



**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021
FOR
NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT**

NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

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 the 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 or 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.

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the Circuit has given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing our objectives as set out above.

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the Gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission. We will use the Circuit's resources to:

Increase awareness of God's presence and celebrate God's love;

Help people to grow and learn as Christians through mutual support and care;

Be a good neighbour to people in need and challenge injustice;

Make more followers of Christ.

In all of the above we will seek to work ecumenically wherever possible.

We will follow the Holy Spirit who is calling us to:

LOVE God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength;

LOVE one another, as Jesus loved his followers,;

LOVE all others, even enemies, as God does and;

be DISCIPLES OF JESUS, becoming like Christ, behaving like Christ, bringing others to meet and follow Christ working for GOD'S KINGDOM that God's will be done in the Church, and on earth for all, as it is in heaven.

We seek to put our Mission Statement into action in the following ways:

Resourcing worship in each church, as required, week by week and also by worshipping together as a whole Circuit to celebrate particular special occasions within the Circuit;

Exercising ministry ecumenically with a number of ministerial colleagues from other denominations with whom we are in partnership to varying degrees;

Ensuring a presbyter is part of the chaplaincy team at Bedford Prison, covering one session per week;

Involving Supernumerary (retired) ministers in leading worship and other aspects of Circuit life as far as they wish and as their circumstances permit;

Continuing partnerships with Methodist charities and other agencies and charities;

Supporting chaplaincy within the MHA Care Homes within the Circuit;

Providing regular communication of useful information and links on relevant issues;

Providing practical and prayer support to churches to enable them to resource their local mission.

NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Circuit strategic plan

Following the initial findings of the strategic review which started in the previous connexional year to ensure that the Circuit would be able to continue to carry out its missional objectives in the future, an outline plan was agreed at the Circuit meeting in September 2020. This included a reduction in stationed ministers from seven to five by 1 September 2022.

The meeting also agreed to ensure that all manse continued to be suitable with reference to their location and CPD requirement which would result in buying and selling manse for stationed ministers and renting out those not required for housing those ministers until such time funds were needed to buy a new manse and or house a minister once again.

Following a subsequent review of the manse by the Circuit Stewards, which included commissioning energy efficiency reports where appropriate, it was agreed to sell the Oakley manse and replace it with a brand new build in the Biddenham area and to rent out the Putnoe manse in reaction to stationing requirements for September 2021. It was also accepted that the Kempston manse was permanently surplus to requirement with regards to the housing of ministers and is therefore classed an investment property.

In July 2021 Rev Dalwyn Attwell died leaving Trinity, Beeston and Sandy churches without a minister. It was agreed to go in to stationing for September 2022 for those churches plus Priory church which will need a replacement due to Rev Andrew Hollins leaving the circuit at the end of the 21-22 connexional year.

The sad and untimely death of Rev Dalwyn Attwell meant that the circuit reduced the number of stationed ministers to five by September 2021.

The Strategic Working Group continued to meet during the year and feed back to the Circuit meeting.

Property matters

The Circuit meeting approved a property scheme at Trinity which was to repair the church hall roof. The meeting approved a loan of £2,040 to be repaid on receipt of a VAT refund. They also approved a property scheme at Trinity to resolve issues with the internal wall of the church.

The Circuit meeting approved a property scheme at London Road church to repair the vestibule roof.

The Circuit bought a manse in Biddenham for £549,995 having received loans of £240,000 from two churches within the circuit.

The manse at Shefford, Biggleswade and Coles Close Bedford were deemed to not meet CPD requirements and would therefore be sold by the circuit when funds are required to purchase replacement manse.

Quinquennial inspections were completed on the Oakley, Coles Close and Putnoe manse together with Wilstead and London Road churches.

The Oakley manse was put up for sale once vacated.

Following the energy efficiency review of the Wootton manse the Circuit meeting agreed to ensure it met the minimum requirement of a C rating by approving the fitting of solar panels to its roof.

Covid-19

Despite the changes in legislation in July 2020 regarding the use of church building during the covid pandemic, not all churches were able to arrive at Covid-secure arrangements to re-open their doors for use by the worshipping congregation and/or the general public for external lettings.

