



# The Methodist Church

## LIVERPOOL DISTRICT METHODIST CHURCH

### TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2010

Registered Charity No 1134011  
49 Queens Drive  
Liverpool  
L18 2DT

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## 1 REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

Charity Name	<b>Liverpool District Methodist Church</b>
Registered Number	<b>1134011</b>
Principal Address	<b>49 Queens Drive Liverpool L18 2DT</b>
E-mail	<b><u><a href="mailto:mail@liverpoolmethodistdistrict.org.uk">mail@liverpoolmethodistdistrict.org.uk</a></u></b>
Web Site	<b><u><a href="http://www.liverpoolmethodistdistrict.org.uk">www.liverpoolmethodistdistrict.org.uk</a></u></b>

### Charity Trustees who served in the year

#### **The Resourcing Mission Group**

##### ***Ex Officio***

The Chair of District	The Revd James A Booth
The Deputy Chair of District	The Revd Martin Abrams
The Secretary of the Synod	Ms Phillipa Sudlow
The Secretary of the Ministerial Synod	The Revd Melvyn J Kelly
Secretary to Resourcing Mission Group	Mrs Elizabeth Hudson
The District Development Enabler	The Revd Rodney Hill
The District Treasurer for the Methodist Church Fund	Mr David K Smith
The District Grants Secretary	The Revd Michael A Neal
The District Property Secretary	Mr Ralph W Dransfield
District Lay Stationing Representative	Mr Iain S A Henderson
One District Ecumenical Officer	To be appointed
The District Safeguarding Officer	Mrs Ann Taylor
District Representative to the Methodist Council	Mr Stephen Cooper

#### ***And three Elected Representatives from each of the four Area Consultations***

Wirral Area	Mr Stephen H Cooper The Revd Dr J Peter F Levitt Mr Barry Natton
East Area	The Revd Dr Geoffrey Farthing To be appointed Miss D Wendy Ross-Barker
Liverpool Area	Mrs Nicola Langton-Miller Mr Andrew Lovelady The Revd Keith Parr
North Area	The Revd Peter A Knight The Revd Michael Tindsley

## **2 STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

### **2.1 Description of the charity's trusts**

#### **Type of governing document**

Deed Of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976)

#### **How the charity is constituted**

Act of Parliament

#### **Trustee selection methods**

Appointed by area consultations, district synod and existing trustees

### **2.2 Additional governance issues**

#### **Induction/Training**

Range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion, including a leaflet 'The Role of a Trustee in The Methodist Church' given to each trustee.

#### **Structure**

Accountable to the Methodist Conference.

#### **Related Parties**

None

#### **Risks**

- Considered by the Resourcing Mission Group.
- Take professional advice as required.
- Regular review process.
- Adopted Safeguarding Policy and ensured it is rolled out to the circuits and churches.

### **3 OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

#### **3.1 Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document**

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

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

#### **3.2 Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects**

- The District supports the activities of the churches and circuits within the Liverpool District by provision of various support services including training, development and evangelism.
- The District administers an ecumenical project to develop and facilitate Church Action on Sexual Abuse Issues (CASAI).
- The District supports the provision of a chaplaincy service to the universities in Liverpool.

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

#### **3.3 Additional details of objectives and activities**

The District Model Trust Fund had a balance at the year end of £177,605. This fund derives from sales of chapels and manses and is restricted by the Conference. This restriction is an internal regulation though the fund can be used for a variety of purposes. The District Grants Committee has drawn up a set of ground rules, which have been accepted by the Resourcing Mission Group to ensure grants made from the District Model Trust Fund are used effectively for mission and capital works. The fund has commitments amounting to £172,578 to be paid over the next five years.

## **4 ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

### **4.1 Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

#### **4.1.1 District Policy Document**

This is reviewed annually (at the Spring Resourcing Mission Group Meeting) and updated as required to reflect the current structure and aspirations of the District.

#### **4.1.2 Resourcing Mission Group**

Following a request by the Superintendents meeting, RMG reconsidered its purpose, constitution and composition at a meeting on 20 July 2010. In response to the request that RMG involves more people, RMG proposes that it reinstates the Area Consultations as a means to regaining communication between RMG, the District and the Circuits (as previously employed). This would enable greater opportunity for sharing information and experiences about mission and provide a platform for sharing discussion and consultation papers from Conference.

