



Trustees' Annual Report for September 2016 – August 2017

Name: Trent & Dove Methodist Circuit

Circuit Reference: 22/16

Charity Registration Number: 1133721

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Welcome from the Superintendent

Welcome to the annual Trustees report of the Trent and Dove Methodist Circuit for 2016/17.

This is a small Circuit with a big vision aiming to grow and develop in its purpose of "knowing Jesus and making Jesus known". It is not an easy task due to staff changes and financial anxieties in some of the Churches as they face an uncertain future.

However, we are blessed with a hardworking and dedicated Circuit Leadership team, alongside other committed volunteers who willingly give up time and energy to be a part of the work of this Circuit, without whom the work would be so much more difficult.

An optimistic Circuit looking towards a bright future.

Please read the report, reflect on it and pray your way through it.

I commend the report to you as a presentation of the work of the Circuit in the year 2016/17

Mike Redshaw

Superintendent Minister of Trent and Dove Methodist Circuit

Introduction

The Circuit was formed in September 2013 from an amalgamation of the Burton-upon-Trent and Dove Valley Circuits. Currently there are 15 churches in the Circuit which are distributed evenly across the Circuit, an area from the east side of Burton-upon-Trent, (population about 70,000) to Uttoxeter (population about 15,000).

Objectives and Activities

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the Circuit Trustees meet at least twice a year. These meetings plan and agree the activities of the Circuit and ensure it complies with Charity Commission guidance. A list of Trustees, the Churches they represent, and the positions held is given below:

Circuit Representatives

Ministers	Secretary
Rev'd Lew Greaves	Mrs Celia Ryan
Rev'd Jimi Kaci	Circuit Local Preachers & Worship Leaders Representatives:
Rev'd Stella Mills	
Rev'd Sue Preston	
Rev'd Mike Redshaw	Mrs Sue Cattermole
	Mr Carl Seager

Supernumerary Ministers	
	Rev'd Ann Bolas
	Rev'd Derek Morton
	Rev'd Maurice Whittaker
Lay Workers	
	Miss Susan Laws
	Mrs Caroline Green
Circuit Stewards	
	Mr Steve Dobson
	Mrs Denise Hancock
	Mrs Liz Holmes
	Mrs Sue Nickson
	Mr Andrew Wooding

Circuit Education & Youth	
	Mrs Sue Shakespeare
Circuit Missions	
	Mrs Marion Gibson
	Miss Julie Green
	Mr John Jay
	Miss Shirley Wagstaff
	Mr Bryan Wild
	Mrs Gwen Wortley
Circuit Safeguarding Coordinator	
	Mrs Caroline Green

Circuit Church Representatives

Barton under Needwood Methodist Church	
Rep 1	Mr David Moore
Rep 2	Mrs Fiona Panter
Rep 3	Mrs Hazel Talboys

Boylestone Methodist Church	
Rep 1	Mrs Ann Rimmer
Rep 2	Mr Paul Rimmer

Church Broughton Methodist Church	
Rep 1	Mrs Kath Belfield
Rep 2	Mr Don Rowarth
Rep 3	Mr Ray Shaw

Draycott in the Clay Methodist Church	
Rep 1	Mrs Marion Rowe
Rep 2	Mrs Doreen Share
Rep 3	Mrs Lynn Wragg

Etwall Methodist Church	
Rep 1	Mr Herman Bonardt
Rep 2	Mrs Jennifer Dove
Rep 3	Mrs Pam Large

Hatton Methodist Church	
Rep 1	Mrs Eunice Watson
Rep 2	

Hilton Methodist Church	
Rep 1	Mr Mark Davies
Rep 2	Mr Brian Hill
Rep 3	Mr Bryan Wild

Short Street Methodist Church	
Rep 1	Mrs Clare Dee
Rep 2	Mrs Wendy Knight
Rep 3	Mr Graham Meers

Stanton Methodist Church	
Rep 1	Mr Bryan Hollins
Rep 2	Mrs Jean Hollins
Rep 3	Mrs Rita Street

Stretton Methodist Church	
Rep 1	Mrs Joanne Crofts
Rep 2	Mrs Christine Dunsby
Rep 3	Mr Peter Smith
Rep 4	Mrs Sheila Smith

St Thomas's Methodist Church	
Rep 1	Mrs Teresa Hawkins
Rep 2	Mr John Jones
Rep 3	Mrs Sue McLoughlin
Rep 4	Mr Alan Thompson

Stubwood Methodist Church	
Rep 1	Mrs Ellen Doody
Rep 2	Mrs Susanne Smith
Rep 3	Miss Shirley Wagstaff

Uttoxeter Methodist Church	
Rep 1	Mr John Darby
Rep 2	Mrs Anne Dobson
Rep 3	Miss Julie Green
Rep 4	Mr Roger Rooke

Winshill Methodist Church	
Rep 1	Mrs Linda Latham
Rep 2	Mrs Jenny Meers
Rep 3	Mrs Caroline Green
Rep 4	Mrs Moya Middleton

Woodmill (St Paul's) Methodist Church	
Rep 1	Mr Les Fellows
Rep 2	Mr Alan Richardson
Rep 3	Mr Roy Ward

The Circuit is governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976, the Deed of Union and the Model Trust Deeds of the Methodist Church.