Zoom and other similar digital means continued to be used for both circuit and church meetings either exclusively or in a hybrid way, ie some people attending in person whilst others attended via the internet.

Following a rise in covid cases nationally in December 2020 and Bedfordshire being put in to Tier 4, the circuit leadership team took the decision to mandate all churches to cease worship in person. The decision was reversed as the situation improved and churches were once again able to make their own decisions on whether to commence worship in person from April 2021.

Ecumenical Matters

It has continued to explore local ecumenical partnerships at Cardington.

The Superintendent Minister serves as the Methodist District ecumenical officer for Bedfordshire and chairs churches together in Bedfordshire.

Worship

The Circuit continued to encourage churches in the diversity of their worship and helped to resource this through the preaching plan.

NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

The Local Preachers and Worship Leaders Meeting continued to meet regularly, exercising oversight over accredited and trainee Local Preachers, plus commissioned and trainee Worship Leaders.

Safeguarding

The Circuit continued the monitoring of DBS requirements (including renewals) and the delivery of Creating Safer Space training for all appropriate people working with children and vulnerable adults. The District introduced on line training during the year.

A part time safeguarding was employed from 1 November 2020.

Other Circuit matters

The Circuit magazine continued to be published quarterly alongside the quarterly Preaching Plan.

Meetings of Church property stewards and treasurers were held to ensure all churches were supported and informed about their current obligations and responsibilities.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The Mission Resources Mission Stream (MRMS) continued to meet throughout to consider the resourcing issues of matters such as property, finance and human resources including requests from churches and make recommendations to the Circuit meeting where applicable.

The Circuit meeting approved the budget for 20-21 and review and considered draft budgets for the five years up to 24-25. The budgets from 21-22 onwards assumed a significant reduction in circuit assessments (share offers) which were based on conversations had with church treasurers about their expected future finances.

The Circuit meeting approved a reduction in share offer from Trinity and agreed to defer repayment of the loan to Willington church which was due for full repayment by 31 August 2021. Both were due to cash flow issues as a result of Covid.

It also approved the share offers received from churches for the connexional year 21-22 whilst acknowledging that these were significantly reduced from pre pandemic years. It was accepted that the Circuit would therefore need to reduce staffing, as per the strategic plan, and continue to receive rental income on properties no longer required to house ministers.

Principal funding sources

General Fund

The principal source of income for the Circuit is the share offers paid by the Churches. The Circuit continues to have a policy of asking each Church to decide how much they can afford to pay given their own funds and together with the Circuit's financial requirements. Church treasurers meet on at least an annual basis to discuss the issues before making recommendation to their individual church councils. Each church council is asked to agree an amount which is then included in the following year's Circuit budget which is approved by the Circuit meeting. Circuit share offers are due quarterly in advance. Total share offers amounted to £378,306 which is a significant reduction over previous years. This reflects the current state of finances in individual churches which have been, in most cases, significantly negatively impacted by the restrictions imposed by Covid. This situation is unlikely to be reversed in the foreseeable future.

The principal revenue expenditure of the Circuit is the payment of Circuit staff which amounted to £272,747. Whilst Ministers are appointed by the Connexion they are paid for by the Circuit according to rates agreed by Methodist Conference.

Circuit Model Trust Fund (CMTF)

The principal source of income for the Circuit Model Trust Fund is the sale of properties and associated investment income of those resulting funds. There were no such sales in the year.

Total District Levy was £12,234 which will be used to further mission work within the Connexion. This continues to reduce year on year as funds held dwindle.

Grants were awarded out of the Circuit Model Trust Fund (CMTF) as follows:

Grant to Belief for £500. A grant of £150 previously given to an individual to support them in their mission work was returned as the project was cancelled due to Covid.

NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

The Circuit Model Trust Fund (CMTF) has arisen as result of the sale of manse and church buildings no longer required within the Circuit. The use of these funds is determined by CPD and are therefore recognised as being designated funds.

As at 31 August 2021 the fund was in deficit to the amount of £188,671. This deficit has arisen due to the timing of the purchase of the Biddenham manse and the sale of the Oakley manse. The deficit reflects the loans of £240,000 needed due to lack of Circuit monetary funds at the date of completion. It is anticipated that these will be repaid as soon the sale of Oakley is completed which is expected by early 2022. At that point funds will also be transferred to ensure the full cost of the manse purchase is funded from the CMTF. At the year end only £473,775 had been transferred out of the total cost of £556,687 ie a further £82,912 will be transferred when funds become available.

