availability	16 hours per week on average throughout the year, recognizing that there will be times of concentrated activity.
Salary	Post to be paid £8500 plus contributory pension scheme
Review	Work to be reviewed annually in District Leadership Team

Training	Committed to completing identified training needs
Supervision and Support	District Chair
Expenses	Travel, receipted expenses and training costs, necessarily incurred in the performance of duties will be reimbursed.
Accountability	This role will be accountable to District Leadership Team.

Key Responsibilities

The following duties will be undertaken as part of the role outlined above. All roles within the District carry with them the responsibility to take the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults seriously and any concerns that arise within them should be reported as per the Sheffield District Safeguarding Policy.

- To provide guidance, expertise and support on practical, financial and project management issues which would otherwise prevent or delay implementation of valuable mission projects across the District
- To increase confidence and expertise of churches and circuits in implementing risk-taking mission

Aspects of the Action Plan to which the post would contribute

- provide expertise not available at local level to facilitate and accelerate change [C.1]
- promote and encourage networking amongst those responsible for financing and managing projects [C.3]
- Resource Circuits to be bold in reviewing their work [C.4]

Key tasks

1. In collaboration with Superintendents and others, to identify priority projects requiring additional expertise
2. Identify key barriers to implementation of priorities and potential responses
3. Arrange/ provide training and networking opportunities for those responsible for planning, implementing, developing and financing mission projects, creating a self-sustaining and self-teaching network of expertise across the District.
4. Develop tools, templates and frameworks to assist churches/ circuits in overcoming common barriers to successful implementation
5. Advise on potential sources of one-off or continuing funding for projects.
6. Write funding applications or provide guidance/ quality control for locally written applications

7. Advise on administrative requirements for projects, providing one-off or sustained support where relevant
8. Advise, providing practical support as necessary, on property and other consents process
9. Advise on other elements of project management and planning, providing practical support where relevant
10. Investigate, identify and implement mechanisms for financial sustainability of this role



JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title:	Mission Enabler
Lay Employee in the	The Sheffield Methodist District
Location:	Home based with regular travel across the Sheffield Methodist District
Employed by:	The Sheffield Methodist District, Charity Number 1129363
Responsible to:	The post is responsible to the Chair of the Sheffield Methodist District or any other post holder that may be notified to them from time to time through the District Leadership Team.
Key relationships:	District Staff and Office Holders Circuit Superintendent Ministers Circuit Leadership Teams Church Leadership Teams

Purpose of role:

- To encourage, support and equip local churches, circuits, and members to undertake risk taking mission, in accordance with our strategy for resourcing mission *For Such A Time As This*.
- To develop relevant competencies and knowledge of other District officers and staff so as to build sustainability and capacity of this work.

Main duties:

To oversee delivery and development of the District strategy for resourcing mission, including:

- Communicating with key stakeholders.
- Liaising with staff, officers, and volunteers responsible for elements of the strategy.
- Identifying and responding to strategic opportunities.
- Leading evolution and evaluation of the strategy.

Develop and implement district grants policies, including supporting applicants in developing and articulating their own proposals, and identifying and sharing learnings from projects supported.

Enable the growth and flourishing of new Christian communities across the District: supporting practitioners, creating access to training and resources, equipping circuits to explore possibilities and nurture projects.

Encourage, equip, and enable circuits and churches to pursue risk taking mission, including assistance with vision setting, planning, development, implementation and overcoming barriers. To include supporting churches and circuits in accessing grant and other income streams.

To maintain a high profile for missional thinking and activities across the district:

- Sharing best practice and facilitating networks of expertise.
- Building relationships with superintendents, lay and ordained staff, circuit and local church officers and volunteers.
- With the Communications Officer maintaining a flow of impactful communications.
- Bringing a missional perspective to district groups, committees, and teams.
- Being appraised of Connexional Team missional priorities and resources and their relevance to mission within the District.

Line management responsibilities:

To act as line manager to the following employed district staff:

- Missional Property Enabler
- Children & Youth Co-ordinator.

General duties:

To build own collaborative network with ecumenical and Methodist peers.

To be an active member of the district staff team responsible for implementing *For Such A Time As This*

Other Duties:

Any other duties and responsibilities that are identified by the Mission Enablers line manager that are within their capabilities and level of responsibility, and that are in line with the existing and developing needs and mission of the district.

Terms and conditions:

This is a full-time permanent appointment.

- Working hours will be **37** hours per week worked flexibly and with the understanding that occasional evening and weekend working will be required.
- The rate of pay for this post is **£32,285** per annum.
- Annual leave entitlement for a full-time employee is **33-days** (including public holidays).
- There is a contributory pension scheme to which the Mission Enabler will be auto enrolled. Details of contribution rates will be provided on request.
- At least one day free of responsibilities each week.
- All reasonable and agreed expense will be reimbursed.
- Appointment will be subject to satisfactory references.
- Appointment is subject to completion of a satisfactory probation period of 6-months.



PERSON SPECIFICATION

Job Title:	Mission Enabler
Lay Employee in the	The Sheffield Methodist District
Location:	Home based with regular travel across the Sheffield Methodist District
Employed by:	The Sheffield Methodist District, Charity Number 1129363

	Essential	Desirable	Method of Assessment
Education & Training			
A recognised Biblical, theological, or missional qualification or significant demonstrable experience.	Yes		A, I
Proven Ability			
Able to form strong and diverse professional networks.	Yes		A, I
Experience of delivering training, coaching, or mentoring.	Yes		A, I
Enabler of the ministry of others.	Yes		A, I
Special Knowledge and Skills			
Able to demonstrate application of excellent administrative, organisational, and IT skills.	Yes		A, I, P
Well-developed project and change management skills.	Yes		A, I
Familiarity with the structures and processes of the Methodist Church.		Yes	A, I
Flexibility of approach to deal with ordained ministers, lay staff and volunteers, with a high degree of emotional intelligence.	Yes		A, I
Ability to maintain confidentiality.	Yes		I
Able to motivate self and others to set and work to goals without direct supervision.	Yes		A, I

Able to demonstrate knowledge of and commitment to current best practice in mission.	Yes		A, I
Understanding and experience of new contextual Christian communities, their formation and development.	Yes		A, I
An understanding of the importance of GDPR, prepared to fully embrace and deliver the Methodist Church's policies within this area.	Yes		I
Any Other Requirements			
Able to and accepting of the need to work irregular hours, including some evenings and weekends.	Yes		I
Able to and accepting of the need to travel district wide to attend and facilitate frequent meetings and discussions.	Yes		I
Demonstrate awareness of and sensitivity to issues of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and a commitment to the unique value of the individual in the church's life.	Yes		I
A practising Christian, either part of the Methodist Church or a church within Churches Together.	Yes		A, I
Satisfactory enhanced disclosure from the Disclosure & Barring Service.	Yes		DBS Application

A Application form
 I Interview
 W Written Exercise
 P Presentation
 G Group Exercise
 Q Proof of Qualification

SUMMARY

Treasurer's reports are circulated to each Leading Team meeting, to keep members informed of the financial position of the District. Key points to note in this report are:

- General fund and restricted funds performing in line with budget
- Advance fund expected be in surplus for this year, but this is still expected to unwind next year
- Annual report and accounts to 31 August 2022 have been independently examined and require approval

CURRENT YEAR DISTRICT FINANCES (Appendix 1)

General fund most costs and receipts continue to be consistent with budget. We are likely to end the year with a deficit of £3k (budgeted deficit £4k). Some savings may be possible if we continue not to incur any repair costs for the manse at 99 Grange Road leased out and Learning & Development and Ministerial Development Review grant applications continue to be low. We agreed that these grants will be discontinued from September.

Advance fund as previously noted has benefited from higher than budgeted receipts (£278k expected vs 160k budgeted). When discussing the 2023/24 budget at our last meeting I had anticipated a high level of applications to be received across this year and next year, potentially in the region of £330k. This includes applications for new Christian communities. I believe the overall pipeline to be broadly unchanged from this assessment, but with the timing likely to be weighted towards next year.

Warm Space grants are expected to total £20k.

Restricted funds continue to be performing in line with budget. The Peak Park Rural Development Enabler still needs to raise income to continue to 2026 as planned. Applications are being submitted and the multi-district management group are alert to this.

These forecasts do not include any allowance for cost of living payments to employed staff.

2021/22 ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

The accounts have been independently examined by Hawsons Chartered Accountants, who have performed this role for several years. Last year the general fund reported a small increase of £3k, the advance fund balance increased by £72k due to income being higher than anticipated. Restricted reserves reduced by £53k, which includes the You Is Your Neighbour project becoming an independent charity.

A copy of the annual report and accounts has been circulated with this report.

In approving the financial statements we need to confirm that we are content that the district is a "going concern", i.e. will continue to be able to operate for at least the next 12 months. A cash flow has been prepared as appendix 2 demonstrating that this will be possible, including in the unlikely scenario that circuits will not be able to meet their assessment payments.

DLT are asked to approve the annual report and accounts.

When the financial statements have been signed, I will complete our Charity Commission annual return. This will ask if we have reviewed our financial controls and procedures – a review in the usual format is included as appendix 3. There are no changes, other than simplification from WIYN having become an independent charity, and therefore no longer part of the district.

The district Methodist Women in Britain group maintain their own bank account and financial records. They struggle to keep on top of this, but this is not a significant concern as annual income and expenditure from their gatherings and fundraising tends to be less than £2k. Katrin and I have offered assistance.

Neil Harland

2 March 2023

APPENDIX 1 – JANUARY YTD FINANCES

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Var	Forecast FY	Budget FY	Notes
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS						
District assessment	69,433	69,907	(474)	139,814	139,814	
Other income	1,036	105	931	1,500	250	
	70,469	70,012	457	141,314	140,064	
<u>Manse & flat</u>						
Letting income	4,600	4,750	(150)	11,040	11,398	
Costs	(6,080)	(7,370)	1,290	(17,327)	(17,687)	
	(1,480)	(2,620)	1,140	(6,287)	(6,289)	
<u>Safeguarding</u>						
Employment costs	(10,952)	(11,015)	63	(26,435)	(26,435)	
Other	(273)	(1,245)	972	(3,000)	(3,000)	
	(11,225)	(12,260)	1,035	(29,435)	(29,435)	
<u>HR</u>						
Income	3,649	4,980	(1,331)	11,955	11,955	
Employment costs	(9,079)	(9,125)	46	(21,910)	(21,910)	
Other	(117)	(830)	713	(2,000)	(2,000)	
	(5,547)	(4,975)	(572)	(11,955)	(11,955)	
<u>Retreats & events</u>						
Income	3,713	500	3,213	4,000	4,000	
Costs	(12,037)	(11,710)	(327)	(19,000)	(19,000)	
	(8,324)	(11,210)	2,886	(15,000)	(15,000)	
<u>Other costs</u>						
Admin & comms employment	(17,273)	(17,215)	(58)	(41,312)	(41,312)	
Other office costs	(7,528)	(6,670)	(858)	(17,000)	(16,000)	
Chair & volunteer expenses	(4,942)	(5,830)	888	(13,000)	(14,000)	
Organisations supported	-	-	-	-	-	
Learning & development	(1,116)	(3,335)	2,219	(8,000)	(8,000)	
Surplus/ (deficit) before transfers	13,034	5,897	7,137	(675)	(1,928)	
Transfer to Learning Network	(2,702)	-	(2,702)	(2,000)	(2,000)	
Transfer to other funds	-	-	-	-	-	
Surplus/ (deficit) on unrestricted funds after transfer	10,332	5,897	4,435	(2,675)	(3,928)	
Advance fund						
Income	279,015	160,000	119,015	277,589	160,000	1
Transfer to other funds	-	-	-	(21,245)	(24,800)	
CYC & MPE employment costs	(23,689)	(23,825)	136	(57,182)	(57,182)	
CYC & MPE other costs	(602)	(2,505)	1,903	(6,000)	(6,000)	
Warm Space grants	(17,000)	-	(17,000)	(20,000)	-	
Energy survey grants	(508)	-	(508)	(37,500)	-	
Other grants	(54,823)	(37,500)	(17,323)	(119,000)	(90,000)	
Other costs	(1,198)	(415)	(783)	(1,000)	(1,000)	
Surplus/ (deficit) on advance fund	181,195	95,755	85,440	15,662	(18,982)	

1) CMTF levies £132k, £135k sale levies, £10k MAPJ distribution

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Var	Forecast FY	Budget FY	Notes
RESTRICTED FUNDS						
MDSW						
Income	25,758	25,758	-	25,758	25,758	
Transfer from other funds	-	-	-	-	-	
Employment costs	(15,641)	(15,730)	89	(37,759)	(37,759)	
Other costs	(796)	(1,665)	869	(4,000)	(4,000)	
	9,321	8,363	958	(16,001)	(16,001)	
Peak rural enabler						
Income	26,480	38,660	(12,180)	41,220	41,000	
Transfer from other funds	-	-	-	9,245	12,800	2
Employment costs	(15,327)	(15,195)	(132)	(36,459)	(36,459)	
Other costs	(7,361)	(7,640)	279	(18,338)	(18,338)	
	3,792	15,825	(12,033)	(4,332)	(997)	
Learning Network region						
Income	5,360	4,165	1,195	10,000	10,000	
Costs	(7,005)	(4,995)	(2,010)	(12,000)	(12,000)	
Transfer from other funds	2,702	-		2,000	2,000	
	1,057	(830)	1,887	-	-	
Persian ministry						
Income	-	32,000	(32,000)	32,000	32,000	
Transfer from other funds	-	-	-	12,000	12,000	
Employment costs	(15,542)	(15,630)	88	(37,522)	(37,522)	
Other costs	(1,630)	(4,140)	2,510	(9,937)	(9,937)	
	(17,172)	12,230	(29,402)	(3,459)	(3,459)	
NPNP Pilot						
Income	-	-	-	20,000	30,000	
Costs	-	-	-	(30,000)	(30,000)	3
	-	-	-	(10,000)	-	
Surplus/ (deficit) on restricted funds	(3,002)	35,588	(38,590)	(33,792)	(20,457)	
Total all funds	188,525	137,240	51,285	(20,805)	(43,367)	