The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the Date of Union the advancement of:

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

The organisation and resourcing of regular acts of worship open to members of the church and non-members alike. The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups. The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the ill and bereaved. Taking religious assemblies in local schools. Chaplaincy is offered at Queens Hospital and the Agricultural community.

We are seeking to be a visionary Circuit glorifying God, sharing the mission and ministry of Jesus. This Circuit is called into being by the grace of God, led by Jesus Christ and is given the gifts for its work by and through the renewing power of the Holy Spirit to facilitate mission through worship, witness and service of the congregations and circuit along with ecumenical co-operation and community engagement encouraging shared ministry with all parts of the Christian family.

Review of the Year

The Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations by Robert Schnase continues to be the focus of the Circuit's mission development following the talks held last year at Langans Tea Rooms, this year's focus has been on 'Risk Taking Mission and Service'.

The required governance for the circuit continues to be audited, monitored and modified as required. Safeguarding continues to be managed by the Superintendent and the Circuit Administrator, both of whom have attended the appropriate training. Communications across the Circuit has been developing through the Circuit website and weekly notices.

One of our part-time presbyters has been invited to remain until 2020. We have said goodbye to two presbyters. One has taken on the role of full-time chaplaincy; the other has been restationed within the district.

Messy Church continues at various venues across the circuit. Following the training of those involved, the "Open the Book" initiative has been established in schools in Uttoxeter and Hilton.

We have welcomed two new members to the Circuit Leadership Team who are already making a valuable contribution to the efficient running of the Circuit. The stewards of the Circuit have attended course on stewarding and 'Navigating Change' run at Swan Bank Methodist Church, Stoke on Trent and continue to be keen to keep up the momentum and enthusiasm for our developing Circuit. We hope and pray that God will continue to bless our work for Him in this Circuit.

Property

We have five manses in the Circuit and five presbyters. Owing to one presbyter not requiring accommodation, one manse was let out on a short-term lease. Income from this property goes into the Circuit funds. Due to the relocation of the Superintendent Minister at the end of the year, the tenant vacated the property in July.

Plans for Future Years

The circuit has produced a 5-year plan. This addresses the issues presented by a reducing membership, ageing property and the opportunities presented by the sale of two churches. Over this period, the Circuit will also have to manage the turnover of Presbyteral staff and maintain the required level of lay staff.

The book referred to in the '*Review of the Year*' by Robert Schnase will continue to be used as the basis for developing this plan.

Basis of Preparation and Legal Framework

The Charity's annual report and accounts have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective from 1 January 2015) – the Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

The members of the Trent and Dove Methodist Circuit meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches. Full membership is shown under Objectives & Activities on page 2 of this report.

The Charities full name is:	The Trent & Dove Methodist Circuit
Charity Registration Number:	1133721
Date of Registration:	1st September 2013
Main Point of Contact:	Circuit Office,
Main Point of Contact Address:	Winhill Methodist Church, High Bank Road, Winhill, Burton on Trent, Staffordshire, DE15 0NL
Telephone Number:	01283 337649
Email Address:	office.trentanddove.circuit@gmail.com
<u>Circuit Ministers and Officers</u>	
Active Circuit Ministers:	Rev'd Mike Redshaw (<i>Superintendent</i>)
	Rev'd Lew Greaves (until end of July 2017)
	Rev'd Jimi Kaci
	Rev'd Stella Mills
	Rev'd Sue Preston

Circuit Lay Workers:	Miss Susan Laws
	Mrs Caroline Green
	Mr Jordan Lambert

Circuit Stewards:	Mr Steve Dobson	
	Mrs Denise Hancock	
	Mrs Elizabeth Holmes	
	Mrs Susanna Nickson	
	* Mr Andrew Wooding	
Circuit Meetings Secretary:	Mrs Celia Ryan	
* Financial Steward		
<u>Bankers:</u> HSBC 18 High Street, Burton on Trent Staffordshire, DE14 1JD	<u>Investment Managers:</u> Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church 9 Bonhill Street, London, EC2A 9PE	<u>Custodian Trustees:</u> Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, Central Buildings Oldham Street Manchester, M1 1JQ
<u>Independent Examiner:</u> Whale and Company Holly Berry House, Hamstall Ridware, Rugeley, Staffordshire, WS15 3SQ		

Financial Review

During the year, the Circuit has accounted for total income of £254,471 (2015/16 £242,191) and expenditure of £266,240 (2015/16 £271,097). Income includes a non-recurrent (one off) grant in support of our Schools Worker in Uttoxeter. Without this grant the reported shortfall between income and expenditure of £11,769 would have increased to £23,769. This was planned for and is, in the main, due to the agreed funding from reserves of the Family Worker (£12,500) and Circuit Administrator (£10,640).