The general reserves policy is to maintain adequate funds to meet the day to day expenditure of the Circuit. This was reviewed during the year and set at a level of six months of general expenditure.

The General Fund as at 31 August 21 amounted to £3,099,433 of which £2,987,349 can only be realised on the sale of fixed assets comprising predominantly of seven manse and one investment property meaning there was £112,084 of funds available to meet the day to day financial requirements of the Circuit. This is equivalent to approximately three months of normal expenditure. The general fund is low this year partly due to the purchase of Biddenham manse which will be funded from the CMTF. However funds were not available to be fully transferred by the year end. Had funds been available in the CMTF to fully fund the purchase of the manse within the current year the general fund would have been £194,996 readily available to meet the day to day needs of the Circuit. This represents five months of general expenditure.

Unrestricted funds also includes £28,000 designated for the manse repair costs where these are over and above expected annual costs. There were no movements on this fund during the year.

FUTURE PLANS

The strategic working group (SWG) continues to meet to consider the strategic plan and offer advice to the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) who reports to the Circuit meeting.

A decision has been taken to cease worship at Wilstead Methodist Church was accepted by the circuit at the September 21 circuit meeting. The Circuit has therefore taken on the responsibility of the building and will be selling in due course. The funds will augment the CMTF.

Several churches are exploring "being church" which includes working with other churches within the Circuit and or ecumenically within their local area.

Meetings are expected to take place within the spring of 2022 between groups of churches to establish how each church is able to continue with its mission and or help others to do that.

A minister has been appointed for stationing from 1 September 2022 to Priory and TSB comprising of Trinity, Sandy and, Beeston. In the meantime the work required in TSB is being covered by the existing ministers within the Circuit.

A new manse in the Biggleswade area is currently being purchased which replaces the Baulk which is currently on the market. Net sale proceeds of the Baulk are expected to exceed the purchase price of the new manse. Any surplus will be used to help fund the purchase of the the Biddenham manse which exceeded the net sale proceeds of the Oakley manse.

The Putnoe manse has now been let. The Kempston manse also continues to be let. there are no immediate plans to sell either of these properties. It is likely that the Coles Close manse will also be let when it becomes vacant in September 2022.

The general fund budget for 21-22 was approved at the September Circuit meeting which anticipated a deficit of £32,441 despite expected rental surpluses of over £27,000. This includes £6,000 for the installation of solar panels on the Wootton manse which will be ultimately funded from the manse designated fund. Budgets prepared for future years, based on estimated circuit assessments, suggest that this trend of deficit budgets is not going to be reversed given the anticipated level of expenditure. However, funds are expected to be received in to the CMTF on the sale of Wilstead church although this may not be for some time.

Having reviewed the existing method of calculating circuit assessment which is through share offers, is expected that a new method will be implemented for amounts due for the connexional year 23-24. Consultations will take place during 21-22.

NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

The North Bedfordshire Methodist Circuit was formed on 1 September 2011 from the merger of the previous Bedford South and Ampthill Circuit, the Biggleswade Circuit and the Bedford North Methodist Circuit. The charity number was carried forward from the old Bedford North Circuit. It is part of the Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire District which in turn is part of the Methodist Connexion in Great Britain whose constitution is governed by an Act of Parliament.

The Circuit is governed by the Deed of Union (1932) and the Methodist Church Act 1976 as amended March 2011.

Overall control of the Circuit rests with the Methodist Conference. The Connexional Office implements decisions made by Conference and is also responsible for the stationing of ministers in individual Circuits. Connexional decisions are passed to the Chair of the District and the appropriate Officers of the District for regional implementation. The District passes the control down to Circuit level for local implementation by the Superintendent Ministers, ministerial staff and Circuit Stewards via the medium of the Circuit Meeting.

The membership of the Circuit Meeting is laid down in the Constitutional Practices and Discipline of the Methodist Church.

