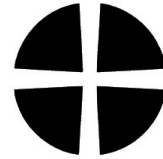


The **Methodist** Church

Middlesbrough & Eston Circuit



Trustees Annual Report For the Period 1st February 2010 – 31st August 2010

REFERENCE & ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

Charity Name:	Middlesbrough & Eston Methodist Circuit
Registered Charity Number:	1133911
Charity's Principal Address:	Circuit Office Nunthorpe Methodist Church Connaught Road Nunthorpe Middlesbrough TS7 0BP
Tel:	01642 323924
Email:	officeatcircmeth@btconnect.com
Website:	www.middlesbroughandestonmethodistcircuit.org.uk
Auditors:	Leonard Bye, Chartered Accountants, 2 Romanby Court, High Street, Northallerton, North Yorkshire DL7 8PG
Bankers:	HSBC, 60 Albert Road, Middlesbrough TS1 IRS

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

The Middlesbrough & Eston Methodist Circuit forms part of the Darlington District of the Methodist Church (Registered Charity No: 1133814).

The Governing Documents are the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976)

With effect from 1st February 2010 the Middlesbrough & Eston Methodist Circuit was registered as a Charity with the Charity Commission - Registration number 1133911.

The trustees of the Circuit meet regularly, at least 3 times each year, in the Circuit Meeting. This is the ultimate decision-making body of the Circuit, operating under the terms of Methodist Standing Orders. During the period covered by this report the Circuit Meeting met on 18th March 2010 and 25th May 2010.

The trustees of the Circuit are either ex-officio or appointed by the Church Council of one of the ten Methodist Churches which make up the Circuit.

An 'Executive Committee', known as the Circuit Mission & Development Team, meets between meetings of the Trustees. It is made up of the 11 Ministers and Stewards of the Circuit.

The Trustees are:

Trustee Name	Office	Appointed By
Mr Alan Baines		Normanby Methodist Church Council
Mrs Joan Bennison		Grove Hill Methodist Church Council
Mrs Jean Bird		Eston Grange Methodist Church Council
Mrs Maureen Borley		Eston Grange Methodist Church Council
Mrs Kay Braithwaite	Circuit Steward	Ex-Officio
Mrs Cynthia Brennan		Grove Hill Methodist Church Council
Miss Barbara Brown		Avenue Methodist Church Council
Mrs Celia Butler		Circuit Local Preachers' Meeting
Mr David Bye		Avenue Methodist Church Council
Mrs Liz Cammish		Normanby Methodist Church Council
Mrs Norma Carling		Linthorpe Rd Methodist Church Council
Mrs Pat Carter		Trinity Methodist Church Council
Ms Julie Chapman	Lay Employee	Ex-Officio
Mr Brian Coldwell		Ex-Officio
Mr Matt Conant	Lay Employee	Ex-Officio
Mr Ray Counter		Stainton Methodist Church Council
Mrs Sybil Crowder		Marton Methodist Church Council
Mrs Sandra Daniels	Secretary	Ex-Officio
Miss Eileen Davison		Ex-Officio
Mrs Lesley Duffield		Trinity Methodist Church Council
Mr Mike Ellis		Ex-Officio
Mr Douglas Emms		Linthorpe Rd Methodist Church Council
Mr Ron Foster		Trinity Methodist Church Council
Mrs Denise Gibson		Ex-Officio
Mr Doug Gibson		Grove Hill Methodist Church Council
Deacon Jane Gibson	Minister	Ex-Officio
Mr Brian Glover		Marton Methodist Church Council
Rev Sue Greenwood	Minister	Ex-Officio
Mr Albert Hall		Ormesby Methodist Church Council
Mrs Audrey Hall		Normanby Methodist Church Council
Mrs Linda Harkins	Lay Employee	Ex-Officio
Mrs Dawn Harris		Grove Hill Methodist Church Council