- 2) £3,555 of current year contribution made in 2021/22 to prevent closing deficit on fund
- 3) Delayed pass through to Derbyshire North East of some of prior year's Connexional grant due to delayed recruitment

	31-Aug-22 Actual £	31-Jan-23 Actual £	YTD Movement £
Fixed assets	215,093	213,643	(1,450)
Debtors and prepayments	47,864	34,522	(13,342)
Includes £16k to Greenhill Methodist Church, repayable in instalments by July 2030, £13k to Enable Housing repayable in instalments by 2029.			
CAF	12,400	17,752	5,352
TMCP	420,478	526,130	105,652
MWiB	2,575	2,575	-
CFB	22,403	134,303	111,900
Total cash	457,856	680,760	222,904
Grants payable	(120,819)	(142,930)	(22,111)
Held for other organisations	(538)	(538)	-
Other	(12,045)	(9,274)	2,771
Total creditors	(133,402)	(152,742)	(19,340)
Net assets	587,411	776,183	188,772

FUNDS	31-Aug-22 Actual £	31-Jan-23 Actual £	31-Aug-23 Forecast £
Unrestricted funds	289,903	300,332	287,228
MDSW	18,291	27,612	2,290
Peak Rural Enabler	-	3,791	(4,332)
DLMN region	1,960	3,018	1,960
MWiB	2,576	2,575	2,576
Persian ministry	31,565	14,392	28,106
NPNP Pilot	10,000	10,000	-
Restricted funds	64,392	61,388	30,600
Advance Fund	233,117	414,462	248,779
Total funds	587,412	776,182	566,607

Unrestricted liquid funds (months spend held)			
General fund	6.3	6.5	5.6
Advance fund	24.4	58.2	34.9

GRANTS PAYABLE						
Applicant	Grant Description	Total offered	Prior years payments	Paid this year	Lapsed	Remaining to pay
		£	£	£	£	£
GRANTS FROM PREVIOUS SCHEME						
Doncaster Circuit	town centre outreach worker	33,000	23,000			10,000
Edale MC	historic chapel renovation (up to 10% of project)	20,000	19,600			400
Doncaster Circuit	RE Team Co-ordinator (phase 2)	27,000	19,000	8,000		0
Trinity Circuit	Circuit Operations Manager	30,000	22,000			8,000
Emmanuel Waterthorpe LEP	youth & childrens outreach worker	6,000	4,000	2,000		0
Sprotbrough MC	families worker	12,000	5,000			7,000
Peak Circuit	Hub at Hope development worker	27,000	10,000	9,000		8,000
TRANSFORMING MISSION GRANTS						
Derbyshire North East	Left Behind Places	20,000	2,000			18,000
Manor Church & Community Project	community cohesion & outreach worker	23,023		5,008		18,015
Sheffield Circuit	mental health coordinator	20,000				20,000
PROPERTIES FIT FOR MISSION GRANTS						
The Grove	Growth of the Grove	20,000				20,000
The Foundry Sheffield	Main Hall chairs	6,900		6,900		0
Peak Circuit	Peak Wesley Way	14,000				14,000
Stocksbridge Christian Centre	community hub & food matters	20,000				20,000
		0				0
Total main grants		278,923	104,600	30,908	0	143,415

31-Jan-23

£

£

Uncommitted funds 31 August 2022	233,117
2022/23 income forecast	277,589
<u>2022/23 commitments</u>	
CYC & MPE	(63,182)
PPRDE match funding	(12,800)
Persian ministry match funding	(12,000)
Admin & other	(1,000)

Allocated specific grants 2022/23

Carbon reduction feasibility reviews	(37,500)
Warm Spaces grants	(20,000)
Other grants awarded	(54,000)

Reserves policy (3 months spend excluding grants)	(22,245)
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Available for grants 2022/23	287,979
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Other allocations

Youth internships - 2023/24 onwards	(20,000)
NPNP funding - phase 1 (up to £20k for each of 7 projects, matching E&G funding)	(140,000)
NPNP funding - phase 2 (up to £20k further from year 3 onwards for 7 projects)	(140,000)

APPENDIX 2 – CASH FLOW FORECAST

	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
GENERAL FUND																
Assessments received	144			144			148			148			148			148
Remitted to Connexion	(109)			(109)			(119)			(119)			(119)			(119)
Other net spend	(16)	(16)	(16)	(16)	(16)	(16)	(13)	(13)	(13)	(13)	(13)	(13)	(13)	(13)	(13)	(13)
ADVANCE FUND																
CMTF transfers & CFP levy							180									
Existing grant commitments			(65)				(50)									
New grant commitments										(100)			(100)			
Missional staff	(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)	(9)	(9)	(9)	(9)	(9)	(9)	(9)	(9)	(9)	(9)
Internship programme							(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Match funding restricted grant income	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Net cash flows	10	(25)	(90)	10	(25)	(25)	134	(25)	(25)	(96)	(25)	(25)	(96)	(25)	(25)	4
Total unrestricted cash	604	579	488	498	473	448	581	556	530	434	409	383	287	261	236	239
RISK ADJUSTED CASH																
District element of assessment not received				(35)			(29)			(29)			(29)			(29)
no money in CMTFs, no CPF levy							(180)									
Cost savings																
No new grants approved										100			100			
End missional staff roles				5	5	5	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
Cancel internship programme				2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Adjusted unrestricted cas	604	579	488	470	452	434	369	355	340	325	310	296	281	266	252	237
Notes																
Spend from Feb to Aug 2023 is from current year latest forecasts																
Spend from Sept 2023 is from budget approved in January																
In practice the risk of circuits being able to sustain no assessments and having no CMTF funds is highly unlikely, and would question the need for existence of the district																
Legally the District is a collection agent for the Connexional portion of assessments on circuits, so could never be in a position where more was due to be paid over to Connexion than received from circuits																

APPENDIX 3 – FINANCIAL CONTROLS REVIEW

Changes since last year in bold red

RISK	CONTROL	FURTHER ACTION PROPOSED
Inappropriate payments – CAF	Dual signatories required on cheques & electronic payments Cheque book kept in District office and electronic payments initiated by Katrin who is not a signatory	
Inappropriate payments – TMCP	Dual signatories required on payment requests Payments can only be made to organisations, not individuals Payment request forms are prepared and submitted by Katrin, who is never one of the two signatories Electronic signatures are used, but are confirmed by email with the signatories.	
Inappropriate payments – CFB	Payments can only be made to other CFB or pre-registered accounts. Katrin and Neil both have access to online CFB banking system	
Inappropriate payments – debit cards	Debit card (held by Katrin Hackett) linked to a separate account with a float of £1,000 to keep separate from main account. Limits placed on daily spend. Full receipts provided for all spend	
Conflict of interests/ prioritisation of spend	Grant application review by DLT Approval of budget by DLT and summary circulated to circuit treasurers	
Unauthorised salary payments	New roles and changes to roles approved by DLT Payroll paid by central payroll bureau, who take instructions only from Neil, Gill or Katrin. Review of monthly payroll summaries from payroll bureau. Payroll now information now usually sent via secure email system. Instructions standardly sent by Katrin.	
Payroll compliance	Payroll paid by central payroll bureau Employment documentation approved by HR Officer	
Reimbursement of out of pocket expenses	Standardised claim form and supporting receipts provided to Katrin	
Lease commitments	All property leases approved by TMCP and DLT	
Cash handling	Minimal cash received	
Bad debts	Most income is from Methodist or other charities	
Misreporting of financial performance	Financial report to each DLT, PPRDE, Learning Network management committee meeting. Independent examination of accounts All bookkeeping undertaken by Katrin, with financial reports and comparisons to budget performed by Neil	
Overspend	As for misreporting	
Cash flow shortages	Multiyear budgeting, reserves policy	
Loss of/ damage to financial records	Financial records maintained on Paxton accounts software accessible online through secure web portal so not at risk in event of district server failure	
MWiB finances	Separate bank account managed by MWiB committee, who provide an annual summary of income and expenditure, less than £2k pa	



Sheffield Methodist District
Annual report and accounts
For the year ended 31 August 2022

Registered charity number 1129363

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity number: 1129363

Address:

Sheffield Methodist District Office
Room 47, Victoria Hall Methodist Church
Norfolk Street
Sheffield S1 2JB

The following body was the custodian trustee throughout the year and up to the date of this report: The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

The following persons were managing trustees during the year or up to the date of approval of this report:

Rev Gill Newton (Chair)
Rev Sean Adair (resigned 10 September 2022)
McCauley Allcock (appointed 11 September 2021)
Rev Jon Bellfield
David Burton
Rev Julie Coates (appointed 10 September 2022)
Rev Sally Coleman (resigned 11 September 2021)
Gill Daly (resigned 11 September 2021)
Elizabeth Janine Eldred (resigned 11 September 2021)
Janet Hampshire (resigned 11 September 2021)
Neil Harland
Rev Richard Harris (resigned 11 September 2021)
Rev Margaret Mwailu
Rev Michael Neal
Rev Adrian Perry (resigned 11 September 2021)
John Purdy (resigned 11 September 2021)
Tom Sykes (resigned 11 September 2021)
Griff Wynne (resigned 10 September 2022)

Structure, governance and management

The District's governing document is the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church of Great Britain. The District Leading Team, who are the managing trustees, include key office holders and other members representing the diversity of the district. All members are appointed annually by the Representative Synod, with members appointed by the District Leading Team to fill casual vacancies between meetings of Representative Synod.

Representative Synod meets twice each year. The District Leading Team and other District meetings meet regularly throughout the year. Further authorities to act on behalf of the District between meetings are delegated to the Chair and various District officers.

Objectives and activities

The objects of the District are set out in the Methodist Church Act 1976 (clause 4): advancement of religion and any charitable purpose of the Methodist Church or church organisation.

The main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects are the promotion of Christianity through the staging of events, supporting Methodist and other charities in South Yorkshire, north Nottinghamshire and north-east Derbyshire, and financially, through provision of technical guidance and in prayer.

Achievements and performance

The primary focus of the District Leadership Team during the year has been the implementation of our 2020 -25 strategy for resourcing mission, *For Such A Time As This*. This focusses on six priorities for equipping our circuits, churches and their members to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ, which is their calling and our calling:

- GROWING DISCIPLES lies at the heart of our strategy, as a bedrock of supportive accountable, deepening relationship with each other and with Christ.
- This leads to PASSIONATE CONTEXTUAL WORSHIP and TRANSFORMING MISSION for such a time as this.
- Particular support is needed to rediscover confidence in SHARING STORIES for such a time as this.
- We will help set disciples free for a life of worship and mission by SIMPLIFYING PROCEDURES and providing expert support to make their PROPERTIES FIT FOR MISSION for such a time as this.

We have moved from a primarily online lockdown mode of working to a blend of gathered training and networking events, combined with extensive use of online communication tools.

During the year we have appointed a Children & Youth Co-ordinator and Missional Property Enabler, new roles created to support development priorities within our strategy for resourcing mission. We have established a community of practice for children and youth workers across the District and have restarted our programme of youth events.

In January we held a Mission Forum day, sharing early learnings from our New Places for New People Pilot based in our Derbyshire North East Circuit and equipping circuits to begin planning their own new Christian communities. We continue to support circuits in exploring these possibilities.

Our synod gatherings have focused on themes of God's World : Our Responsibilities, and Everyone Has a Story. Both operated as hybrid events accessible to those able to gather in person and online for people unable to travel.

With much of our role being to share best practice, new stories and encourage innovation, we were pleased to see an increase in the reach of our communications following a self audit.

With safeguarding training for our circuits and churches largely paused during the coronavirus lockdowns, we put substantial effort into addressing this training backlog with a refreshed suite of courses. We also supervised self-audits of safeguarding practice by each of our churches and circuits.

Financial review

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS 102)' effective 1 January 2019 and Financial Reporting Standard 102 ("FRS 102").

The District recorded a surplus of £22,000 (2021 surplus of £123,000). The uncommitted balance on our Advance Fund increased by £72,000 during the year, with income being higher than anticipated. The balance carried forward in the fund is expected to decrease over the next three years as we begin to invest in starting new Christian communities, amongst other initiatives.

The principal recurring sources of funds continue to be obligatory payments by Methodist circuits in the District and grants from the connexional Methodist Church Fund and other Methodist bodies. We have maintained an active dialogue with our circuits during and since the year end and remain confident that they will be able to maintain their contributions to our work.

The major items of District expenditure continued to be £213,000 (2021: £48,000) on grants and donations, and £292,000 (2021: £209,000) on staff engaged in the District's direct mission projects or providing support and advice to Methodist organisations within the District. Current year grants include £95,000 to the new Who Is Your Neighbour CIO, being granted on of restricted funding received prior to this district project becoming a fully fledged independent organisation.

No investments are held outside of the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

Reserves policy

Advance fund: The reserves policy for the District Advance Fund is that the District will only award grants from the liquid funds available, after making allowance for grants pledged but not yet paid over and a reserve of three months direct (i.e. non-grant) Advance Fund expenditure. Grants are awarded in accordance with the District strategy for resourcing mission and usually for a period of not more than five years. The uncommitted DAF funds at 31 August 2022 were £232,000.

Other unrestricted funds: The policy of the District is to maintain liquid funds (i.e. net current assets) in other unrestricted funds equivalent to between three and six months expenditure. Liquid funds amounted to six months of expenditure at 31 August 2022 (31 August 2021: eight months). We anticipate that liquid funds will reduce to within our reserve policy over the coming year.