Charity constitution

In simple terms the Circuit Meeting is made up of: Circuit Ministers; Circuit Stewards and other office holders undertaking Circuit roles; Circuit lay workers; representatives from the churches within the Circuit (being the church Treasurer, church steward plus one other elected member per 100 members of the church); other Methodist Ministers (including Supernumeraries) residing within the Circuit wishing to take up appointment and Authorised Ministers working with Methodist churches within the Circuit who wish to take up appointment. The voting members of the Circuit meeting are the Managing Trustees of the Circuit.

Certain matters, principally those relating to property issues, must be referred to the District and the Connexional office - through the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP), acting as Custodian Trustees, but most matters are determined by the Circuit meeting itself.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Whilst the appointment of the managing trustees is determined in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church we aim to ensure members of the Circuit Leadership Mission Stream and the Circuit Stewards include a broad range of experience and expertise including pastoral, financial and property matters.

Funds are allocated within the Circuit and also accessed via the District to provide training for ordained and lay members of staff. The District offers training for all new Circuit Stewards.

All members of the Circuit meeting are encouraged to read the leaflet "The Role of a Trustee in the Methodist Church".

Organisational structure

The Circuit Stewards together with the Superintendent Minister, other Ministers and Probationers are responsible for ensuring the decisions of the Circuit meetings are upheld and acted upon.

Both the Circuit Stewards and the Circuit Leadership Team meet on a regular basis to review the work within and/or policies of the Circuit and to make recommendations to the Circuit Meeting. They also have an overview of the Circuit Mission Streams who coordinate the varied aspects of the Circuit's work and are as follows:

The Strategic Working Group meets as directed by the leadership team to review the strategic plan and make recommendations on how to implement it. It is made up of minister and steward representations.

The manse committee meets twice a year. This meeting is responsible for implementing the agreed maintenance programme for the manses and consists of the circuit property and finance stewards and manse stewards and secretaries.

Mission resources mission stream - responsible for the overview and management of all resources including property and finance

Worship mission stream

Evangelism & Discipleship mission stream

Children & Young People's mission stream

Social Action mission stream

The management of the Circuit is supported by paid, part time lay workers who are the administrator/PA to the Superintendent Minister, safe guarding officer and finance officer.

NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

In accordance with the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, the Circuit, through the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT), has carried out a review of our policies. The Circuit has:

- Identified the need to produce a written Health & Safety Policy
- Reviewed its insurance cover and sums insured to ensure they are appropriate for the current environment
- Reviewed and updated (where necessary) the Circuit Safeguarding policy

The Trustees for Methodist Purposes (TMCP)

The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes hold the Circuit's Model Trust Funds. From these funds they deduct a levy, proportional to the funds held, which goes towards the running of the Methodist Church nationally. They act as Custodian Trustees holding the title to the eight properties (Manse) in which the Ministers live. The Circuit, acting as Managing Trustee, is responsible for the day to day management of the properties and has the right and obligations of exercising power or discretion over them.

The individual church buildings are the responsibility of their Church Councils.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1129523

Principal address

c/o Willington Methodist Church
Station Road
Willington
MK44 3QH

NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Trustees

The Circuit Meeting comprises the following trustees and non-voting members

Circuit Ministers

Rev Andrew Hollins - Superintendent Minister and chair of Circuit meetings
Rev Gill Baalham (to 31 August 21)
Rev Caroline Weaver (to 31 August 21)
Rev Lorna Valentine
Rev Silas Wood
Rev Dalwyn Attwell (died 10 July 21)
Rev Michael Giles (from 1 September 20)
Rev Chris Sandy (from 1 September 21)

Circuit Stewards

Michael Carr
Anne Foley (to 23 December 21)
Nicholas Guy
Jane McVey
Alan Davis

Circuit Finance Steward

Suzanne Goodson

Circuit Property Steward

Richard Ward (non voting member)

Circuit Safeguarding Officer

Stephanie Field (appointed 1 November 20 , voting from 23 December 21)

Circuit Meeting Secretary

Mary Millar

Local Preacher Meeting Secretary

Janet Watts

Supernumerary Ministers

Jeremy Arthem
Kathryn Pawlett (to 31 August 21)
Wendy Evans Wood (to 2 July 21)