Mr John Harris (<i>From May 2010</i>)		Grove Hill Methodist Church Council
Mrs Joyce Hill		Ormesby Methodist Church Council
Mrs Marjorie Hodge		Ormesby Methodist Church Council
Mrs Jennifer Hopkins (<i>To May 2010</i>)		Trinity Methodist Church Council
Mr Vic Horsley		Ex-Officio
Mrs Dorothy Hudson		Marton Methodist Church Council
Mr Keith Johnson		Normanby Methodist Church Council
Rev Len Karn		Ex-Officio
Mrs Florrie King		Ormesby Methodist Church Council
Mr Martyn Laverick		Ex-Officio
Rev Lawrence Law	Minister	Ex-Officio
Mrs Hayley Liversidge	Lay Employee	Ex-Officio
Mrs Sharon-Kay Kuen Loveridge		Avenue Methodist Church Council
Mr Jim McAllister		Nunthorpe Methodist Church Council
Mr Ron Mapplebeck		Avenue Methodist Church Council
Mr Nigel Marsh	Circuit Steward	Ex-Officio
Mr John Martin		Avenue Methodist Church Council
Mrs Pat Martin	Circuit Steward	Ex-Officio
Mrs Liz Milburn		Ex-Officio
Rev Rosemary Nash	Minister	Ex-Officio
Mr Jim Neesam	Circuit Steward	Ex-Officio
Mrs Kath Newton		Linthorpe Rd Methodist Church Council
Mr Bernard Nixon	Circuit Steward	Ex-Officio
Mrs Denise Nixon (<i>From May 2010</i>)		Trinity Methodist Church Council
Mrs Jean Parker		Eston Grange Methodist Church Council
Mr John Parratt		Ex-Officio
Mr Geoff Payne		Nunthorpe Methodist Church Council
Mrs Dorothy Pearson		Marton Methodist Church Council
Mr Ron Preece	Treasurer	Ex-Officio
Mrs Lilian Pryde		Eston Grange Methodist Church Council
Rev Dr Martin Ramsden	Superintendent Minister, Chair	Ex-Officio
Rev Sarah Ramsden		Ex-Officio
Mrs Ingrid Robinson		Trinity Methodist Church Council
Mr Walter Severs		Eston Grange Methodist Church Council
Mrs Celia Shires		Normanby Methodist Church Council
Mrs Joan Sivills		Ex-Officio
Mrs Anne Smith		Trinity Methodist Church Council
Mrs Kath Smithies		Ex-Officio
Rev Huw Sperring	Minister	Ex-Officio
Miss Claire Tate		Stainton Methodist Church Council
Mr John Wilkinson		Nunthorpe Methodist Church Council

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Middlesbrough & Eston Methodist Circuit and which will enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church and the Charities Act 1993. They are also responsible for taking reasonable steps to safeguard the assets of the charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Risk Management

The risks facing the circuit include:

- Loss of or damage to buildings. This risk is addressed through insurance cover.
- Injury to staff, members of the Circuit and members of the general public while on Methodist Church premises or carrying out business of the Circuit. This is addressed through insurance cover.
- Legal and reputational risks associated with working with children. This is addressed by the Circuit's 'Safeguarding' Policy.
- Financial Loss which is addressed through appropriate financial controls and procedures.

Sources of funds

Funds are obtained in a number of ways:

- The Methodist Churches contribute from their weekly offerings – known as the Assessment;
- Grants from other bodies towards the work. These include: The Methodist Church in Hong Kong, The Methodist Church Fund for World Mission, The Darlington District of the Methodist Church;
- Income from renting out a Manse.

Investment Policy

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

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the Circuit Meeting to maintain a basic balance in the reserve of £75,000.