Other funds are held for specific purposes, with the policy of the District being to ensure that sufficient amounts are held in or available to each fund in order to meet its future specific commitments. Restricted fund balances at 31 August 2022 are:

- Methodist Women in Britain (£2,000) to equip women to fully participate in the life of the Christian church and in society
- Learning Network (£2,000) to fund training events organised by the Yorkshire Plus Learning Network regional team
- Mission Enabler (balance £19,000) being grant funding for this project to be spent in future periods. All existing commitments are expected to be met from secured funding
- Peak Park Rural Development Enabler (balance £nil) being grant funding for this project to be spent in future periods. All existing commitments are expected to be met from secured funding
- Persian Ministry (balance £32,000) being grant funding for this project to be spent in future periods. All existing commitments are expected to be met from secured funding
- New Places for New People (balance £10,000) being grant funding for this project to be spent in future periods. All existing commitments are expected to be met from secured funding

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Rev Gill Newton
Chair

Neil Harland
Treasurer

9 March 2023

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Sheffield Methodist District

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2022 which are set out on pages 5 to 17.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity'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 charity'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.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material 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 charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts 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 accounts to be reached.

Simon Bladen FCA
Hawsons Limited
Chartered Accountants
Peagasus House
436a Glossop Road
Sheffield
S10 2QD

Date:

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	Note	Advance fund 2022 £'000	Other unrestricted funds 2022 £'000	Restricted funds 2022 £'000	Total 2022 £'000	Total 2021 £'000
<i>Income from:</i>						
Donations		-	-	4	4	3
Contributions from circuit model trust funds		159	-	-	159	175
Distribution from Connexional advance and property funds		95	-	-	95	-
Assessment on circuits		-	126	-	126	112
Grants received		-	-	208	208	143
Other charitable income		-	11	18	29	15
Total charitable activities		254	137	226	617	445
Other trading activities		-	11	-	11	11
Investments		2	-	-	2	1
Total income		256	148	230	634	460
<i>Expenditure on:</i>						
Grants and donations	6	(88)	(10)	(115)	(213)	(48)
Salaries and stipends	2	(50)	(84)	(158)	(292)	(209)
Administration and office		(2)	(14)	(4)	(20)	(23)
Property and insurance		-	(13)	(18)	(31)	(28)
Travel		(1)	(9)	(7)	(17)	(3)
Venue hire and event catering		(1)	(3)	(15)	(19)	(1)
Other charitable costs		-	(6)	(11)	(17)	(22)
Total charitable activities		(142)	(139)	(328)	(609)	(334)
Other trading activities		-	(3)	-	(3)	(3)
Total expenditure		(142)	(142)	(328)	(612)	(337)
Net income/ (expenditure)		114	6	(98)	22	123
Transfers between funds		(42)	(3)	45	-	-
Net movement in funds		72	3	(53)	22	123
Opening funds		160	286	118	564	441
Closing funds		232	289	65	586	564

There were no recognised gains and losses in the year other than those presented above.

All activities are classed as continuing operations.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2022

	Note	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Tangible fixed assets	7	215	219
Current assets			
Debtors	8	48	42
Investments with TMCP		420	270
Central Finance Board deposits		22	91
Cash at bank and in hand		15	85
Total current assets		505	488
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	(103)	(121)
Net current assets		402	367
Total assets less current liabilities		617	586
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	10	(31)	(22)
Net assets		586	564
Funds of the District:			
Advance fund	12	232	160
Other unrestricted funds	13	289	286
Restricted funds	14	65	118
Total funds		586	564

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the District Leadership Team on 9 March 2023.

Rev Gill Newton
Chair

Neil Harland
Treasurer

Registered charity number 1129363

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	Note	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Net cash generated by/ (used in) operating activities	16	9	(4)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Disposal of tangible fixed assets		-	1
Interest		2	1
Net cash provided by investing activities		2	2
Increase/ (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		11	(2)
Opening cash and cash equivalents		446	448
Closing cash and cash equivalents	17	457	446

Charity information

Sheffield Methodist District is a charity registered in England and Wales (number 1129363). Its registered address is Room 47, Victoria Hall Methodist Church, Norfolk Street, Sheffield, S1 2JB.

Basis of preparation

The Charity is a public benefit entity.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS 102)' effective 1 January 2019 and Financial Reporting Standard 102 ("FRS 102"). They have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

These financial statements are presented in Pounds sterling £'000.

The principal accounting policies of the District are set out below.

Consolidation

The District oversees the work of Methodist churches and circuits within south Yorkshire, north Nottinghamshire and north-east Derbyshire but does not seek to control circuits or churches or their ministers or lay workers except in extreme circumstances. For this reason the financial results of these churches are not consolidated into these financial statements.

Going concern

The Trustees have prepared these financial statements on the going concern basis. The Trustees have reviewed forecasts to 31 March 2024 and on the basis of those forecasts believe that the District will be able to meet its liabilities as they fall due. These forecasts have been prepared conservatively, including risks and sensitivities to anticipated financial performance, including a review of actual performance compared to previous forecasts. Whilst the cost of living crisis is likely to impact organisations across Methodism, the Trustees do not anticipate that sufficient income to sustain core district activities will cease to be available. Based on the information currently available in respect of the future, the Trustees consider that the District has the plans and resources to manage its risks successfully and that there are no material uncertainties about the District's ability continue as a going concern.

Income

Income is not recognised until receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Contributions from circuit model trust funds are levied on 1 September each year, calculated according to the balances included in these funds at this date, which are outside of the control of the District. They are recognised as income when levied.

Distributions from Connexional advance and property funds are received based on the balances and transactions within those funds, which are outside of the control of the District. Income is recognised when distributions are formally confirmed by Connexional officers.

Assessments on circuits are charged based on amounts agreed in advance with circuits as a contribution towards the running costs of the District. Assessments are recognised as income in the period to which the funding relates.

The District also acts as an agent in respect of Connexional assessments collected from circuits and remitted to the national Methodist Church Fund. These Connexional assessments are not recognised as income or expenditure in the statement of financial activity, because there is no obligation on the District to make up any shortfall in Connexional assessments from circuits.

Whilst time given to the District by many volunteers is essential to its work, this donation of time is not recognised in these financial statements since its value cannot be measured reliably for accounting purposes.

Expenditure

Resources expended are included in the statement of financial activities on an accruals basis, inclusive of VAT.

Grants pledged

Grants pledged by the District are recognised in full when the District is under a legal or constructive obligation to make the payment, usually once the grant has been approved by the District Leadership Team and the pledge communicated to the applicant.

Fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised at cost.

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost, net of depreciation. Existing historic costs have been retained on adoption of the SORP for all fixed assets.

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost or valuation less estimated realisable value, of all tangible fixed assets over their expected useful lives. Depreciation is recognised on a straight line basis over the following periods:

- Freehold buildings: 50 years
- Freehold land is not depreciated
- IT equipment: 5 years

Where the District leases properties temporarily surplus to its own needs to individuals or other organisations these assets are classed as tangible fixed assets, since their fair value cannot be measured reliably without undue cost or effort.

At each reporting date fixed assets are reviewed to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss.

Retirement benefits

Certain of the District's former lay employees are members of The Pensions Trust Growth Plan (Series 3), a multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme. Provision has been made in these financial statements for deficit plan payments agreed with the scheme's trustees.

Ordained ministers stationed within the District are entitled to become or remain members of the Methodist Ministers Pension Scheme. This is a defined benefit pension scheme. Monthly employer pension contributions are accounted for as expenditure in the statement of financial activities as they fall due. Payments to settle the deficit on this scheme are borne by the Methodist Connexion.

Leased assets

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activity on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

Financial instruments

The Group holds only simple financial instruments, being debtors, creditors, cash and leases, which are recognised at cost less provision for estimated irrecoverable assets.

Current asset deposits in monetary assets held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees are categorised as cash equivalents since they are capable of being converted to cash with immediate effect on instruction by the District.

Central Finance Board deposits are also capable of immediate liquidation and so are classified as cash equivalents.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is allocated to the fund.

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are incoming resources received or generated for charitable purposes and are available for use at the discretion of the District Leadership Team in furtherance of the general objectives of the District.

1 Prior year statement of financial activities

Financial activities for the prior year comprise the following restricted and unrestricted income and expenditure:

	Note	Advance fund 2021 £'000	Other unrestricted funds 2021 £'000	Restricted funds 2021 £'000	Total 2021 £'000
<i>Income from:</i>					
Donations		-	-	3	3
Contributions from circuit model trust funds		175	-	-	175
Assessment on circuits		-	112	-	112
Grants received		-	-	143	143
Other charitable income		-	7	8	15
Total charitable activities		175	119	151	445
Other trading activities		-	11	-	11
Investments		1	-	-	1
Total income		176	130	154	460
<i>Expenditure on:</i>					
Grants and donations	6	(44)	-	(4)	(48)
Salaries and stipends	2	-	(74)	(135)	(209)
Administration and office		(1)	(18)	(4)	(23)
Property and insurance		-	(12)	(16)	(28)
Travel		-	(2)	(1)	(3)
Venue hire and event catering		-	-	(1)	(1)
Other charitable costs		-	(3)	(19)	(22)
Total charitable activities		(45)	(109)	(180)	(334)
Other trading activities		-	(3)	-	(3)
Total expenditure		(45)	(112)	(180)	(337)
Net income/ (expenditure)		131	18	(26)	123
Transfers between funds		(25)	-	25	-
Net movement in funds		106	18	(1)	123
Opening funds		54	268	119	441
Closing funds		160	286	118	564

2 Salaries and stipends

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Salaries and stipends	249	176
Employer's national insurance contributions	23	16
Defined contribution pension costs	13	10
Defined benefit pension costs (MMPS)	7	7
	292	209

The average number of lay employees during the year was eleven (2021: nine). The District also bears the stipend cost of the Peak Park Rural Development Enabler.

No employees receive benefits greater than £60,000 per annum.

The senior management personnel of the District is considered to be the Chair of District. The total cost to the District of providing taxable benefits in kind and the Chair's manse (in which the Chair is required to live in order to fulfil her duties) amounted to £7,000 (2021: £8,000). The stipend, employer's national insurance and employers pension contribution in respect of the Chair are borne by the Methodist Connexion.

3 Payments to trustees

One trustee (2021: one) received remuneration from the District for work undertaken on its behalf. No trustees received remuneration for services provided as a trustee.

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Salary	31	31

The number of trustees who received reimbursed expenses or on whose behalf travel costs were paid by the District was five (2021: four).

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Travel costs reimbursed	12	3

4 Amounts received on behalf of other organisations

The District received £449,000 (2021: £452,000) from its circuits for the Methodist Church Fund in the form of the Connexional element of circuit assessments. These amounts are not included in the statement of financial performance because the District acted solely as a collection agent for these funds.

At 31 August 2022 £1,000 remained to be remitted to the Methodist Church Fund (31 August 2021: £nil).

5 Independent examiner

The independent examiners' fee for reporting on these accounts amounts to £2,100 (2021: £1,800). No other services were provided to the District in either year by the independent examiner.

6 Grants awarded

The District awarded the following grants during the year:

	2022	2021
	£'000	£'000
Advance Fund - property projects	27	8
Advance Fund - ministry projects	43	62
Advance Fund - pension reserve fund	18	-
General Fund - pension reserve fund	8	-
General Fund - other	1	-
Restricted funds - Who Is Your Neighbour	95	-
Restricted funds - ministry projects	20	-
Restricted funds - other	-	4
Grants to institutions	212	74
Advance Fund - Learning and development	-	6
General Fund - Learning and development	1	-
Grants to individuals	1	6
Less Advance Fund grants lapsed	-	(32)
Total grants awarded	213	48

Grants from the Advance Fund are made in accordance with our strategy for resourcing mission. Small learning and development grants are offered to Methodist ministers and lay people in accordance with the Learning and Development and Ministerial Development policies. Details of these policies, together with further details of grants awarded to institutions are available on the District website www.sheffieldmethodist.org.

A grant of £26,000 was awarded to the Connexional Pension Reserve Fund during the year in response to a national appeal for contributions to restore the balance in this fund, which aids the smooth running of Methodist ministerial pension commitments.

The Who Is Your Neighbour project, which for many years has operated as part of Sheffield Methodist District, became an independent charity during the year. This was considered by our Trustees and its management committee the best way of taking forward its community cohesion work. A new Who Is Your Neighbour CIO was registered with the Charity Commission (registration number 1196667) and the £95,000 balance of restricted grants received but not yet spent was granted on to the new charity.

Other restricted grants in the prior year comprise largely Learning Network grants and projects supported by Methodist Women in Britain.

7 Fixed assets

	Freehold land £'000	Freehold buildings £'000	IT equipment	Total £'000
Cost				
Opening	115	151	2	268
Closing	115	151	2	268
Depreciation				
Opening	-	48	1	49
Charge for the year	-	3	1	4
Closing	-	51	2	53
Net book value				
Opening	115	103	1	219
Closing	115	100	-	215

8 Debtors

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Trade debtors	2	-
Loans to churches and circuits	46	36
Prepayments	-	6
	48	42

Loans to churches and circuits comprises:

Greenhill Methodist Church £32,000 (2021: £36,000) funding towards a property redevelopment scheme. The loan is unsecured, not interest bearing and is repayable in instalments by 2030.

Enable Social Enterprise Ltd £14,000 (2021: £nil) funding towards provision of social housing. The loan is unsecured, bears interest at 5%, and is repayable in instalments by 2029.

9 Creditors – amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Trade creditors	3	4
Grants payable	92	108
Defined benefit pension plan	4	6
Amounts collected for other organisations	1	-
Accruals and deferred income	3	3
	103	121

10 Creditors – amounts falling due outside of one year

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Grants payable	29	19
Defined benefit pension plan	2	3
	31	22

11 Contingent liabilities

The District has made defined benefit pension commitments to certain employees through The Pensions Trust Growth Plan (Series 3), a multi-employer pension scheme. Withdrawal from the Growth Plan scheme could trigger a liability of £6,000 (31 August 2021: £9,000) in excess of pension contributions accrued for in these accounts. The District has chosen Series 4 of the Growth Plan, a defined contribution scheme, as its auto-enrolment pension scheme and so withdrawal from the Growth Plan is considered unlikely.

12 Advance fund

The district Advance fund receives income via annual contributions levied on circuit model trust funds and distributions from Connexional advance and property funds. The purpose of these levies and distributions is to release funds for where they are most required. This is an unrestricted fund and is used to make grants in accordance with the District Strategy for Resourcing Mission or to support specific current initiatives undertaken by the District.