Methodist Ministers resident in Circuit

Rev Cass Howes
Rev Clive Larrett

District Synod Representatives (DSR)

Margaret Olney
Maryan Pateman
Alison Baalham
Jenny Snelson
Roz Addington

Church Representatives:

Ampthill

Brian Kerr
Patsy Aston
Helen Brooke (to 8 March 21)

Beeston

Sonia Butler

NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

Jennifer Sutcliffe
Cynthia Dent

Clapham

Rosemary Isaacs
Helen Gadsden
Carolyn Maynard

Clophill

Anne Cooper
John Errick
Fraser Wood

Cranfield

Paul Lowe
Stephen Hobbs
Pat Davies

Flitwick

Janet May (died 28/11/20)
Angela Brydon

Haynes

Mervyn Barden
Glennis Barden
Margaret Braybrook

Henlow

Susan Watson
Brenda Ballantine
Pat Larman

Howard Memorial Church (Cardington)

Roz Addington (to 23 May 21)
Brian Addington (to 23 May 21)
Ruth Caves
Ken Oliver (from June 21)

Kempston East

Roger Skipper
Rosemary Simms
Barbara Tipping
Phillip Timms (to 1 May 21)

Kempston West

Peter Smith
Lynda Smith
Jean Prettyman

Langford

Jenny Broadbridge
Gwen Arnott
Stephanie Barker

Lidlington LEP

Tim Mason
Jonathan Peall (Non voting member)
Joseph Peall

London Road

Andrew Constant
John Caves (DSR)
Julie Constant (appointed 1 May 21)

Oakley

Jeanette Letch
Graham Follett
Noel Evans

Park Road

Clive Kirkman
Ruth Johnson
Paul Lowe (appointed 19/10/20)

NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

Priory

Tony Johnson
Carmen Rowe
Keith Gaunt
Liz Little
Lynne Gound

Putnoe Heights

Jenny Snelson
Sue Allen
Andrew Dennison

Sandy

David Germany
Andrea Thorpe
Jane Germany

Sharnbrook

Mike Bonney
David Barnes
Marian Blyth

Shefford

Derek Willows
Mairi Perks
Andi Pepper

Stewartby

Elaine Sullivan
Judy Hemery

Trinity (Biggleswade)

Owen Williams
Hazel Hitch (to 21/10/20)
David Harrison (appointed 21/10/20)
Heather Harrison (appointed 21/10/20)

Upper Caldecote

Paul Cooper (to 1 May 21)
Jan Cooper (to 31 August 21)
Kim Curtis
Jon Payne (from 1 May 21)

Willington

Keith Lilley
Paul Phipp
Jeanette Pearce

Wilstead

Sylvia Chesters (died)
June Cooper (to 14 September 21)
Alan Chesters (to 14 September)

Wootton

David Goodson
Brian Pawlett (to 31 August 21)
Thea Lea

Independent Examiner

Louise Tunley
Institute of Chartered
Steve Monico Limited
19 Goldington Road
Bedford
MK40 3JY

Accountants England & Wales

NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Surveyors

Cube Building Consultancy
Franklin House
2 Steppingley Road
Flitwick
Bedford
MK45 1AJ

Bankers

National Westminster Bank Plc
81 High Street
Bedford

Central Finance Board
9 Bonhill Street
London EC2A 4PE

Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
Central Buildings
Oldham Street
Manchester M1 1JQ

EVENTS SINCE THE END OF THE YEAR

Information relating to events since the end of the year is given in the notes to the financial statements.

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

The Circuit has Endowment Funds which have arisen as a result of bequests in favour of the Circuit. In accordance with Standing Orders these monies are held by TMCP who manage them on its behalf.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 22 June 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

A Hollins - Trustee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A Hollins', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of North Bedfordshire Methodist Circuit

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of North Bedfordshire Methodist Circuit (the Trust) for the year ended 31 August 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of Institute of Chartered Accountants England & 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 Trust 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.