Related Parties

The Middlesbrough & Eston Methodist Circuit maintains close links with:

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

The Middlesbrough & Eston Methodist Circuit Youth Works Project (Registered charity no: 1125645);

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

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

OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

Charitable objects:

The purposes of the Methodist Church are the advancement of -

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

Our Circuit Mission:

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

Our Circuit Vision:

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

The Middlesbrough and Eston Methodist Circuit seeks to be a connected community united in Christ to pursue our common mission. We are dependent on God's grace and dedicated to God's service. We seek to nurture Christian discipleship which can take root, develop and flourish. We seek to share our stories of God's love with others in the hope that they too will come to faith. We seek to show Christian love in action in the hope that the vulnerable will grow stronger and that the poor will be helped. We aim to be passionately committed to:

- God centred worship which is biblically based, doctrinally sound, culturally relevant and accessible to all
- Underpinning our sense of mission with a strong commitment to prayerfulness
- Life-long learning as a fundamental element of our common vocation as disciples of Jesus
- Mutual support, encouragement and care
- Showing God's love for society through practical acts of service
- Sharing our faith with others – always with gentleness and respect
- Helping others to grow in their Christian discipleship.

Our Circuit Strategy:

1. Encourage each church to adopt the Circuit's mission statement as their own and to develop their own vision, strategy and three year action plan that is rooted in this mission and in the needs of each local context. It is hoped that each local vision statement will begin with the phrase 'As part of the Middlesbrough and Eston Methodist Circuit Methodist Church will ...'
2. Enable Circuit outreach projects and partnerships to grow and develop by resourcing and encouraging prayerful, financial and practical support and providing opportunities for everyone to become involved
3. Actively seek to work ecumenically whenever possible
4. Co-ordinate training programmes in order that everyone may feel supported as they grow in their service of God
5. Encourage and train churches to develop their work with children and young people – to reach out to them where they are and nurture them in their faith and discipleship
6. Develop mechanisms to ensure that workers within the church (lay/ordained – paid/voluntary) feel well supported, valued and cared for
7. Continue to raise funds through Churches' Offerings to the Circuit (also known as Assessments) and through applications to other sources in order that the Circuit's mission can be fulfilled effectively
8. Provide resources for effective and efficient administration to serve the Circuit
9. Ensure good communication of Circuit work and concerns to both church and the wider community
10. Work to ensure that the work of the Circuit is informed by and responsive to the concerns and needs of the wider community
11. Continue to encourage innovation in expressions of worship, discipleship, fellowship, service to the wider community and evangelism
12. Wherever possible, support churches as they seek to develop buildings in order to make them more effective resources for worship, outreach and community service.
13. Support all groups that exist to nurture faith, fellowship, outreach and community service.

Review of the Year's activities:

2009/10 Action Plan Report

Action	When	Progress Made
Evaluate the effectiveness of the circuit review process and procedure in order to record lessons learnt to assist the next review in 2011 – 2012.	June/July 2009	The Circuit Review Team met to evaluate the process and record lessons learnt. An evaluation document has been prepared which is available for reference when reviews take place in the future. The conclusions of this document are enclosed with these reports
Focus on Circuit Leadership Structures in order to continue or form the following groups:	September 2009	Achieved
Circuit Finance Team (to assist the Circuit Stewards in the preparation, communication; agreement and management of the Circuit annual budget);	September 2009	Achieved
Circuit Property and Policies Team (to assist the Circuit Stewards in coordinating the planned maintenance of manses, overseeing quinquennial review and other schedules and developing generic policies {e.g. risk assessments} to assist the work of mission in each local place);	September 2009	Achieved
Circuit Communications Team (to assist the Circuit Stewards in coordinating mechanisms and processes to ensure effective communication both within the circuit and beyond);	September 2009	Achieved
Circuit Training Team (to assist the Circuit Stewards in coordinating the delivery of suitable training programmes in accordance with the Circuit Action Plan and in response to specific needs which may be identified at any given time);	September 2009	Achieved Name subsequently changed at Circuit Meeting in March. The team is now 'The Learning and Development Team'
Form and establish a Circuit Mission and Development Team (CMDT) which should consist of the ordained staff, any probationers and the circuit stewards. This team will replace the present Circuit Leadership Team. It will be the role of the CMDT to oversee the development of the Circuit's life in accordance with the Circuit mission, vision, strategy and action plan. The CMDT should evaluate progress each year, report this progress to the June Circuit Meeting and recommend detailed action plans for each successive year to be approved by the June Circuit Meeting.	September 2009	Achieved.