13 Other unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the District Leadership Team in furtherance of the general objectives of the District including activities mandated by the Methodist Connexion, such as provision of the Chair's manse and supporting the regulatory functions performed by various District officers.

14 Restricted funds

	Opening balance 1 September 2021 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Transfers £'000	Closing balance 31 August 2022 £'000
Edgar Hodkin bequest	1	-	(1)	-	-
Methodist Women in Britain	2	1	(1)	-	2
Who is Your Neighbour?	57	100	(157)	-	-
Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	1	36	(53)	16	-
Learning Network	2	14	(17)	3	2
Mission Enabler	17	26	(38)	14	19
Persian Ministry	28	33	(41)	12	32
New Places for New People	10	20	(20)	-	10
Total charitable activities	118	230	(328)	45	65

	Opening balance 1 September 2020 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Transfers £'000	Closing balance 31 August 2021 £'000
Edgar Hodkin bequest	1	-	-	-	1
Methodist Women in Britain	3	3	(4)	-	2
Who is Your Neighbour?	87	50	(80)	-	57
Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	2	39	(52)	12	1
35 Chapel Walk	5	(4)	(1)	-	-
Learning Network	7	-	(5)	-	2
Mission Enabler	14	26	(36)	13	17
Persian Ministry	-	30	(2)	-	28
New Places for New People	-	10	-	-	10
Total charitable activities	119	154	(180)	25	118

Transfers into restricted funds represent match funding from unrestricted District funds towards projects partially funded by restricted grants and donations.

Restricted funds are to be used for purposes as directed by the donors:

- The *Edgar Hodkin bequest* is to be used for “Protestant evangelical Christian work”, with the primary purpose being “the Sunday School work”.
- The Sheffield District branch of *Methodist Women in Britain* connects women with an interest in creative spirituality and a passion for global social justice.
- *Who is your neighbour?* worked to help communities live more successfully with difference and be more resilient in dealing with divisions created by those who see difference as a threat. As described in note 6, this work is now being carried out by a new Who Is Your Neighbour CIO
- The *Peak Park Rural Development Enabler* works alongside churches across the Peak Park national park as they develop their mission and community engagement.
- *35 Chapel Walk* was an art space and community for creative people who dare to imagine that the world can be a better place. This project ended during the prior year. Unspent grants were returned to grant funders.
- The *Learning Network* comprises income and costs relating to training events organised by the Yorkshire Plus Learning Network regional team
- The *Mission Enabler* supports churches and circuits in overcoming barriers to risk-taking mission
- The *Persian Ministry* fund supports development and growth of ministry to Iranians and others within the UK, primarily through employment of a Persian Ministry Development Enabler
- The *New Places for New People* fund supports the establishment of new Christian communities, either directly by the District or by providing grants to its circuits

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

Net assets at 31 August 2022 are represented by:

	Advance fund £'000	Other unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total £'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	215	-	215
Current assets	353	87	65	505
Current liabilities	(92)	(11)	-	(103)
Liabilities falling due outside of one year	(29)	(2)	-	(31)
Total net assets	232	289	65	586

Net assets at 31 August 2021 are represented by:

	Advance fund £'000	Other unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total £'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	219	-	219
Current assets	283	83	122	488
Current liabilities	(104)	(13)	(4)	(121)
Liabilities falling due outside of one year	(19)	(3)	-	(22)
Total net assets	160	286	118	564

16 Reconciliation of net cash flows from operating activities

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Net income for the year	22	123
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	4	4
Interest	(2)	(1)
(Increase) in debtors	(6)	(41)
(Decrease) in creditors	(9)	(89)
Cash generated by/ (used in) operating activities	9	(4)

17 Cash and cash equivalents

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Investments with TMCP	420	270
Central Finance Board deposits	22	91
Cash at bank and in hand	15	85
	457	446

18 Operating lease commitments

Total minimum commitments under non-cancellable operating leases for land and buildings are as follows:

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Operating leases expiring within one year	3	4

19 Related party transactions

All District trustees are members of churches and circuits within the District and may also be trustees of their church or circuit. Related parties include the Methodist Connexion, churches and circuits within the District and other Methodist entities. Other than as described in notes 2, 3, 4, 6 and 8, the only transactions with related parties during the year requiring disclosure are as follows:

Party	Details	2022 £	2021 £
Grants received			
Manchester & Stockport District	Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	12,600	12,400
Nottingham & Derby District	Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	6,600	6,400
Methodist Connexion	Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	14,000	16,000
High Peak Partnership	Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	2,340	-
Methodist Connexion	Mission Development Support Worker	25,758	25,758
Methodist Connexion	35 Chapel Walk	-	(4,815)
Methodist Connexion	New Places for New People	20,000	10,000
Yorkshire North & East District	Persian Ministry	15,333	-
Princes Avenue Methodist Church	Persian Ministry	3,333	-
Hull Centre & West Circuit	Persian Ministry	3,333	-
Doncaster Circuit	Persian Ministry	10,546	-
Sheffield Circuit	Persian Ministry	-	14,000
Other receipts			
Methodist Connexion	Learning Network costs recharged	810	-
Yorkshire North & East District	Retreat attendance fees and HR Officer contributions	17,345	4,960
Yorkshire West District	Retreat attendance fees and contributions	4,113	-
various Methodist circuits & churches	Retreat attendance fees and contributions	770	1,075
Payments			
Yorkshire North & East District	Retreat and event costs	(1,482)	(488)
various Methodist circuits & churches	Hire of venues for events and regular activities	(4,440)	(4,159)
Year end balances receivable/ (payable)			
Yorkshire North & East District		1,757	-

MISSIONAL GRANTS OVERVIEW

9 MARCH 2023

District funding is available to support Transforming Mission and Properties Fit For Mission projects. Full details of our current scheme and what we have said we will prioritise are available at <https://www.sheffieldmethodist.org/what-we-do/finance-fundraising.html>



If you think of in advance of the meeting of questions that you would like to ask about grant applications, please pass on to Neil Harland so that we can use our time together as efficiently as possible.

SHEFFIELD CIRCUIT – ST ANDREWS PSALTER LANE CHURCH (LEP) – APPLICATION FOR DECISION

This is a request for £12,000 towards urgent repairs of the spire on their listed chapel building.

As described in the application, this congregation (membership 109, average attendance 55) is a driving force both within our district and Sheffield's Anglican diocese on a range of social justice matters including environmental concerns and inter-faith relations. They have a close relationship with the local primary school (although changes in school governance may mean that the church needs to find new ways to engage with families) and other links into their local neighbourhood.

The membership are contributing themselves and have been active in seeking funding from a range of sources, some of which district funding will help them secure. They have sought advice from Tom Rattigan, and have explored cheaper options e.g. removing the spire.

Ideally they would take this moment as an opportunity to more clearly define the next chapter of their intentional mission. But to do this meaningfully requires more time than they have to raise these funds. We could make updating the mission plan, say within the next 12 months, a condition of the grant.

Sheffield Circuit Meeting is later in March. As is usually the case, I suggest that district funding be conditional on a financial contribution from the circuit.

CURRENT GRANT EVALUATIONS – REQUEST FOR SUPPORT

Sprotbrough families worker (Doncaster) I have recently received evaluation of this May 2021 grant, required before the second year of three of funding is released. The role has two parts – local families ministry and leading the borough-wide Baby Basics project. Our grant was conditional on funding being sought from other sources to increase sustainability of the role and ensure best value for Methodist funds invested. Whilst the church are now alert to financial sustainability challenges, they do not appear to have sought additional salary grants or alternative sources of funding thus far.

Rather than me becoming sole gatekeeper to district funds, I would appreciate a short meeting including review of documentation with a couple of DLT members before making a response such as "we will be able to release the next grant instalment once you have done X, Y and Z".

Most evaluations show projects progressing as intended. Would you appreciate these being circulated to all DLT members when received?

POTENTIAL FUTURE GRANT APPLICATIONS - FOR INFORMATION

Hemsworth Little Fishes Soft Play (Barnsley) In November 2020 we awarded a £22k grant towards first year salary costs, and indicated that future funding may be available if necessary for future years. The soft play has opened in 2022. They have indicated that they would appreciate further support, but I am awaiting details of their progress and financial projections.

Inkersall (Derbyshire North East) - construction of a new multipurpose church/ community centre. They are currently meeting in a cramped portacabin.

Totley Rise (Sheffield) – riverbank reinforcement, to prevent erosion leading to the undermining of the church premises. As with St Andrews Psalter Lane Church, I have emphasised need for a forward looking missional plan within their application.

Centre Manager – The Grove and The Crossing (Trinity Circuit) – once redevelopment work at The Grove in Retford is complete, an employed manager will be required to realise the potential of the building, as was highlighted in the property grant application we received. The Crossing in Worksop also still has untapped potential. This role is intended to become self-funding but seed funding will be required.

New Christian communities – I am in discussion with a number of churches and teams about potential funding for new Christian communities, either as a next developmental phase of an existing piece of work, or a new venture. As noted in our January meeting, these are long term ventures, often requiring both financial investment, education as to how they can be impactful, and thorough embedding in the local context.

Dear District Leadership Team,

APPLICATION TO THE SHEFFIELD METHODIST DISTRICT FOR A PROPERTIES FIT FOR MISSION GRANT FOR URGENT EMERGENCY REPAIRS TO THE SPIRE AT ST. ANDREWS PSALTER LANE CHURCH, SHEFFIELD.

Total cost of scheme: £135,000.

Amount requested: £12,000. (A similar amount has been applied for from Sheffield Circuit). We already have permission in principle from the Circuit to proceed with the necessary work.

Person to contact regarding this scheme:

John Cripps 01142 588932, cripps@uwclub.net, Property Steward.

or Jenny Carpenter 01142 664532 jennyc106@btinternet.com

Description of the project:

St. Andrews Psalter Lane Church (SAPLC) is a Grade 2 Listed Methodist building, housing an Anglican-Methodist LEP which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. The building, with its distinctive spire, is an impressive example of the Perpendicular Revival style, and is much loved and used within the community.

The spire, approximately 8m high, is mounted in a central position on the apex of the roof above the nave of the church. It is octagonal, consisting of a base clad in verdigris- covered copper, above which are eight louvred panels separated from each other by protruding buttress pieces. The upper part of the structure comprises a castellated crown with a raised central octagonal copper-clad fleche which tapers to a finial mounted at the top. A small parapet gutter to the rear of the crown discharges by way of internal lead pipes through the base of the louvred openings.

High level surveys of the inside and exterior of the spire in 2022 revealed that, although the sub-structure is sound, the state of the exterior is much poorer than was apparent from the previous ground-based and drone inspections. Moreover, some inappropriate previous repairs have exacerbated the deterioration such that repairs are now urgently needed.

Unfortunately, in the rainy weather in November/December 2022, the spire started to leak in a serious manner with water narrowly missing live-streaming equipment. Plastic sheeting has been placed in the roof space which it is hoped will divert the water away from the light fittings. The leak is new, as the internal timbers, though now damp, show no sign of deterioration. The concern is that, without repair, the spire could become more dangerous with large pieces becoming detached and damaging the roof or posing a hazard to those using the building or the grounds. Continued leakage will damage the spire substructure, IT equipment and the ceiling of the nave. Thus, the necessary repair work is becoming more

urgent as the health and safety concerns increase in the coming months. **The conservation specialist architect. Mr. Tom Crooks, appointed to advise on the project, has indicated that repairs should be carried out this year so that the structure doesn't suffer another winter.**

The intention is to reinstate and restore most of the exterior in like-for-like fashion, with sustainably sourced hardwoods, lead and copper.

The advice we have received is that, on conservation grounds and because of the importance of the spire to the building – it is particularly mentioned in the listing citation - we would not be allowed to remove it and make good the roof. We must therefore replace it in a like-for-like manner. We have a letter of support from Joanne Balmforth, TMPC conservation expert, and Tom Rattigan (Mission Property Enabler) and Neil Harland (Mission Enabler) have given us valuable advice on grant applications.

How the Mission Policy of St. Andrews Psalter Lane chimes with the District's Policy and its 'For Such A Time As This' strategy for resourcing mission.

St. Andrews Psalter Lane Church is a joint Anglican and Methodist Church, serving as the Parish Church for Sharrow. Our mission policy is summarised by the strapline on our website: ***"Open Hearts, Open Minds – Exploring the Mystery of God"***. We seek to do justice to what is best in each of our traditions ***whilst building upon them in creative and relevant ways. We seek a unity which does not inhibit diversity.***

The heart of our life is worship, prayer, fellowship and reflective practice, as we seek to understand how to fulfil the purposes of God's love in Jesus Christ, whilst embracing all the questions and insights of today.

We are seeking to create a community which

- is unconditionally welcoming***
- aims to be inclusive and diverse***
- is happy with casual adherents, occasional attenders and critical questioners, but challenges and helps those who may be ready to move on in Christian discipleship***
- encourages participation by all in the ministry and leadership of the church.***

The church wants to be outward-looking and to take an active part in the wider community, with a social concern for the less privileged. It aims to do this through dialogue, partnership and practical service, in which our spiritual motivation will not be lost to view.

While no-one can be certain what the future holds for any Christian congregation, there are strong grounds for believing that St. Andrews Psalter Lane will continue to be a thriving church for years to come, as long as that future is not jeopardised by the collapse of the spire and consequential damage precluding continued use of the building. We need to

have a **PROPERTY FIT FOR MISSION**. We have healthy finances, and have already managed to reduce our use of gas (and to limit the steep rise of our heating bills) by fine-tuning the timing of the church's heating system. We are an **Eco Church** (silver grade and anxious to achieve gold if we can). Therefore we are installing more LED lighting, which will reduce our carbon footprint. The next project is likely to be installation of solar panels on Shirley House, the building in whose grounds first the church and then Southcroft MH were built. Shirley House is heavily used by the local community, including Nether Edge Quakers, and it is also a source of letting income.