Louise Tunley

Louise Tunley
Institute of Chartered
Steve Monico Limited
19 Goldington Road
Bedford
MK40 3JY

Accountants England & Wales

Date: *24* June 2022

NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	CMTF £	Restricted funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM				
Charitable activities	4			
Work of the Circuit		378,306	-	-
Other trading activities	2	16,259	-	-
Investment income	3	590	879	-
Total		395,155	879	-
EXPENDITURE ON				
Raising funds	5	4,372	-	-
Charitable activities	6			
Work of the Circuit		431,939	13,291	-
Total		436,311	13,291	-
Net gains on investments		178,000	2,577	-
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		136,844	(9,835)	-
Transfers between funds	19	473,775	(473,775)	-
Net movement in funds		610,619	(483,610)	-
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward		2,488,814	294,939	1,321
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		3,099,433	(188,671)	1,321

The notes form part of these financial statements

NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

		Endowment fund £	31.8.21 Total funds £	31.8.20 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM	Notes			
Charitable activities	4			
Work of the Circuit		-	378,306	408,419
Other trading activities	2	-	16,259	23,097
Investment income	3	-	1,469	4,636
Total		-	396,034	436,152
 EXPENDITURE ON				
Raising funds	5	-	4,372	8,831
Charitable activities	6			
Work of the Circuit		-	445,230	438,690
Total		-	449,602	447,521
Net gains/(losses) on investments		2,385	182,962	(485)
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		2,385	129,394	(11,854)
Transfers between funds	19	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		2,385	129,394	(11,854)
 RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward		12,990	2,798,064	2,809,918
 TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>15,375</u>	<u>2,927,458</u>	<u>2,798,064</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT

**BALANCE SHEET
31 AUGUST 2021**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	CMTF £	Restricted funds £
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible assets	13	2,537,349	-	-
Investments				
Investments	14	-	16,613	-
Investment property	15	450,000	-	-
		<u>2,987,349</u>	<u>16,613</u>	<u>-</u>
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	16	18,552	11,413	-
Cash at bank		180,830	23,479	1,321
		<u>199,382</u>	<u>34,892</u>	<u>1,321</u>
CREDITORS				
Amounts falling due within one year	17	(87,298)	(240,176)	-
NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		<u>112,084</u>	<u>(205,284)</u>	<u>1,321</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>3,099,433</u>	<u>(188,671)</u>	<u>1,321</u>
NET ASSETS		<u><u>3,099,433</u></u>	<u><u>(188,671)</u></u>	<u><u>1,321</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

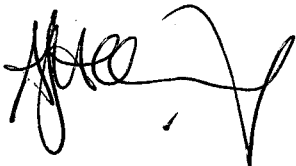
NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT

**BALANCE SHEET - continued
31 AUGUST 2021**

	Notes	Endowment fund £	31.8.21 Total funds £	31.8.20 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible assets	13	-	2,537,349	2,252,662
Investments				
Investments	14	15,375	31,988	27,026
Investment property	15	-	450,000	-
		<u>15,375</u>	<u>3,019,337</u>	<u>2,279,688</u>
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	16	-	29,965	35,534
Cash at bank		-	205,630	580,705
		-	<u>235,595</u>	<u>616,239</u>
CREDITORS				
Amounts falling due within one year	17	-	(327,474)	(97,863)
NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		-	<u>(91,879)</u>	<u>518,376</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>15,375</u>	<u>2,927,458</u>	<u>2,798,064</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>15,375</u>	<u>2,927,458</u>	<u>2,798,064</u>
FUNDS	19			
Unrestricted funds			2,910,762	2,783,753
Restricted funds			1,321	1,321
Endowment funds			15,375	12,990
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>2,927,458</u>	<u>2,798,064</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 22 June 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:

A Hollins - Trustee



S M Goodson FCA - Trustee



The notes form part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

Financial reporting standard 102 - reduced disclosure exemptions

The charity has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemptions in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':

- the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure. Grants for property schemes are recognised when they have been fully approved, it is likely that the schemes will go ahead and the total costs can be estimated with a degree of certainty.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £1,000. They are valued at cost or a reasonable value on receipt. Provision is made for depreciation to ensure the cost less residual value is written off over their useful economic useful lives on a straight line basis.

The useful lives of fixed assets are:

Plant and equipment	4 years
Freehold property	50 years

No depreciation is charged on freehold property as they are maintained to a standard to ensure their residual values exceeds their costs.