The Circuit continues to actively manage its property to minimise cost and maximise return. Three properties are now held as Investment Property as they are no longer required for their original purpose. These are the Chapels at Anslow and Rolleston on Dove along with the manse on Fairfield Road, Uttoxeter. Each of these properties is in the process of being sold, with a replacement manse about to be purchased using some the proceeds.

The Trustees of the Circuit have every reason to believe that the Circuit is a going concern, principally because Churches continue to meet their share requirements and the Circuit holds adequate reserves to cover a shortfall in anticipated income. There are no subsidiary undertakings.

The Circuits main source of income continues to be shares received from the Churches within the Circuit, which in 2016/17 accounted for 74% of its income. (2015/16, 77%)

Circuit income is used, in the main, to fund the stipends and associated costs of Presbyters (4.5 full time equivalents) and salaries and associated costs of lay staff (2.0 full time equivalents). In 2016/17 this accounted for 67% of total expenditure (2015-16, 63%). The balance of expenditure, in the main, is used to support the wider Methodist Church 18% (2015-16, 18%) and the running of the property within the Circuit, 7% (2015-16, 9%).

Investments

To comply with Methodist Standing Orders, monies for long term investment are lodged with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP). TMCP acts as custodian trustee for all real estate held by Circuits and for all large (over £20,000) bequests. These sums are invested in unitised investments or held on deposit.

Short term deposits are lodged with the Central Finance Board (CFB) where they attract interest.

Reserves Level and Policy

The Circuit currently holds significant reserves. At the end of the year (31 August 2017) these were as follows;

<i>Unrestricted</i>	Circuit Model Trust Fund	143,782
	General	<u>83,038</u>
		226,820
<i>Restricted</i>		<u>23,006</u>
Total		<u>249,826</u>

However, it is not the policy to hold such significant reserves and the Circuit has produced a five-year plan which shows how they are planned to be utilised and what level of reserves are required over this period. This considers funds received and spent because of planned changes to property held.

Sufficient reserves are therefore held to continue funding those items of expenditure agreed by the Circuit, namely the Family Worker and the Administrator.

The Circuit will, in the light of known and developing plans, continue to review the reserves held to ensure they are used in the best interest of the Circuit.

Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document for the circuit is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976)

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD).

Day to day management of the circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team along with the Local Preachers meeting.

Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the Circuit, specifically the leaflet 'The Role of a Trustee in The Methodist Church' is made available to all new Circuit meeting members as an induction to their role as trustees.

Related Parties

The Circuit is part of the Nottingham and Derby District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The Circuit is comprised of the following Methodist Churches:

Barton under Needwood Methodist Church

Boylestone Methodist Church

Church Broughton Methodist Church

Draycott in the Clay Methodist Church

Etwall Methodist Church

Hatton Methodist Church

Hilton Methodist Church

Short Street Methodist Church

Stanton Methodist Church

Stretton Methodist Church

St Thomas's Methodist Church

Stubwood Methodist Church

Uttoxeter Methodist Church

Winhill Methodist Church

Woodmill (St Paul's) Methodist Church

Risk Management

The major risk to the circuit and its churches remains one of an ageing congregation and reducing membership coupled with rising costs and increased property expenditure. It remains therefore that finding new ways to increase membership, coupled with excellent stewardship of finances and resources continues to be of paramount importance not only at circuit level but also in the churches themselves.

Income and Expenditure is being monitored in total and is compared with the approved annual budget on a quarterly basis to detect trends as part of the risk management process to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults
- the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
- We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.
- We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- In all these principles, we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice

The Trent and Dove Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.

The Trent and Dove Circuit also commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

Summary

The mission of the circuit has continued through the leadership of our dedicated ministers, lay employee and those appointed, on a voluntary basis, to the many and varied offices. Challenging times lie ahead as discussions and plans are mapped out for the next five years of our Circuit life. We pray that the Holy Spirit will guide and direct us in our thoughts, words and deeds.

Approvals

The Trustees' Report was approved by the Circuit Meeting, held on

Date:

at

Methodist Church

Chair of Circuit Meeting

Secretary to the Circuit Meeting