The quality of **Sunday worship** is high, and usually achieves **PASSIONATE CONTEXTUAL WORSHIP**. We are still live-streaming our services, with a regular on-line attendance of about 50, and intend to continue to do so. There is a **Wednesday morning Communion Service** with discussion of a Bible or devotional passage. This is greatly valued as an opportunity to share faith at a deep level. In spite of losing the immense contribution of Imogen Clout, Reader and leader of Children's Work, when she and her husband moved to Wales last summer, new leadership has emerged. The exciting recently formed **Junior Church Team** is a very hopeful sign, with a mix of stewards, parents, musicians and older members of the congregation planning and leading appropriate activities in the context of Sunday worship. All this chimes with **GROWING DISCIPLES** and **TRANSFORMING MISSION**. House Groups meet in Lent and Advent in which seasons there are weekly Taize services. The 3 hours Good Friday observance has achieved a reputation for quality, including contributions from professional instrumentalists. There was a good response to our Christmas celebrations from delivery of an invitation to every house in the parish.

The church has excellent acoustics, especially for music, and is used both for regular rehearsals and concerts. There is scope to establish SAPLC as a go-to venue for conferences as well as concerts, maximising our live streaming facilities. This is being actively explored. There may be potential for partnering with organisations promoting children's activities using music and drama that fit well with the church's mission of exploring faith imaginatively. Attracting more people to enter, appreciate and use this lovely building is an important step in encouraging them to join us in worship with the congregation and discover new purpose and joy in learning to follow Jesus Christ (**TRANSFORMING MISSION and GROWING DISCIPLES**). SAPLC has a key role as the home (in Shirley House) of the InterFaith Centre. Increasingly, Christians need to understand their own faith and that of others. SAPLC intends to continue to host meetings where inter-faith friendships are made, perceptions widened and prejudices challenged. This is one of the ways we go about **SHARING STORIES** and **TRANSFORMING MISSION**.

At SAPLC we recognise that we have an obligation to give generously of our time, talents and money to afford dignity and practical help to those suffering from poverty and disadvantage. **We are re-opening our Dementia Cafe shortly**. We give generously to Baby Basics and a Food Bank as well as supporting Christian Aid, All We Can, the Children's Society and Action for Children. We think globally and act locally for justice.

Fundraising Progress

As at 22 February we have raised 58.04% of the funding needed (see Table of Resources), but the Benefact Trust, Hunter Rowe Trust and TMCP expect to see evidence of Circuit and District financial support. Grants have already been pledged by the Church Burgesses and the Diocese of Sheffield. It would be embarrassing if the Circuit and District were not seen to be giving financial support to a Methodist Trust property!

We are launching our local appeal for £25,000 during morning worship on Sunday 26th February. We have £10,000 matching funding already pledged towards this. Leaflets will be distributed round the parish/neighbourhood with a QR code linking to the special page on our website. Donors are encouraged to Gift Aid their donations. All the groups using our building are aware of the need for the work to be done to safeguard a resource which they value and many of them have supplied letters of support for our grant applications.

We trust that the District Leading Team will consider this request at its meeting on 9th March in the light of the recommendation of the Circuit's Mission Vision Team. As long as we have firm pledges from grant givers, we can place an order for the work to be started in June. We would not need the money to be handed over until August 2023.

Yours in Christ,

John Cripps & Jenny Carpenter

Attachments: Annual accounts 2021/2; Table of Resources for the scheme; Letter from Joanne Balmforth; Photos of the Spire.

SAPLC SPIRE APPEAL

Table of Resources

	Date Submitted	Date Decision Expected	Amount Requested £	Amount Awarded/ Recieved £	Date of Award
SAPLC FUNDING					
SAPLC -From Reserves	N/A	N/A	35,000	35,000	
SAPLC Members Friends and Community Appeal (inc £10k Pledge)		N/A	25,000	10,853	
Gift Aid				2,500	
Total SAPLC FUNDING			60,000	48,353	
OUTSIDE FUNDING					
National Churches Trust (Cornerstone)	07/11/2022	Mar-23	30,000		
Wolfson Foundation	07/11/2022	Mar-23	30,000		
TMCP (Discretionary Fund)	02/12/2022	Jan-23	100,000		
Veolia Community Fund	05/01/2023	Mar-23	20,000		
The Garfield Weston Foundation	07/01/2023	May-23	20,000	15,000	17/02/2023
The Sheffield Church Burgesses Trust	07/01/2023	Jan-23	10,000	10,000	24/01/2023
Benefact Trust					
Sheffield Methodist Circuit	31/01/2023		12,000		
Sheffield Methodist District			12,000		
Sheffield Diocese	23/01/2023	Jan-23	5,000	5,000	25/01/2023
The Hunter Rowe Trust		Mar-23	2,500		
Listed Places of Worship (VAT)	tba	tba	23,500		
Total OUTSIDE FUNDING			265,000	30,000	
TOTAL			325,000	78,353	
Target				135,000	
SHORTFALL				56,647	

We are 58.04% funded

The Conservation Office

Our Ref JB/JH

St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church LEP
c/o Dr John Cripps
Shirley House
31 Psalter Lane
Sheffield, S11 8YL

Central Buildings
Oldham Street
Manchester M1 1JQ

+44(0) 161 235 6722 (enquiries)
www.methodistchurch.org.uk
registered charity no 1132208

E-mail: conservation@methodistchurch.org.uk

2nd December 2022

Dear John,

ST ANDREW'S PSALTER LANE CHURCH – SHEFFIELD (25/1)
Repairs to Spire (Project Ref. 48653) - Letter of Support

We are pleased to be writing a letter in support of the proposal to repair the fleche at the aforementioned church, which is a Grade II listed building in a Conservation Area, being submitted to TMCP for consideration of a grant from their discretionary fund. We strongly support this grant application and the focus on undertaking essential conservation works to this significant part of the building, as it is current in a very poor state of decay and is a real Health and Safety concern.

We have been working alongside the church leadership team and your conservation accredited architect to ensure the works are carried out in a sympathetic manner. Indeed, we have indicated our approval of the schedule of works and confirmed that all statutory permissions are in place for this work to proceed. We wish to highlight the importance of this feature to the overall architectural narrative of this ecclesiastical building and to indicate our support for its retention. We have noted how unlikely it is that removal of the fleche would be supported if an application for listed building approval for this alteration were submitted to us. The fleche is certainly a feature of interest as noted in Dr Christopher Wakeling's (a member of our Listed Buildings Advisory Committee) book; *Chapels of England, Buildings of Protestant Nonconformity* where he refers to 'A fleche enlivens the roofline and stubby octagonal towers flank the broad west window'. Indeed the church itself is important in our understanding of the architectural legacy of Methodism at this time, and is an important example of 1920's Gothic architecture.

We also understand that the success of this funding application will bring a great relief to the Anglican/Methodist congregation at this church, as it will enable the church to continue their good mission and outreach work without the worry of having to find sufficient funds to carry out these emergency repairs. The TMCP grant will also allow breathing space for continued discussions with the District over how this mission and outreach work is enhanced further.

In conclusion, I fully support the efforts of this church as they seek financial assistance to support a program designed to sustain this significant historic fabric and the good work of this important church.

We wish you well with your request.

Joanne

Joanne Balmforth BA (Hons), MSc (Arch Cons), IHBC |

Conservation Officer (Manchester) | Connexional Team | The Methodist Church of Britain

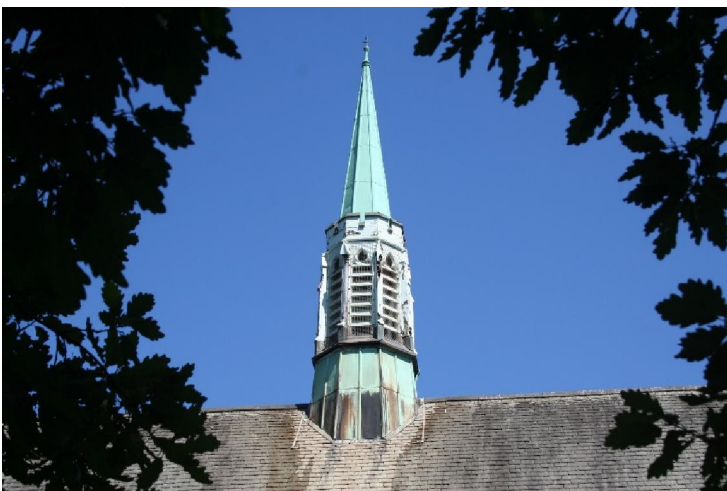
St Andrews Psalter Lane Church – Pictures of Spire



St Andrews Psalter Lane Church – General view looking south.
Spire forms a prominent defining feature of the building



Western side of St Andrews Psalter Lane Church including spire



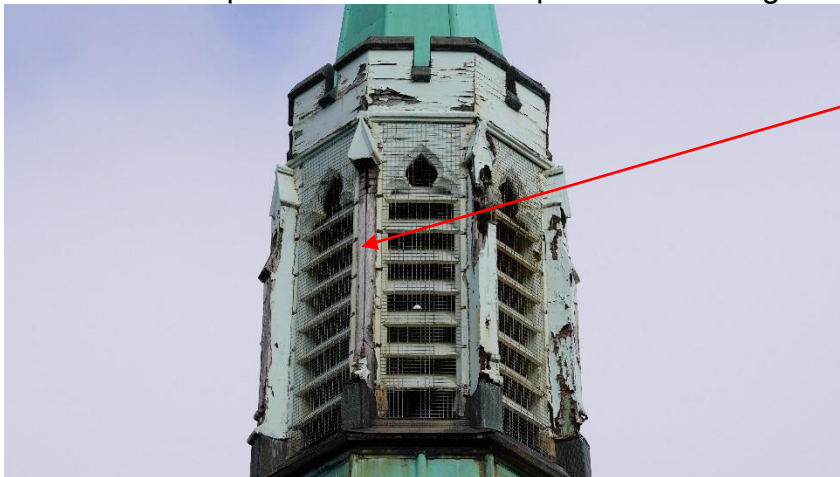
St Andrews Psalter Lane Church View of Spire



Missing section of corner buttress piece



St Andrews Psalter Lane Church Spire in April 2022 – Note that parts of corner buttress pieces are rotten and parts are missing.



Missing section

St Andrews Psalter Lane Church Spire in April 2022 – Deteriorated condition of corner buttresses and some pieces have fallen off.



St Andrews Psalter Lane Church Spire in April 2022 – Deteriorated condition of Castellated crown. Artificial lead has been used to repair the castellation valley



Missing section

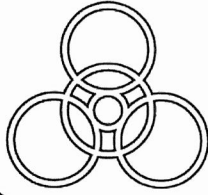
Copper insecurely held
with iron nails



St Andrews Psalter Lane Church Spire in April 2022 – Deteriorated condition of timber and buttress part that has fallen off. Insecure copper cladding



St Andrews Psalter Lane Church Spire in April 2022 Moulding is rotten and has become detached.



St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church

An Anglican Methodist Partnership

2022 CHURCH ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church

A JOINT ANGLICAN METHODIST PARTNERSHIP

Reference and Administrative Information

Sheffield Methodist Circuit

Circuit Number: 25/01

Charity Registration Number: 1137529

Minister: Revd Naomi Cooke

Church Stewards:

Julie Jordan-Brown

Alastair Morris

Wardens:

Caroline Cripps

Clare Loughridge

Treasurer:

Joseph Dey

St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church

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| 2 | Restricted Funds |
| 3 | Statement of Assets & Liabilities |
| 4 | Independent Examiner's Report |
| 5 | Reserves Policy |

St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church

Receipts & Payments Account

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
RECEIPTS				
Offerings & Tax Recovered	100,963	-	100,963	109,101
Legacy Received	-		-	10,000
Bank Interest	93	23	116	47
Lettings	61,698	-	61,698	44,060
Other Receipts	4,147	600	4,747	3,499
TOTAL RECEIPTS	166,901	623	167,524	166,707
PAYMENTS				
Generous Giving	51,822	-	51,822	50,064
Common Fund & Mission Partnership Worker	18,585	-	18,585	16,385
Donations	7,055	-	7,055	7,475
Repairs & Maintenance	34,140	-	34,140	19,078
Utilities	28,328	-	28,328	22,643
Other Payments	28,836	-	28,836	27,549
TOTAL PAYMENTS	168,766	-	168,766	143,194
NET (PAYMENTS)/RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR	(1,865)	623	(1,242)	23,513
Brought Forward From Last Year	88,537	12,933	101,470	77,957
TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	86,672	13,556	100,228	101,470

MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	2022 £	2021 £
Balance brought forward	50	-
Offerings & Tax Recovered	2,439	4,233
Passed on to external organisation	(2,489)	(4,183)
Balance	-	50

St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church

Restricted Funds

	Opening Balances £	Receipts £	Closing Balances £
Internal Funds			
W Davey Bequest	11,866	22	11,888
J Simpson Bequest	767	1	768
Solar panels	-	600	600
Total	12,633	623	13,256
Internal Organisations			
Tuesday Cafe	300	-	300
Total	300	-	300
Total Restricted Funds	12,933	623	13,556

Declarations

I confirm that I have prepared the accounts from the records of the Church and they include all funds under the control of the Ecumenical Church Council.


Joseph Dey FCA

Treasurer

Date 30.11.2022

Presentation to the Ecumenical Church Council for approval.

I confirm that the accounts have been presented to the Ecumenical Church Council on and were approved.


C Loughridge

Chair of the Meeting

Date 4.12.2022

St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church

Statement of Assets & Liabilities

	2022	2021
	£	£
Cash & Bank Balances		
Cash in Hand	55	55
Bank Current Account	65,221	66,629
Central Finance Board Deposit Account	22,296	22,203
TMCP Account	12,656	12,633
TOTAL	100,228	101,520

Divided as follows:

Church Funds	86,672	88,537
Internal Funds	13,256	12,633
Internal Organisations	300	300
External Organisations	-	50
TOTAL	100,228	101,520

	2022	2021
	£	£
Other Assets (Unrestricted Funds)		
Debtors	14,583	19,941
Church Building (Insurance Value)	11,500,000	9,675,824
St Andrew's Church Centre (Insurance Value)	1,164,341	1,064,292
Shirley House (Insurance Value)	3,229,616	3,009,873
	15,908,540	13,769,930

Other Liabilities (Unrestricted Funds)

Creditors	1,000	1,000
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St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Andrews Psalter Lane Church for the year ended 31 August 2022 as set out on pages 1 to 3.