#### **4.1.3 Regrouping for Mission: Mapping a Way Forward**

The District is taking part in the process of reviewing the configuration of the North West Districts, viz: Cumbria, Lancashire, Liverpool, Manchester & Stockport, Bolton & Rochdale, Chester & Stoke-on-Trent and Isle of Man. The review was set up early in 2009 at the request of the North West District Chairs, as one of them was not seeking re-invitation in 2011. The Methodist Conference 2010 received the Report of the initial review group, and set up a working party to further consider options and to report to Conference 2011. The review takes place in the context of:

- 'Regrouping for Mission: Mapping a Way Forward', which is leading to the creation of new, bigger circuits some of which cross current boundaries and have an effect on the operation of districts.
- the need to act professionally and respond effectively to the demands of outside agencies and to work within the requirements of national legislation
- the increasing burden placed on volunteer office holders due to both of the above
- the need to free ordained and lay people for ministry and mission

#### **4.1.4 CASAI Project:**

It wasn't a typical year for CASAI in the sense that the lone worker concentrated more on networking and training/development needs but not as much as working on individuals as in other years. However she did still see 12-15 individuals extra on a one to one basis and 32 individuals monthly/bi monthly depending on their work commitments. Another group began in the year making a total of 3 ongoing support groups covering Warrington (latest), Liverpool and Wirral. Two of these groups are self facilitated but ongoing supervision and support is provided by the development worker. During this year CASAI worker developed links with the following organisations:

- Methodist Linacre Mission
- RASA Centre in Earlestown
- Bethlehem Catholic Group
- Justice and Peace Catholic Group
- Cafod
- Salvation Army in Warrington
- Chaplain for Golden Square Shopping Mall in Warrington
- CAFCASS in Liverpool
- Cheshire Therapy Centre
- St Helens domestic Violence Group
- Liverpool/Bootle/Wigan Social Services
- Barnardos in Liverpool

- Chaste

#### **4.1.5 Property and Resources**

One of the more significant changes in the way Methodism deals with its property issues has taken place this last year, with the change from a paper-based “approval” to an on-line “consent” for projects. Liverpool has been “live” with the new system since last autumn and those who have used the website have given positive responses. Whilst it was anticipated that training in its use might have been required, without exception it has been found that the website and “help” pages have been extremely user-friendly. All churches that are contemplating work to their property have to use the system, and will find its use assists them in the process of implementing their scheme. Schemes with sales and leases still involve TMCP; schemes involving Listed Buildings and Conservation areas still involve RMO, but both are via the website. The files for each church are a valuable document of the history of work to the church and continue to be available for reference.

#### **4.1.6 Manses Report**

Many thanks to all of you involved in caring for and maintaining manses. This year six manses have been inspected and the District has arranged twelve manse visits. Forms for quinquennial inspections are now to be downloaded from the Methodist Church website and in this year ten manses are due to have their quinquennial inspection. Five Manses are due to be visited this year – many thanks to the manse visitors who travel around the District and take this responsibility very seriously. If there are any circuits where you are unsure of the procedure for leasing a manse, please get in touch with me and I will explain the system.

#### **4.1.7 Report of District Archivist**

This has been a busy time ensuring that all the documents etc. relating to the four Wirral Circuits (which have been amalgamated into one) are preserved. These are no longer in current use as the new Circuit has started fresh minute books etc. There are still some outstanding and I should be glad to receive these as soon as possible. There is something like 400 entries on the computer relating to Methodism in the Wirral Archives, which are situated in the former Cheshire Lines building in Birkenhead. Items can be looked up on the Computer and their location is provided and they are thus readily available for any reader to consult. Items still keep coming in from Liverpool Circuits.

#### **4.1.8 Connexional Grants**

The District has not received any applications for Connexional Grants. All monitoring and evaluation reports for term grants have been received and forwarded to the Connexional Officers.

#### **4.1.9 Certificate of Property Accounts and Investments**

Standard Forms of Accounts for excepted charities within the District were displayed at the District Synod on 24 April 2010, where they were deemed to be incorporated into the Synod Agenda.

#### **4.1.10 Safeguarding (Children and Vulnerable Adults)**

This year there has been an increase in internet & communication technology related allegations within churches, it is a concern we need to be aware of and keep church computers as safe as possible. We continue to meet with our ecumenical partners under CTMR, and we are looking at how much training we can do together, with the possibility of a session on Safer Recruitment. This year we have had input from ‘Sanctuary’ (they provide training for supporting sex offenders) and more recently the Liverpool Local Safeguarding Children’s Board (LSCB). They too are listening to how they can respond to the voluntary sector and offer training and support – even if you do not live within their LA. Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) through the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA)

is expected to begin the process of registration and the CRB forms will change. As always, there is the on-going reminder to report any issue to the District Safeguarding Officer.

#### **4.1.11 Training and Development**

There have been two main areas for training in this year. The first has been developing and delivering Training the Trainers courses as part of the Creating Safer Space training agenda. This new Connexional Safeguarding training will be rolled out across the District by a team of volunteer trainers and local chaplains supported by the District team. Throughout the coming year we will continue to train up tutors, provide Module A training for presbyters and deacons, support the delivery of the new Creating Safer Space Modules and provide information and training on other Safeguarding developments.

The second major focus has been EDEV (Extending Discipleship Exploring Vocation). Two successful groups are currently running in the District using the regional Inspiring Discipleship material. These groups have a particular focus on exploring full time ministry in a Church context. The Inspiring Discipleship material is not restricted to this and so facilitator training will take place in the summer for those wishing to be involved in the running of the course. This will allow a wider range of people from across the District to be part of a group. Other EDEV activities coming up include a Film Club to be launched shortly. This will provide a series of discussion questions for films with a Discipleship or Vocation theme and copy of the film. A one off Book Club event will also take place as part of Adult Learners week. This will include support for those wanting to include faith based literature in established book clubs and tips for those looking to set up book clubs. Support for the Disciple material has been provided this year with people attending a regional training day and the joint circuit delivery of Disciple courses. In the near future we hope to provide support for the delivery of Disciple 2.

