



The Methodist Church

LIVERPOOL DISTRICT METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2011

Registered Charity No 1134011

49 Queens Drive

Liverpool

L18 2DT

mail@liverpoolmethodistdistrict.org.uk

www.liverpoolmethodistdistrict.org.uk

1 REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

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

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	To be appointed
The Secretary of the Synod	Mr Stephen Cooper
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 James Dobson Mr Barry Natton
East Area	The Revd Neil A Stubbens The Revd Stephen L Kingsnorth 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 £207,133. 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 £204,536 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

The Group has met three times during the year. While it was agreed that the constitution and membership did not need revision at the present time, minutes of the meetings are now circulated to all Superintendents, as well as to the Group members. Every effort is being made to re-instate the Area Consultations. The first one will take place on in the Sankey Valley Circuit and all Superintendents are encouraged to enable other groupings, dates and venues to be agreed as soon as possible. The Group gratefully acknowledged the support and contribution of Ms Phillipa Sudlow, as she stood down as secretary of the meeting in July. A new District Training Policy was adopted following the meeting in October and revisions to the Safeguarding Policy are in preparation. During the year, the Group has regrettably endorsed the proposals to close two churches in the St Helens and Prescot circuit: Clock Face and Rainford. A review of the working sub-groups was undertaken during the year and most were found to be functioning effectively. It was agreed that further work is needed to establish the Prayer Group.

4.1.3 Regrouping for Mission: Mapping a Way Forward

The consultation at Leyland suggested that a covenantal relationship be developed between the existing Districts in the North-West. The District, whilst recognising and affirming our covenant within the British Connexion, seeks to develop that further in the context of the North West of England.

4.1.4 CASAI Project:

Another challenging year for the CASAI project and worker with many new disclosures of abuse made following the papal visit to the UK in late 2010. CASAI offered support and distraction to many women during an emotive time. At Christmas, a CASAI project entitled "Roots of Survival", engaged with survivors who have lost children through sexual abuse. CASAI has worked with other church groups in the North West that support survivors of abuse and will continue to develop this as a means to mutual support. The CASAI worker works with 12 people on a regular weekly basis on a one to one basis. Two groups in Warrington (8 members) and in Wirral (7 members) meet regularly with a Liverpool group (3 members) meeting on an infrequent basis. During the year CASAI had direct contact with over 230 people who had been abused across the full range of denominations and faiths. Conferences, presentations and consultancy work continue to develop.

4.1.5 Property and Resources

During the last year 26 property schemes were given consent – a similar range of projects to that of the previous year but with an increase in the number of sales. The Resourcing Mission office in Manchester is in the process of updating all the technical guidance and information sheets which are on the Methodist website – a forthcoming issue of "Property Points" will highlight those which are now available. The "Hope in God's Future" report resulted in (among other things) in the formation of a Project Management group investigating carbon footprint reduction and practical ways of saving energy. It is good to be able to report that the Wirral Circuit assisted with an initial study and has agreed to assist with the next phase prior to a scheme "going live" in May. Circuits are reminded that Schedule A's should be with the DPS as soon as possible, together with a copy of those Quinquennial Inspections completed during the year.

4.1.6 Manses Report

Many thanks to all involved in caring for and maintaining manses. This year the District has arranged four manse visits. Ten Manses have had their quinquennial inspections carried out. All the reports seem very satisfactory and no major work needs to be carried out at the present time. Forms for quinquennial inspections are now to be downloaded from the Methodist Church website and next year twelve manses are due to have their quinquennial inspection. Six Manses are due to be visited next year. Many thanks to all the manse visitors who travel around the district making sure all our manses are kept in good order.

4.1.7 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.

4.1.8 Certificate of Property Accounts and Investments

Standard Forms of Accounts for excepted charities within the District were displayed at the District Synod on 9 April 2011, where they were deemed to be incorporated into the Synod Agenda.

4.1.9 Safeguarding (Children and Vulnerable Adults)

The long-awaited new Safeguarding Handbook, replacing the 2003 version, was published by the Connexion in November 2010. Some Circuits have had Child Protection issues that involve statutory authorities and some have sex offenders in congregations. The latter are well managed and have good pastoral care in place. The one issue that has come to light on a number of occasions is the lack of updated policy and procedures in some churches. We are awaiting further developments from Government on Recruitment policy. In the meantime, the Methodist Church recommends that we continue to recruit as before, remembering the references (two) & CRB for all who work with children & Vulnerable Adults when the work that is done targets a particular group of VA. We recommend that each circuit has an additional Safeguarding Officer with particular responsibility for overseeing the safeguarding of vulnerable adults. The ecumenical safeguarding Group, under the Chair of CTMR Rev'd Ian Smith, continues to meet about 4 times a year and is currently looking at what training we can do together. We have, jointly, produced a flyer, showing the many aspects of the work we do, and on Local Safeguarding Children's Boards are able to speak for each other and be sure that the Faith Sector is represented on the Boards.