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.

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 which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- 1 the accounting records were not kept in accordance with Section 130 of the Act; or
- 2 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 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 at the balance sheet date.



S L Bladen FCA

Date 21/12/22

Hawsons Limited
Chartered Accountants
Pegasus House
463a Glossop Road
Sheffield
S10 2QD

CONNEXIONAL ASSESSMENT

BACKGROUND

At the January District Leading Team (DLT) meeting, it was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Connexional Director of Finance and Resources, Matt Tattersall, expressing concern regarding the substantial increase in connexional assessment that this District will be required to pay during the next Connexional year. A letter was drafted by Neil Harland, Treasurer and Revd Gill Newton, District Chair and a copy of that letter is included in this document at Appendix A.

A response was received from Matt Tattersall and a copy of that letter is included in this document at Appendix B. You will note that the letter clearly outlines 3 options which he felt the Methodist Council would have in coming to a mind on the nature of the future budget and therefore the level of the connexional assessment.

It was therefore anticipated that those options would be put before the Methodist Council when it met on 25th and 26th January and that a conversation on this would form part of the discussion on Financial Planning that was timetabled for 26th January. Unfortunately, that was not the case and the Financial Planning paper before the Council was affirmed with no debate at all.

Following the Council, the Chair wrote to the Chair of the Council and the Secretary of the Conference, expressing concern about the lack of appropriate debate surrounding the budget and the paper on Financial Planning. The response received also expressed surprise that there had been no debate but didn't really take the point being made that no options had been presented and therefore no debate had been initiated.

A further e-mail was therefore sent by the Chair to the Secretary of Conference on January 29th to outline this more firmly. It included the following text:

"For this conundrum to really be addressed by the Council, I think it was incumbent upon the Connexional Team to take a proactive approach in placing these three options clearly before the Council and facilitating a debate that enabled the Council to definitively come to a view. This would have given the Connexional Team - and indeed the wider Church – the steer that Matt quite rightly recognised is needed. This would then, in turn, have enabled the Connexional Team to proceed with appropriately shaped strategic planning which could then be returned to the Council for further consideration. I wonder if such an exercise needs to be a priority of the Methodist Council when it next meets?"

No response to this second e-mail has been received.

The DLT is therefore encouraged to consider what, if any, further response it wishes to make to the letter from the Director of Finance and Resources.

Gill Newton
District Chair
March 2023

APPENDIX A

Letter to Director of Finance and Resources

January 14th, 2023

Mr M Tattersall,
Director of Finance and Resources
The Methodist Church

Dear Matt

Connexional Assessment

The Sheffield District Leading Team has discussed the proposed 9% increase in the district's share of the Connexional assessment, being 6% increase in the Connexional Team budget and 3% increase in share due to us having maintained our levels of lay and ordained staffing whilst most other districts have apparently reduced theirs. We would welcome some careful analysis of these staffing figures and an assurance that all districts are applying the same criteria when submitting their figures, given that some districts seem to have seen a significant reduction in the number of employees over recent years. Our conclusion is that whilst we would be willing, albeit reluctantly, to make this level of payment for 2023/24 by reducing the amount of missional grants we make to churches, this level of cost is unsustainable in future years without causing significant detriment to local mission and ministry.

Whilst recognising the theoretical legal statement that assessments are the first call on Methodist funds, we have adopted the only practical approach during a cost-of-living crisis in a rapidly changing church and discussed with our circuits what they could afford before setting our own district budget. This is also how our circuits relate to church councils – it is now quite normal for circuits to receive assessments late or reduced due to a lack of cash in church funds. What we heard in a recent meeting of circuit treasurers is that all our circuits are running at an operating deficit and are reliant on selling buildings to cover the costs of ongoing ministry. All know this is unsustainable but are wary that cutting staffing will lead only to ineffective ministry and burned-out ministers and lay staff. In the current cost of living crisis, we see little opportunity to increase income from our principal sources: offerings from our members and lettings from community groups.

We recognise that the impact of cost inflation is to push up salary and fuel costs, and therefore through nobodies' fault it suddenly and unexpectedly costs more to do the same things we all previously had planned. So therefore, sooner or later, job roles that we had considered necessary and beneficial will have to be lost. If the Connexional Team budget is to increase to protect jobs within the Connexional Team, the inevitable consequence of this will be to make roles at district, circuit, or church level redundant, all of which is extremely frustrating when we have worked hard to encourage circuits to make investment in these ways to support their local and contextual mission.

As a district we are keen to work Connexionally and will continue to do so. Our district staff team all support Connexional Team officers, including this year in preparation of good news stories, the rewriting of the Connexional property manual, updating lay pastor employment paperwork, organising 3Generate, and launching a warm space grant and advice scheme since copied up and down the country in other districts. All of this comes at a cost to the time our employees are giving to the district but is seen as a legitimate part of being connexional.

Furthermore, as a district within the first tranche of the New Places for New People programme, we are now working with circuits to identify, develop and launch the Connexionally suggested NPNP in every circuit. We are fully supportive of this transformational initiative and recognise its potential to bring new vitality and relevance to the Methodist movement in a fast-changing world, and in this to find its own answer, even when being church on the economic margins, to find new ways for this to pay for the support it needs. However, to succeed, it will need our circuits to invest in creating new churches and pioneer roles, knowing that any new Christian communities which emerge will likely need support for at least five to seven years until they become self-sustaining. This investment needs to be committed and funded by the same circuits that are already selling properties to pay the bills. We are grateful for the £156k allocated from the Connexional budget for this work, but it is dwarfed by the true cost of the work, and indeed by the annual assessment of £475k into the Connexional budget and the £39k annual increase in this we need to find.

It may be that you are receiving similar responses from other districts and that a broader conversation would be helpful as you consider how to respond. If so, representatives of our district would be willing to be part of such a conversation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Gill Newton', with a stylized, flowing script.

Gill Newton,
Sheffield District Chair
For and on behalf of the Sheffield District Leading Team

APPENDIX B

Letter of response from Matt Tattersall

18th January 2023

Gill Newton,
Sheffield District Chair

By email

Dear Gill,

Thanks for your letter dated 14 January concerning the District Assessment. I am sorry to hear that the proposed assessment will lead to 'significant detriment to local ministry and mission'.

I am confident that you will have already looked as fully as possible at your available resources in reaching this conclusion. However, for the sake of transparency, I wanted to be clear on some connexional assumptions over the coming period. As you know, the allocation to the Sheffield District Advance Fund has increased by over £75k (40% increase) since 2017. Whilst we cannot make any firm promises, it is my expectation that sales of property will continue at the current rate or even increase further. Therefore, capital levies that are passed through to the DAFs should either continue at current levels or increase. Furthermore, the budget parameters to be discussed at Methodist Council next week propose increasing the DAF allocation from 27.5% of CPF to 30% of CPF which would generate a further £24k for Sheffield at the current rate.

I cannot offer the level of scrutiny of the district figures you seek. The District Treasurers have had an opportunity to comment on the figures both by email and in a meeting and no discrepancies were raised. If evidence is provided that there is, or might be, discrepancies in the staffing returns, we will look into these. However, guidance is provided as to what is to be included in the staffing returns and District Chairs sign off on the returns. Should you require assurance that your colleagues are following the guidance you should address your concerns to the District Chair's meeting.

I am concerned that you have the impression that 'the Connexional Team budget is to increase to protect jobs'. As was set out in a briefing for the District Treasurers, the forecast inflation next year for the Connexional budget is 9.3% and the total increase in Assessment funding is 6%. Therefore, we have a 3.3% reduction in funding that has to be mitigated. This position is reiterated in the budget paper going to the Council next week. Furthermore, we are proposing cutting the Assessment by 3% in real terms in each of the subsequent four years. Whilst there is a proposal to fund this deficit on a transitional basis, the assumption is that by the end of the next 5 years, the Connexional budget will have shrunk in real terms by 15%.

Whilst I am always happy to have further discussion around financial strategy, I believe at the heart of your letter is really a conundrum that can only be addressed by the Methodist Council. I believe we have three broad options:

- i) reduce the Connexional Team (CT) budget faster than the rate of reduction in the wider Church membership in order to release resources for local mission;
- ii) reduce the size of the CT proportionate to the reduction in the size of the Church, to maintain a sense of fairness and connexionalism;

iii) reduce the CT slower than the reduction in the size of the Church to protect the support offered by the team to the wider Connexion.

The current budget and Assessment proposal broadly aligns with ii), but should the Council not be content with this approach, it will need to indicate a direction of travel toward i) or iii). There is an option iv) but it feels out of reach, namely, identifying how we get our collective hands on the c£300m sitting very unevenly distributed in the reserves of churches and circuits.

I am sorry not to offer more hope, but we all find ourselves wrestling with the same financial challenges, and that is fundamentally due to the ongoing reduction in membership of the Church, coupled with the unfavourable economic circumstances in which a post-Brexit, post-Pandemic, post-Liz Truss country finds itself.

Best wishes,

Matt Tattersall

Director of Finance & Resources

0207 467 5264

APPLICATION FOR AN AUTHORISATION FOR A LAY PERSON OR PRESBYTERAL PROBATIONER TO PRESIDE AT THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER IN THE METHODIST CHURCH 2022-2023

Notes to Circuit Superintendents:

1	Please use alternative form for applications under the missional criteria.
2	Applications are made under SO 011 and the criteria are set out in Book VI of CPD. SO 011 asks that the DPC be provided with information about the suitability of the nominee. For probationer presbyters, this information is contained within the stationing profile. For lay people a note (possibly the minute of the circuit meeting at which the nomination was made) is required indicating her/ his general competence, gifts and graces in leading worship and understanding of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper (see CPD 2021, Book VI, Part 3, paragraph 5, p 776).
3	If a Circuit is making more than one application in the same year, the applications should be listed in a preferred order, and it should be assumed for the purpose of this calculation that the applicant(s) listed before this applicant has/have been approved.
4	Authorisations will not be granted for deacons.
5	Please complete each relevant box and email all necessary documents to the District Policy Committee Secretary as soon as they are completed. Please copy this email to the Conference Office conferenceoffice@methodistchurch.org.uk to enable tracking and so that the Conference Office can chase any forms which do not return via the District Office. Please do not submit paper copies.
6	Please enclose a copy of a recent plan with the Communion Services highlighted to aid checking.
7	Where Circuits are combining, please include a note of the Circuits involved.
8	Applications from the previous two years should not normally return to the authorisations committee for scrutiny. However their suitability should be re-examined by the Circuit Meeting to check for any change of circumstance, so that they can be presented to the Conference.

Notes to District Policy Committee (DPC) Secretaries and Synod Secretaries:

9	If the DPC approval is to be delayed (e.g. because of the date of the Policy Committee), please forward a copy of this form to the Conference Office, as below, as soon as possible.
10	Please enter any subsequent comments on the formal application immediately following the DPC.
11	If the Synod should make any further comments these should be relayed as soon as possible following the meeting of the Synod.
12	Authorisations for probationer presbyters and lay persons do not normally return to the authorisations committee for scrutiny until they have run for three years. In such cases the authorised person moves from List A to B and eventually to C. Applications return to the authorisations committee only if a change of circumstances is notified. However their suitability should be re-examined by the DPC so that they can be presented to the Conference.
13	Authorisations will not be granted for deacons.
14	Please forward this application form together with a circuit plan with communion services highlighted, a note about suitability and any supporting statements and documents no later than Friday 1 April 2022 to: conferenceoffice@methodistchurch.org.uk

Section One: Basic Details

1A	Is this application for a Lay person or a presbyteral Probationer minister? <i>Please enter L or P.</i>	L
	Is this a New application or a Renewal after an initial three years has been completed? <i>Please enter N or R in the box to the right.</i>	N
	If this application is for a lay person, please confirm that they are a Member in the Circuit? <i>Please enter Yes in the box to the right.</i>	Yes
	Are they a volunteer or an employee? <i>Please enter V or E in the box to the right.</i>	E

1B	Circuit Name	DONCASTER	Deprivation Figure <i>Please enter here the number you calculate below in Section 2C.</i>
	Circuit Number	25/14	
	Nominee's name <i>Write name as it should appear in the Conference Agenda</i>	Mr Sean Worsley	16.18

1C	Details of person making this application <i>usually the Superintendent of the Circuit</i>	
	Name	Revd Michael A Neal (Superintendent)
	Address (inc. post code)	99 Hawshaw Lane, Hoyland Barnsley S74 9ES
	Telephone number	01226 748402
	E-mail address	revmickneal@googlemail.com

Section Two: Deprivation Assessment

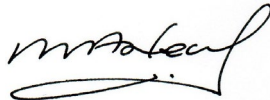
2A	(a)	Number of Sunday Communion Services required in Circuit Churches each quarter.	54
	(b)	Number of mid-week Communion Services required each quarter (where extended communion cannot be used).	3
	(c)	Number of Communion Services required in residential homes each quarter if not included on the Circuit Plan (where extended communion cannot be used).	5
	Total of (a) – (c) above. <i>(TOTAL A)</i>		62
	Does the number of services under (a) differ from the number on the Circuit Plan you are submitting with this application?		YES
	If 'Yes' please explain why.	Churches in the Circuit are continuing to rebuild following Covid and there is a strong desire to be able to share a Communion Service at least once a month. 1 Church has left the Circuit during the last year and another is expected to leave in August 2023 which reduces demand slightly but one of the people who currently holds an Authorisation has indicated that they are moving out of the Circuit in the summer of this year. Although the Circuit is slowly building to 1 Communion service per month in each church we are still some way from achieving this because of the number of churches and the shortage of ordained staff (only 2) in the current year.	
	Please provide brief information and context about figures (b) and (c). Please explain why extended communion is not appropriate	Some of the Churches in the Circuit have a pattern of worship that includes a monthly mid-week Communion Service. These have often been arranged around other activities in the church and have attracted visitors (building users) who are not usually part of the Sunday congregation. The pastoral contact and relationship with the minister is important in this context.	
	Is there any other information you would like the Committee to take into account in assessing your application? <i>For example: unusual circumstances in the circuit; provision for LEPs; other communion services not taken into account above.</i>	NO	

2B	Please list below the names of people expected to be presiding at communion services in the Circuit in the next connexional year (excluding the nominee). Insert in right-hand column the full-time equivalent number for each named individual; calculate this by dividing the average number of services they take each quarter by 26. <i>(For example: if a part time presbyter takes 4 appointments per quarter the figure to record would be 4 divided by 26; i.e. 0.15.)</i>		
	Presbyters working full-time within the circuit (count 1 for each in right-hand column)		
	(a)	Rev. John Henry Rev. Tom Read Rev. Jonathan Gichaara	1 1 1
	(b)	Presbyters working part-time within the circuit	
			0
	(c)	Other presbyters presiding at communion services in the circuit (e.g. supernumeraries, ministers in appointments not under the control of the Church)	
		Rev Keith Lackenby	.07
(d)	Anyone with an existing authorisation to preside (see Note 3)		
	Mrs Susanna Brookes Mrs Chris Ogley Mrs Alice Curry (<i>currently has an authorisation but has indicated that she will be moving out of the Circuit before September 2023</i>)	.46 .30 0	
		Total of right-hand column in section 2B (a) – (d) (<i>TOTAL B</i>)	3.83

2C	Calculation of deprivation figure	TOTAL A <i>from Section 2A above</i>	TOTAL B <i>from Section 2B above</i>	DEPRIVATION FIGURE <i>Total A divided by total B Please enter the calculated figure below, and again in the box in Section 1B above.</i>
		62	3.83	16.18
	If the calculation is 13 or greater, your deprivation assessment is complete.			
	If the calculation is less than 13, please indicate here any additional factors which contribute to deprivation.			