A booklet has been produced in the region outlining a number of resources available to support Discipleship in a local church. Over the past few months a number of networks have been developed to support the delivery of training for Youth and Children's workers. As a result, CORE skills courses for children's workers will run in conjunction with the Anglican Diocese.

#### **4.1.12 District Ministries Panel**

The District Candidates Committee met to interview two candidates. Both candidates were successful and proceed to the Connexional Candidates Committee.

#### **4.1.13 Sabbaticals Advisory Group**

The District Sabbaticals Advisory Group met and brought their information up to date. All ministers due for sabbaticals have been contacted and relevant information and support offered.

#### **4.1.14 MHA District News:**

We are grateful for the continuing work of volunteers and supporters in the District. There is a vacancy for a District Representative. MHA is working in partnership with Helena Living to provide care and support at Heald Farm Court in Newton-le-Willows. The scheme offers 2- bedroom apartments and bungalows, centred around communal and leisure facilities, for rent, shared ownership and purchase.

#### **4.1.15 Action for Children Report**

Many in the Liverpool District celebrated the 140th anniversary of Action for Children during the last year. Presently there are the following projects in the Liverpool District:

- Liverpool Family Support Services
- Liverpool Family Centre
- Knowsley Family Intervention

- St Helens Family Intervention
- Wirral Local Step Out For Children Walks

This year, Action for Children is hoping for more people than ever before to take part in Step Out for Children sponsored walks. Church groups, friends and family can get together for a spot of exercise, a great day out and help change a child's life for good.

#### **4.1.16 Network Report**

In the last year about 25 of our members spent a weekend in Lytham, in fellowship and friendship with members of Network in the North Lancashire District. At the annual District Day in April, our speaker was Mrs Jill Baker, Unit Correspondent of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Women. Network is considering new ways of working more closely with WFMUW and possibly joining together in the future. In October a new District President was inducted and welcomed. Last year's project raised £9,900 for the All Saints Community in Nassau Bahamas which the Revd Eddie Sykes is helping to organise. We are now concentrating on a Home Project raising money to help to build a community centre or library at Nutgrove School. Unable to appoint a new secretary, we have now formed a Joint Secretarial Group. This is a new venture, which we pray will be a success.

## **5 FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **5.1 Financial Overview**

The accounts show, overall, net outgoing resources of £29,673 (2009 – outgoing of £39,541) and net gains on manse and investment assets of £8,057 (2009 – losses of £9,106), resulting in cumulative total funds of £863,857 (2009 - £885,473). The General Fund is the District's unrestricted fund and is split into the four designated accounts being General, Training and Reserve, Mission and Resources Bookshop. The Resources Bookshop ceased during the year with the balance transferred to Training and Reserve. These funds cumulatively show outgoing resources of £23,030 (2009 - £47,417) and transfer in from the District Advance fund of £25,710 (2009 - £18,802).

### **5.2 Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

The District Reserves policy relates to our general (unrestricted) funds which are freely available to be used for any or all of the purposes of the District.

#### **Aims**

- (1) To secure and sustain the District's viability and future.
- (2) To give reassurance to the general public that the District, which is a charity, intends to use all of the money coming into its care for the purposes of the charity.

#### **Financial plans**

The District assessment is reviewed annually and covers the costs of supporting the Chair and the various committees and organisations of the District, the costs of various ecumenical subscriptions and levies and the grant funding of certain projects of primary importance to the overall work of the District. In addition designated funds exist for training and mission.

#### **General Fund (Unrestricted)**

The reserves policy is to hold at least six months expenditure in hand. Based on the proposed budget for 2011/12 these reserves are believed to be reasonable and a balanced budget is proposed. The amounts designated for Training and Mission are felt to be appropriate in respect of planned expenditure in the next year.

#### **District Model Trust Fund (Restricted)**

This fund provides grants to circuits and churches to engage in mission and property schemes. The balance at 31 August 2010 of £177,605 has commitments to the value of £172,578 to be paid over the next five years. The remaining balance will be utilised in 2010/11.

#### **Restricted Funds**

The Overseas Students Development fund provides grants to international students studying in Liverpool who face financial hardship. The committed amount is a capital amount invested to provide income to support the purposes of the fund. The balance on the fund has reduced in the last year and further income is required to meet likely commitments. The CASAI project is an ongoing project which is under funded and in urgent need of higher reserves which are actively being sought. The benevolent fund has restricted purposes and lies at the sole funding discretion of the District Chair.

#### **Details of any funds materially in deficit**

There are none.

**6 DECLARATION**

**The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.**

**Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees**

**Signature(s)**

**JAMES A BOOTH  
(District Chair)**

**PHILLIPA SUDLOW  
(Secretary)**

**April 2011**