4.1.10 Training and Development

Supporting the delivery of the Creating Safer Space training agenda has been a major focus of this year. The Connexional Safeguarding training is being 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. A number of significant developments are in the pipeline which will be communicated throughout the summer. Under the EDEV banner a number of initiatives have taken place this year. Currently there are two Inspiring Discipleship groups running in the District using the regional material. A further two will begin before Easter. The regional Film Club material is now available providing a series of discussion questions for films with a Discipleship or Vocation theme. A series of Book Club events will again take place as part of Adult Learners week in May. These 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. Two museums and gallery visits have taken place one to the Liverpool Biennial and one to the International Slavery Museum. These were successful in encouraging people to explore their faith and discipleship in a different way. A third event will be arranged for the summer and be publicised at Celebration of Calling. Regionally a pilot of the London Institute of

Contemporary Christianity's (LICC) Imagine programme has been established. This year long project will look at how this programme works in a Methodist context. Leyland Road, Southport is the church from this District involved. All the Training Officers will be working alongside LICC so that, as well as the Churches developing, the TOs will have an understanding of the process and the skills involved. Training for Youth and Children's workers continues to develop and the region now has a youth and children's strategy document. CORE Skills will run in Garston in the spring and in other areas across the District through the year. As part of the regional strategy this will include the delivery of the additional Special Needs module. those with additional needs. As well as the above a number of other training initiatives have taken place or will take place. The Mission Shaped Ministry course has begun with 20 participants and Vision Days were held through the autumn. Circuit Stewards training also took place in the autumn. Training for small group leaders will take place in the summer and facilitator training in the summer.

4.1.11 District Ministries Panel

The District Candidates Committee met to interview five candidates. Four candidates were unanimously recommended to go forward to the Connexional committee with one not recommended to go forward at this time but asked to develop their calling and come again before the committee in two years.

4.1.12 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.

4.1.13 District Lay Employment

In the last year the district has advised in about 15 different matters. They include recruitment, redundancy, dismissal, circuits joining together and amending terms of employment. The connexional personnel office have assisted a circuit to produce answers to frequently asked questions (by lay employees) arising from the merger of circuits. This relates to the TUPE rules on transferring to a new employer. With regard to good practice, some circuits have one person who looks after lay employment. They build up expertise and the idea seems to work well. The living wage (£7.14 per hour outside London) will be compulsory from September 2011. The connexional web site contains the lay employment advisory information section. It contains all you need to know as well as draft documents to be downloaded and amended to suit.

4.1.14 MHA District News:

Work is progressing on the new development on Aigburth Road, which will provide retirement housing with care. Around 200 older people benefit from the support and friendship offered by the Ellesmere Port and Neston Live at Home Scheme. More volunteers are always welcome to assist with outings and activities. Thank you for the continuing support of representatives throughout the district who raise awareness and valuable funds. Please keep the work of MHA, and all the older people we serve in your prayers.

4.1.15 Action for Children Report

Presently we have the following projects in the Liverpool District. They are –

- Liverpool Family Support Services, Walton: From this centre we run our Knowsley Junior Mentoring Service, Young Runaways Service and our Assessment Service.
- Wirral Parenting, Birkenhead: Parenting support and courses to help parents care for their children and deal with many social issues.

4.1.16 Network Report

In the last year we had two excellent District Days. At Court Hey in October we presented a cheque for £8,760 to the Deputy Head of Nutgrove School, an excellent total for our 2010 project. Our afternoon speaker was unwell, so Dr Jenny Groves came to tell us about the history and present work of the Nixon Memorial Hospital in Sierra Leone, our 2011 Overseas Project. Dr Groves painted a disturbing, heartening picture of being a doctor in a bush hospital. Our money will make such a difference to the working and training of nurses. We had a much appreciated 'Quiet Day' at Loyola Hall in November led by the Revd Ann Hall. We are looking forward to joining with the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Women and becoming 'Methodist Women in Britain'.

5 FINANCIAL REVIEW

5.1 Financial Overview

The accounts show, overall, net incoming resources of £38,311 (2010 – outgoing of £29,673) and net gains on manse and investment assets of £3,508 (2010 – gains of £8,057), resulting in cumulative total funds of £905,676 (2010 - £863,857). The General Fund is the District's unrestricted fund and is split into the three designated accounts being General, Training and Reserve and Mission. These funds cumulatively show incoming resources of £37,697 (2010 – outgoing of £23,030) and transfer out to restricted funds (CASAI project) of £15,116 (2010 transfer in from the District Model Trust fund of £25,710).

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 2012/13 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 2011 of £207,133 has commitments to the value of £204,536 to be paid over the next five years. The remaining balance will be utilised in 2011/12.

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)**

**STEPHEN COOPER
(Secretary)**

April 2012