Action	When	Progress Made
Re-establish coordinated approach to Children's ministry across the circuit.	Autumn 2009	This has been addressed but developments were slow to begin. This was not achieved in accordance with the original timescale but a Children's, Young People's and Families' Work Consultation took place on 22 nd May 2010.
Focus on developing each church's policies with respect to church life and mission. Each church to be encouraged to adopt the Circuit's mission statement and develop their own vision, strategy and action plan in the light of this.	Church strategy documents to be in place by June 2010.	Work has taken place on this in varying degrees and in different ways all around the Circuit. Each church submitted a written report of progress made so far as part of the Circuit Meeting papers.
Training focus on mission/community audits to inform each church's thinking with respect to planning for the development of church life and mission and to develop confidence in sharing the faith with others.	To begin in autumn 2009 and continue to June 2010	Partially achieved
Support project based outreach ministries through management and support committees, especially in training paid staff and volunteers.	To begin in autumn 2009.	Achieved. Each project has a management support committee which reports to the Circuit Meeting. The projects are: Methodist Asylum Project (MAP) Youth Works Families Outreach Project.
Focus on increasing awareness of project based ministries and partnerships (eg. Live at Home, Kara) to be achieved through MEMO; Circuit Prayer Diary; Rota for project co-ordinators each to contribute to Sunday worship once a quarter until all churches have seen each project co-ordinator; consider developing a 'special Sundays' calendar so everyone has opportunity to think about and pray for the work of each project each year.	To begin in autumn 2009.	Circuit Prayer Diary is produced each quarter. Disappointingly, this has not happened for the June-August edition of MEMO but normal service will be restored in September. Project co-ordinators have contributed to worship services each quarter this year. This has been particularly successful. Special Sundays Calendar has not yet been implemented. This will be a development in 2010/11
CMDT to review and respond to business plans and annual reports from project based ministries.	To begin in autumn 2009.	This has happened through the year with regular reports received from all projects.
Establish Management and Support Committee for Families Outreach Project. (Other Projects already have this in place)	September 2009	Achieved This project has reported regularly to the Circuit Meeting.
Circuit wide audit of CRBs and safeguarding policies.	Spring 2010	Achieved by August 2010.

Action	When	Progress Made
Explore continuation funding for MEMCRASP (if necessary), Youth Works and diaconate ministry.	To begin in summer 2009 and continue to June 2010	Funding secured for MAP. Youth Works funding is in process of being applied for. Connexional grant in partial support of diaconate ministry has been offered. However, Circuit Meeting decided that, in view of significant challenges to Circuit finances it would not be possible to continue this work.
Review financial provision for the work of the Circuit Office and ensure adequate provision	November 2009	Achieved Demand on the Circuit Office is constantly being monitored. The provision for the work of the Circuit Office may need to increase as demand increases.
Increase awareness of the financial demands upon the circuit through MEMO, speaking at services, involving church treasurers earlier in the Circuit's budgeting processes.	To begin in autumn 2009.	Achieved There seems to have been a real benefit from closer working with church treasurers.
Following Conference 2009, review appointment of Rev. Martin Ramsden with recommendations to be made to Circuit Meeting in September 2009.	June 2009 to September 2009	Achieved Circuit Meeting extended Rev. Martin Ramsden's appointment to August 2015.
Report progress against the Action Plan in June to Circuit Meeting and agree the Action Plan for the coming year.	June 2010	Achieved
Circuit Service to celebrate the work of God during the past year.	July 2010	Took place on 27 th June 2010
Arrange Circuit social gathering.	July 2010	Took place on 3 rd July 2010