	<p>If the application relates to an ecumenical (LEP) situation please describe any circumstances relevant to the application.</p>	
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Section Three: Scrutiny By Circuit and District

3A	CIRCUIT MEETING APPROVAL (see SO 011(2)(b))		
	Has this application been considered by the Circuit Meeting?		NO
	If not, please explain why and give the date of the circuit meeting when it will be considered. This must be before the beginning of Conference.	This application will be considered by the Circuit Meeting on March 14th 2023	
	Is the person nominated a member in the Circuit?		YES
	Has the Circuit Meeting received a satisfactory report as to the suitability of the person nominated?		YES
	Has the Circuit Meeting received a note of agreement from the nominee to receive an authorisation? <i>Please include it with the papers for this application.</i>		YES
	Will the Superintendent ensure that the nominee receives adequate training?		YES
	<i>If this application has not been considered by the Circuit Meeting the authorisation committee can only make a conditional recommendation which will be made to the Conference after it has been confirmed that the Circuit Meeting has scrutinised the application and supports it, and answers to the above questions have been provided.</i>		
Superintendent's signature		Date	4 th February 2023

3B	DISTRICT POLICY COMMITTEE APPROVAL			
	Has this application been considered by the District Policy Committee?			
		If not, please give the date of the DPC when it will be considered. This must be before the beginning of the Conference.		
	Has the DPC received a note which commends the nominee's suitability from the Superintendent of the Circuit?			
	Has the nominee given written consent?			
	Taking account of both the assessment and the suitability information does the DPC recommend acceptance of the application?			
	<i>If this application has not been considered by the District Policy Committee the authorisation committee can only make a conditional recommendation which will be made to conference after it has been confirmed that the District Policy Committee has scrutinised the application and answers to the above questions have been provided.</i>			
	Signature of Chair of District or DPC Secretary		Date	

2023		5 March Lent 2	12 Lent 3	19 Mothering Sunday	26	2 April Palm	9 Easter	16	23	30	7 May Vocations	14 Christian Aid	21 Aldersgate	28 Pentecost
Farsi speaking	1.00	OA	OA	OA	OA	OA	OA	OA	OA	OA	OA	OA	OA	OA
Revd Tom Read thomas-read@skv.com														
Adwick HP SF1-4	10.45	Hepworth	OA	Mears	Read	OA WL	Ogley S	S Smith	OA WL	Read S	Brittain	LA	US @ Sprot	Beardsall
Sprotbrough StF	10.00	LA	Read	Newton	Banks F	SusBrookes	Read S	Hankinson	Cooke ¹	Banks F	LA	J Key	Read	Banks F
Scawthorpe HP SF1-2	9.30	Banks	Cooke ¹	Read	Worsley	Gichaara	US @ Bentley	Willimott	LA	Mears	Read S	Ogley	US @ Sprot	LA
Bentley HP MP1-2 SF 1	10.45	Banks	US @ Bentley	Read	Worsley	Gichaara	Hankinson	Willimott	LA	Mears	Read S	Ogley	US @ Sprot	LA
Mrs Susanna Brookes SusannaBrookes@aol.com														
Cantley SF HP SF1	10.00	OA Gift	Brittain	SusBrookes AAW	Hankinson	Beardsall	SusBrookes S	LA	S Smith	Willimott AAW	OA	SusBrookes S	SeBrookes	M Key AAW
Auckley HP JP MP1	10.30	NS	SusBrookes	NS	NS	NS	US @ Cantley	NS	NS	NS	NS	US @ Cantley	NS	NS
Mr Sean Worsley seanworsley1@hotmail.co.uk	6.00	SusBrookes	OA	Worsley	Read	SeBrookes	SusBrookes S	OA	Gichaara	Read	Hankinson	NS	SusBrookes S	Beardsall
St Andrew's														
HP MP Combined	10.30	Worsley	Banks	Beardsall	LA	Worsley	S Smith	Parker	Mears	SOP LA	US @ St As or AG	LA	Brittain	Lackenby S
Alder Grove	10.30	Lackenby S	LA	Worsley	Mears	Bingham	Cooke ¹	Worsley	LA	Parker	US @ St As or AG	Worsley	S Smith	Hankinson
HP SF1-2 MP1-3	10.45	Mears	Worsley	Ogley	Gichaara	Lackenby	Worsley	Read	LA	Ogley S	US @ St As or AG	S Smith	SusBrookes	Worsley
Flintwood HP	10.45													
TKCC														
	10.30	OA	OA	OA	OA	OA	OA	OA	OA	OA	OA	OA	OA	S Smith
	6.00	OA	OA	OA	OA	OA	S Smith	Ghamari	OA	OA	OA	OA	OA	OA
Revd Dr Jonathan Gichaara gichaara@yahoo.co.uk														
Hatfield Woodhouse HP MP Complete	3.30	NS	NS	NS	Gichaara CaCh	NS	Gichaara S	NS	NS	M Key CaCh	NS	NS	NS	US @ Dunsville
Stainforth HP MP Complete	10.45	LA	NS	NS	NS	S Smith	Worsley	NS	NS	NS	Gichaara S	NS	NS	NS
Thorne SF HP MP SLW	10.45	Beardsall	Hankinson	Willimott	LA	Read	Gichaara S	Mears	Gichaara B	LA	S Smith	Bingham	Gichaara B	US @ Dunsville
Barnby Dun SF HP MP	10.30	Gichaara S	LA	Brittain	Willimott	Hankinson	LA	Gichaara S	Willimott	LA	Gichaara S	Mears	Ogley	US @ Dunsville
Dunsville SF1-3	10.45	SusBrookes	Gichaara S	Hankinson	LA	Willimott	SeBrookes	Banks	Read	Gichaara S	Beardsall	LA	Parker	Gichaara
Mrs Alice Curry alicecurry@outlook.com														
Bawtry HP SF	10.30	OA	Curry	OA	Parker	Curry S	Beardsall	OA	SusBrookes	OA	US @ Tickhill	Beardsall	OA	Curry S
Harworth HP MP StF	10.30	Read	Bingham	OA	Curry	Brittain	Curry S	OA	Parker	Worsley	US @ Tickhill	Banks	Curry S	OA
Tickhill StF	10.30	Curry S	OA	Gichaara	M Key	OA	Lackenby S	Curry	Worsley	LA	Newton	Curry S	OA	Read

Please Note: ¹ means the preacher requires transport. The Church Steward is responsible for arranging a car owner to collect the preacher.



The Methodist Church

Doncaster Circuit

Superintendent Minister: Rev. Mick Neal
99 Hawshaw Lane
Hoyland
Barnsley
S74 9ES

Tel: 01226 748402
Email: revmickneal@googlemail.com

4th February 2023

To Whom it May Concern,

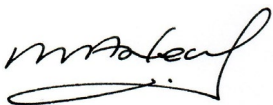
Donaster Methodist Circuit
Reference to Accompany Application for Authorisation to Preside – Sean Worsley

Sean Worsley has been a fully accredited Local Preacher and is currently employed as a Lay Pastor in the Doncaster Methodist Circuit. Sean joined the Circuit Staff Team in September 2022 having previously served for 3 years in the Norwich Circuit.

The Circuit Meeting is fully satisfied that he is a suitable candidate to have an authorisation to preside at Communion as he is a person who has proved himself to be of strong faith and deep spiritual insight. He brings this to his ministry in the Circuit and has touched many lives with his careful leading of worship and pastoral ministry since he arrived in Doncaster.

I hope this helps in responding positively to the accompanying application.

With best wishes,



Revd Michael A Neal
Superintendent Minister
Doncaster Methodist Circuit

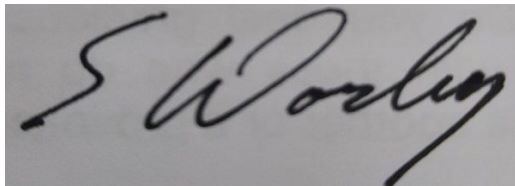
Sean Worsley
1 Windsor Court
Dunsville
Doncaster
DN7 4QE
4th February 2023

Rev Mick Neal,
Superintendent Minister
Doncaster Methodist Circuit
99 Hawshaw Lane
Hoyland
Barnsley

Dear Mick,

I hereby request Authorisation to preside at the Lord's Supper when nominated in the Circuit Plan and will readily undertake any instruction or training which the Connexion deems necessary.

Richest Blessings

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'S Worsley', on a light-colored background.

Sean Worsley

APPLICATION FOR AN AUTHORISATION FOR A LAY PERSON OR PRESBYTERAL PROBATIONER TO PRESIDE AT THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER IN THE METHODIST CHURCH 2023-2024

Notes to Circuit Superintendents:

1	Please use alternative form for applications under the missional criteria.
2	Applications are made under SO 011 and the criteria are set out in Book VI of CPD. SO 011 asks that the DPC be provided with information about the suitability of the nominee. For probationer presbyters, this information is contained within the stationing profile. For lay people a note (possibly the minute of the circuit meeting at which the nomination was made) is required indicating her/ his general competence, gifts and graces in leading worship and understanding of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper (see CPD 2022, Book VI, Part 3, paragraph 5, p 794).
3	If a Circuit is making more than one application in the same year, the applications should be listed in a preferred order, and it should be assumed for the purpose of this calculation that the applicant(s) listed before this applicant has/have been approved.
4	Authorisations will not be granted for deacons.
5	Please complete each relevant box and email all necessary documents to your District Representative with oversight for Authorisations who will check that the forms are in good order before sending them on to the District Policy Committee Secretary. Please do not submit paper copies.
6	Please enclose a copy of a recent plan with the Communion Services highlighted to aid checking.
7	Where Circuits are combining, please include a note of the Circuits involved.
8	Applications from the previous two years should not normally return to the authorisations committee for scrutiny. However their suitability should be re-examined by the Circuit Meeting to check for any change of circumstance, so that they can be presented to the Conference.

Notes to District Policy Committee (DPC) Secretaries and Synod Secretaries:

9	If the DPC approval is to be delayed (e.g. because of the date of the Policy Committee), please advise MVW mvw@methodistchurch.org.uk of the DPC date and the name of the individual/circuit for which the application is being made.
10	Please enter any subsequent comments on the formal application immediately following the DPC.
11	If the Synod should make any further comments these should be relayed as soon as possible following the meeting of the Synod.
12	Authorisations for probationer presbyters and lay persons do not normally return to the authorisations committee for scrutiny until they have run for three years. In such cases the authorised person moves from List A to B and eventually to C. Applications return to the authorisations committee only if a change of circumstances is notified. However their suitability should be re-examined by the DPC so that they can be presented to the Conference.
13	Authorisations will not be granted for deacons.
14	This application form together with a circuit plan with communion services highlighted, a note about suitability and any supporting statements and documents should be sent no later than Friday 24 March 2023 to The Ministries Team: mvw@methodistchurch.org.uk

Section One: Basic Details

1A	Is this application for a Lay person or a presbyteral Probationer minister? <i>Please enter L or P.</i>	L
	Is this a New application or a Renewal after an initial three years has been completed? <i>Please enter N or R in the box to the right.</i>	R
	If this application is for a lay person, please confirm that they are a Member in the Circuit? <i>Please enter Yes in the box to the right.</i>	Yes
	Are they a volunteer or an employee? <i>Please enter V or E in the box to the right.</i>	E

1B	Circuit Name	Rotherham and Dearne Valley Methodist Circuit	Deprivation Figure <i>Please enter here the number you calculate below in Section 2C.</i>
	Circuit Number	25/17	
	Nominee's name <i>Write name as it should appear in the Conference Agenda</i>	Edward Archer Siddall	14.04**

1C	Details of person making this application <i>usually the Superintendent of the Circuit</i>	
	Name	Revd Jennifer Elaine Park
	Address (inc. post code)	15 The Green, Whiston, Rotherham S60 4JD
	Telephone number	01709 376720
	E-mail address	revjenpark@gmail.com