Manse are classed as freehold property whilst their intended long term use is to house ministers. They are reclassified as investment properties once a decision has been taken that their use will change on a permanent basis from housing ministers to being rented out to generate income.

NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Investment property

Investment properties are properties which have been identified as unsuitable to house ministers but which the circuit wishes to retain in order to generate income needed to meet the operational requirements of the circuit,

Investment properties are measured at fair value at each reporting date with changes in fair value recognised in 'net gains / (losses) on investments' in the SoFA.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

The Circuit Model Trust Fund has wide purposes defined in Standing Orders and is categorised as unrestricted and is therefore shown as a material designated fund.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

Retirement benefits to presbyters are provided by the Methodist Ministers Pension Scheme (MMPS). This is a defined benefit scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the Circuit.

Presbyters are not legally employed by the Circuit but they are treated as employed by the Methodist Connexion with their total remuneration being charged to the Circuit only whilst they are stationed within it. The MMPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme and the contributions recognised as they are paid each period.

The Circuit operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all other employees. Contributions payable to this are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Debtors and creditors receivable/payable within 1 year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

Judgements

No judgements (apart from those involving estimates) have been made in the process of applying the above accounting policies.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

2.	OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES		31.8.21	31.8.20
			£	£
	Income from photocopying		59	79
	Rental income from manse not required in the short term		16,200	23,018
			<u>16,259</u>	<u>23,097</u>
3.	INVESTMENT INCOME		31.8.21	31.8.20
			£	£
	Dividend income		499	545
	Deposit account interest		970	4,091
			<u>1,469</u>	<u>4,636</u>
4.	INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES		31.8.21	31.8.20
			£	£
	Circuit share offers	Activity Work of the Circuit	378,306	408,419
5.	RAISING FUNDS			
	Other trading activities		31.8.21	31.8.20
			£	£
	Costs associated with letting out the manse		<u>4,372</u>	<u>8,831</u>
6.	CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS			
		Grant funding of activities (see note 7)	Support costs (see note 8)	Totals
		Direct Costs		
		£	£	£
	Work of the Circuit	<u>443,020</u>	<u>350</u>	<u>1,860</u>
7.	GRANTS PAYABLE		31.8.21	31.8.20
			£	£
	Work of the Circuit		<u>350</u>	<u>710</u>
	The total grants paid to institutions during the year was as follows:		31.8.21	31.8.20
			£	£
	Property schemes		-	860
	Other external grants		500	-
	Mission		-	(300)
			<u>500</u>	<u>560</u>

NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

7. GRANTS PAYABLE - continued

Grants are paid out of the Circuit Model Trust Fund.

8. SUPPORT COSTS

		Governance costs £
Work of the Circuit		<u>1,860</u>

9. AUDITORS' REMUNERATION

	31.8.21	31.8.20
	£	£
Independent Examiner's fee	<u>1,860</u>	<u>1,788</u>

10. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

Presbyters and Deacons (ministers) are automatically members of the circuit meeting and are therefore trustees. All ministers receive remuneration by way of a standard stipend which is approved at The Methodist Conference on an annual basis. Superintendent Ministers also receive an allowance of 7.5% of the standard stipend.

No other trustees received any remuneration.

Trustees' expenses

Presbyters and the Circuit Outreach Development Enabler are reimbursed for their travel and subsistence whilst carrying out their duties. This includes to and from meeting in their capacity as trustees.

During the year the Circuit paid expenses to no trustees (2020: 3) in addition to the above.

11. STAFF COSTS

The use of the word staff should be taken to include both Presbyters and Deacons who are legally not employees but office holders. Whilst their relationship is technically with God and the Connexion, their stipends are funded from Circuit funds.

The Circuit Mission Development Enabler received remuneration for services done in this post rather than for being a trustee.