Section Two: Deprivation Assessment

2A	(a)	Number of Sunday Communion Services required in Circuit Churches each quarter.	30
	(b)	Number of mid-week Communion Services required each quarter (where extended communion cannot be used).	9
	(c)	Number of Communion Services required in residential homes each quarter if not included on the Circuit Plan (where extended communion cannot be used).	3
	Total of (a) – (c) above. <i>(TOTAL A)</i>		42
	Does the number of services under (a) differ from the number on the Circuit Plan you are submitting with this application?		yes
	If 'Yes' please explain why.	26 Sunday communions in the months December to February. This is due to Christmas Services and some churches not having a service Christmas Day or New Years Day	
	Please provide brief information and context about figures (b) and (c). Please explain why extended communion is not appropriate	the length of time between the church communion service and being able to take an extended communion means this is not viable	
Is there any other information you would like the Committee to take into account in assessing your application? <i>For example: unusual circumstances in the circuit; provision for LEPs; other communion services not taken into account above.</i>	Due to unexpected staffing changes in August 2022 (when the superintendent minister left the circuit) our Chair of District Gill Newton has been titular superintendent assisted by the Rev Jenny Park, a supernumerary minister. Their work has been greatly assisted by those with dispensation and especially by the nominee who is a Local preacher and lay pastor caring for four churches as well as the lead person in young people and children's' work. Two of those with existing dispensation have serious health problems which may impact on their future help, The circuit have appointed a superintendent and presbyter for 2023/24		

2B	<p>Please list below the names of people expected to be presiding at communion services in the Circuit in the next connexional year (excluding the nominee). Insert in right-hand column the full-time equivalent number for each named individual; calculate this by dividing the average number of services they take each quarter by 26. <i>Count all services, both communion and those which are not communion, taken by a part-time presbyter and divide by 26.</i> <i>(For example, if a part time presbyter takes 4 appointments per quarter the figure to record would be 4 divided by 26; i.e. 0.15.)</i></p>		
	Presbyters working full-time within the circuit (count 1 for each in right-hand column)		
	(a)	Revd Dr Andrew Fox Revd Louise Makin	1 1
	Presbyters working part-time within the circuit		
	(b)		0
	Other presbyters presiding at communion services in the circuit (e.g. supernumeraries, ministers in appointments not under the control of the Church)		
	(c)	Rev Dick Styles Rev Jenny Park	0.15 0.23
	Anyone with an existing authorisation to preside (see Note 3)		
(d)	Anne Holmes Clive Taylor David Guy	0.19 0.19 0.23	
Total of right-hand column in section 2B (a) – (d) (<i>TOTAL B</i>)			2.99

2C	Calculation of deprivation figure	TOTAL A <i>from Section 2A above</i>	TOTAL B <i>from Section 2B above</i>	DEPRIVATION FIGURE <i>Total A divided by total B Please enter the calculated figure below, and again in the box in Section 1B above.</i>
		42	2.99	14.04 **
	If the calculation is 13 or greater, your deprivation assessment is complete.			
	If the calculation is less than 13, please indicate here any additional factors which contribute to deprivation.			

	<p>If the application relates to an ecumenical (LEP) situation please describe any circumstances relevant to the application.</p>	
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Section Three: Scrutiny By Circuit and District

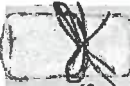
3A	CIRCUIT MEETING APPROVAL (see SO 011(2)(b))			
	Has this application been considered by the Circuit Meeting?			yes
		If not, please explain why and give the date of the circuit meeting when it will be considered. This must be before the beginning of Conference.		
	Is the person nominated a member in the Circuit?			yes
	Has the Circuit Meeting received a satisfactory report as to the suitability of the person nominated?			yes
	Has the Circuit Meeting received a note of agreement from the nominee to receive an authorisation? <i>Please include it with the papers for this application.</i>			Yes
	Will the Superintendent ensure that the nominee receives adequate training?			yes
	<i>If this application has not been considered by the Circuit Meeting the authorisation committee can only make a conditional recommendation which will be made to the Conference after it has been confirmed that the Circuit Meeting has scrutinised the application and supports it, and answers to the above questions have been provided.</i>			
Superintendent's signature	J Park	Date	28 th January 2023	

3B	DISTRICT POLICY COMMITTEE APPROVAL			
	Has this application been considered by the District Policy Committee?			
		If not, please give the date of the DPC when it will be considered. This must be before the beginning of the Conference.		
	Has the DPC received a note which commends the nominee's suitability from the Superintendent of the Circuit?			yes
	Has the nominee given written consent?			yes
	Taking account of both the assessment and the suitability information does the DPC recommend acceptance of the application?			
	<i>If this application has not been considered by the District Policy Committee the authorisation committee can only make a conditional recommendation which will be made to conference after it has been confirmed that the District Policy Committee has scrutinised the application and answers to the above questions have been provided.</i>			
	Signature of Chair of District or DPC Secretary		Date	

Staff: - Mrs Elizabeth Whiteoak (Pastoral Assistant)
Mrs Karen Dunn (Pastoral Assistant)
Rev Jenny Park: Central, Rawmarsh, Clifton and Whiston
Rev Gill Newton: Wickersley and Broom



Staff: - Pastor Edward A. Siddall (Lay)
Karen Dunn
Furlong Road - Piccadilly - St John's
Wath and West Melton



Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP)
Holy Trinity Church, Thorpe Hesley -
Rev. Revd. Lynn Broadhead (Vicar)
Thorpe Hesley LEP

December 2022 - February 2023



CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH
3rd Friday - Family Fun Church
@ Central = 5.30pm

BROOM METHODIST CHURCH
1st Sunday - Family Fun Church
@ Broom = 11.30am

Full Time Staff Rest Days:
Edward A. Siddall, Rev Gill Newton: Monday, Rev Jenny Park: Friday
Please note, these may be flexible dependent on diary commitments.

Diary Dates
Local Preachers Meeting: 27th November Wickersley
Circuit Meeting: 5th December 7pm Broom
Christmas Eve Services at: Furlong Road 5pm, Clifton 11.30pm HC
and Wickersley 4pm HC
Advent Bible Studies at: Furlong Road Monday Afternoon,
Piccadilly Tuesday Evening,
St John's Thursday Afternoon,
Start W/C 14/11. Others to TBC.

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"How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed?
And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard?
And how are they to hear without someone preaching".
Paul - Romans 10:14
"Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season".
Paul - 2 Timothy 4:2

Abbreviations:

COV	Covenant	NPA	No Preacher Available
CT	Churches Together	OA	Own Arrangement
HC	Holy Communion	WL	Worship Leader
LA	Local Arrangement		

	4th Dec	11th Dec	18th Dec	25th Dec	1st Jan	8th Jan	15th Jan	22nd Jan	29th Jan	5th Feb	12th Feb	19th Feb	26th Feb
	Advent 2	Advent 3	Advent 4			Sunday after Epiphany							Lent 1
Broom HP ST PP CCL	Isa 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7 Matt 3:1-12 Rom 15:4-13	Isa 35:1-10 Psalm 146:5-10 Matt 11:2-11 Jas 5:7-10	Isa 7:10-16 Ps 80:7-17 Matt 11:2-11 Rom 1:1-7	Isa 52:7-10 Psalm 98 John 1:1-14 Heb 1:1-4 (5-12)	Jer 31:7-14 Ps 147:12-20 John 1:1-14 9:10-18 Eph 1:3-14	Isa 49:1-7 Ps 40:1-11 John 1:29-42 1 Cor 1:1-9	Isa 49:1-7 Ps 40:1-11 John 1:29-42 1 Cor 1:1-9	Isa 9:1-4 Ps 27:1,4-9 Matt 4:12-23 1 Cor 1:10-18	Micah 6:1-8 Psalm 15 Matt 5:1-12 1 Cor 1:18-31	Isa 58:1-9a Ps 112:1-9 Matt 5:1-3 20 1 Cor 2:1-13 12:13-15	Deut 30:15-20 Ps 119:1-8 Matt 5:21-37 1 Cor 3:1-9 11:16-23	Lev 19:1-2, 9-18 Ps 119:33-40 Matt 6:24-34 1 Cor 4:1-5	Isa 49:8-16a Psalm 131 Matt 6:24-34 1 Cor 4:1-5
Central HP MP 30th Anniversary Edition PP CCL	E Siddall	Guy HC	NPA / OA	LA Request 10AM	Guy	Newton Cov HC	Styles	NPA / OA	Newton	E Siddall	Guy HC	Drabble	Taylor
Clifton ST PP CCL	Family Church	Family Church	Family Church	Family Church	Family Church	Family Church	Family Church	Family Church	Family Church	Family Church	Family Church	Family Church	Family Church
Rawmarsh HP MP (full) PP	NPA / OA	Hambrey	Park Carol Service	No Service (Whiston 11am)	Park Cov HC	Bihonzi	Andrews	Styles	Taylor	Drabble	Park HC	NPA / OA	Guy
Clifton ST PP CCL	Park HC	NPA / OA	Andrews	No Service Request	NPA / OA	Park Cov HC	Cloke	Harris	Ashton	Park HC	NPA / OA	Bihonzi	Hambrey
Rawmarsh HP MP (full) PP	Holmes HC	Young	LA 10.30am	No Service Request	No Service Request	Hambrey	Park HC	Taylor	Hood	Harris	NPA / OA	Park HC	Andrews
Wickersley HP ST PP CCL	LA/WL	Hood	Park Carols 6pm	LA/WL 4pm Carol Service	No Service Request	Ashton	Keers	Newton HC Cov	Guy	LA/WL	Edwards HC	Andrews	Leader
Whiston ST PP CCL	LA / Toy Service Café Style	Drabble	LA	Park 11AM	No Service Request	LA / Café Style	Holmes	Bihonzi	Park Cov HC	LA / Café Style	Houghton	NPA / OA	Park HC
Furlong Road HP ST PP CCL (complete)	Drabble	E Siddall HC	NPA / OA	At St John's	NPA / OA	E Siddall Cov HC	Guy	Houghton	E Siddall	Wren	Taylor HC	NPA / OA	Hankinson
Piccadilly M/HB MP complete OHP CCL	Newton HC	Newton HC	At St John's	At St John's	E Siddall	Wren	Wren	Holmes	Holmes	NPA / OA	Styles	Styles	E Siddall HC
St John's HP WS PP	NPA / OA	Taylor HC	Wren	E Siddall 10am	NPA / OA	Taylor	P Edwards	E Siddall Cov HC	Hambrey	Bihonzi	Styles	E Siddall	Holmes
Wath & West Melton HP	NPA / Siddall	E Siddall HC	E Siddall HC	At St John's	At Piccadilly	Drabble	E Siddall Cov HC	Park	Brampton Christ Church Host CT 10AM	NPA / Siddall	Holmes HC	NPA / Siddall	E Siddall
Thorpe Hesley LEP HP MP com PP	10.30 Broadhead HC	10.30 Broadhead HC	LA / MS Carol service	Broadhead FHC	LA / MS	Elson HC	Broadhead HC	LA / Family Worship	Broadhead HC	Broadhead HC	Elson HC	Broadhead HC	LA / Family Worship

Rotherham and Dearne Valley Methodist Circuit 25/17

Application for authorisation to Preside at Holy Communion

To the District Policy Committee

In the current church year, Rev Gill Riley the Chair of District is the titular superintendent of the Rotherham and Dearne Valley Circuit. Rev Jenny Park, a supernumerary minister is assisting her with this work.

In that capacity I write to support Edward Archer Siddall as a nominee to renew his authorisation to preside at Holy Communion.

Ed is a local preacher and at present is preaching 12 out of the 13 Sundays on the preaching plan. He has pastoral care of four churches. He regularly conducts a mid week Holy Communion service in one of these and two other churches across the circuit. He also has a regular commitment in a nursing home and home communions.

Ed has been instrumental with others in setting up Family Fun Church and a new Boys Brigade Company in the circuit. He is supportive of circuit staff and stewards and a member of the circuit meeting. He has a strong faith which is evident in his leading of worship, Bible study and sharing in fellowship.

signed: J Park 28th January 2023

Holy Communion Authorisation

I hereby give my consent for my name Edward Archer-Siddall to be put forward for consideration to be authorised to preside at the Lord's Supper in Rotherham and Dearne Valley Circuit.

Signed.....

E. T. Archer-Siddall

Date.....

20/1/2023.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE DISTRICT LEADING TEAM

BACKGROUND

In March 2021, following the launch of the district's new Mission Strategy and the completion of a governance review, a new constitution of the District Leading Team (DLT) was agreed. This moved away from a structure that included representatives from Circuits and established a way of being that we hoped would encourage more people from across the District to offer to serve on the DLT and use their gifts to help us move forward with the various strands of the Mission Strategy.

Unfortunately, this has not proved to be the case and whilst we are grateful for those who have expressed an interest, we have still not been able to build the DLT that we had hoped.

CURRENT SITUATION

It was therefore agreed at the November 2022 DLT meeting that a last push on recruitment should be attempted, but when by January 2023 that had not borne fruit, it was agreed that a proposed change to the constitution of the DLT should be brought to the March DLT meeting.

PROPOSAL

The table set out below is the proposal before us and the DLT is invited to consider whether this is an acceptable way forward or whether any further changes are required.

Chair of District	Revd Gill Newton
DLT Secretary	Katrin Hackett
Deputy Chair Of District	Revd Julie Coates
Synod Secretary	Revd Margaret Mwailu
Treasurer	Neil Harland
Methodist Council Representative	David Burton
Lay Stationing Representative	Gill Daly
EDI Officer	Erica Dunmow
LP/WL Officer	Revd Claire Rawlinson
Superintendent Minister	
Individual involved in a NPNP project / pioneer	
Worker with Children and Youth	
Young person	

It is important to note that we would not wish to lose any of those who currently serve on the DLT and would ensure an appropriate period of transition during which those who currently serve are enabled to complete their period of office, whilst others are drawn into the team.

None of the office holders listed above who do not currently form part of the team have been approached about this, but should the DLT approve this way forward, they will be approached ahead of the Synod where the final decision would be made.

RESOLUTION

- **The DLT approves the new constitution of the DLT and recommends that it comes into force in May 2023 following the decision of the Representative Synod.**