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	31.8.21	31.8.20
Ministers	7	6
Administrative support	2	2
Circuit Mission Development Enabler	-	1
	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

12. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	CMTF £	Restricted funds £	Endowment fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Charitable activities					
Work of the Circuit	408,419	-	-	-	408,419
Other trading activities	23,097	-	-	-	23,097
Investment income	2,078	2,558	-	-	4,636
Total	433,594	2,558	-	-	436,152
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	8,831	-	-	-	8,831
Charitable activities					
Work of the Circuit	408,703	29,987	-	-	438,690
Total	417,534	29,987	-	-	447,521
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	(252)	-	(233)	(485)
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	16,060	(27,681)	-	(233)	(11,854)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward	2,472,754	322,620	1,321	13,223	2,809,918
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	2,488,814	294,939	1,321	12,990	2,798,064

NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 September 2020	2,252,662	1,188	2,253,850
Additions	556,687	-	556,687
Disposals	-	(629)	(629)
Reclassification	(272,000)	-	(272,000)
At 31 August 2021	2,537,349	559	2,537,908
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 September 2020	-	1,188	1,188
Eliminated on disposal	-	(629)	(629)
At 31 August 2021	-	559	559
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 August 2021	2,537,349	-	2,537,349
At 31 August 2020	2,252,662	-	2,252,662

The Trustees for Methodist Purposes act as Custodian Trustees holding the title to the seven properties (Manse) in which the Ministers live.

14. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

Included in Fixed Asset Investments is an amount of £15,375 (2020 £12,990) representing two Endowment Funds both of which are invested in the TMCP Mixed Managed Fund.

15. INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	£
FAIR VALUE	
Revaluation	178,000
Reclassification	272,000
At 31 August 2021	450,000
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 August 2021	450,000
At 31 August 2020	-

The Trustees for Methodist Purposes act as Custodian Trustees holding the title to the property.

The fair value has been estimated by the trustees based on Zoopla and their experience of buying and selling property.

NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

15. INVESTMENT PROPERTY - continued

Fair value at 31 August 2021 is represented by:

Valuation in 2021	£
Cost	178,000
	272,000
	<u>450,000</u>

16. DEBTORS

Amounts falling due within one year:	31.8.21	31.8.20
Trade debtors	£	£
Other debtors	212	4,608
	<u>19,003</u>	<u>20,176</u>
	<u>19,215</u>	<u>24,784</u>
Amounts falling due after more than one year:		
Other debtors	<u>10,750</u>	<u>10,750</u>
Aggregate amounts	<u>29,965</u>	<u>35,534</u>

Other debtors includes £10,750 (2020: £10,750) of loans to 3 (2020:3) churches to enable them to carry out property schemes. None have fixed repayment terms except that they are interest free and must be paid in full within five years of draw down. Repayments of £Nil (2020: £4,750) were received during the year.

17. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

Trade creditors	31.8.21	31.8.20
Other creditors	£	£
	2,728	2,466
	<u>324,746</u>	<u>95,397</u>
	<u>327,474</u>	<u>97,863</u>

18. LOANS

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

Amounts falling due within one year on demand:	31.8.21	31.8.20
Other loans	£	£
	<u>240,000</u>	<u>-</u>

The loans will be repaid the earlier of on demand or on receipt of the sale proceeds from the Oakley manse.

NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.9.20 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.8.21 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	2,460,814	136,844	473,775	3,071,433
Circuit Model Trust Fund	294,939	(9,835)	(473,775)	(188,671)
Manse repair costs	28,000	-	-	28,000
	<u>2,783,753</u>	<u>127,009</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,910,762</u>
Restricted funds				
Circuit training fund	1,321	-	-	1,321
Endowment funds				
Endowment Fund	12,990	2,385	-	15,375
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>2,798,064</u></u>	<u><u>129,394</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>2,927,458</u></u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	395,155	(436,311)	178,000	136,844
Circuit Model Trust Fund	879	(13,291)	2,577	(9,835)
	<u>396,034</u>	<u>(449,602)</u>	<u>180,577</u>	<u>127,009</u>
Endowment funds				
Endowment Fund	-	-	2,385	2,385
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>396,034</u></u>	<u><u>(449,602)</u></u>	<u><u>182,962</u></u>	<u><u>129,394</u></u>

NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.9.19 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.8.20 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	2,444,754	16,060	2,460,814
Circuit Model Trust Fund	322,620	(27,681)	294,939
Manse repair costs	28,000	-	28,000
	<u>2,795,374</u>	<u>(11,621)</u>	<u>2,783,753</u>
Restricted funds			
Circuit training fund	1,321	-	1,321
Endowment funds			
Endowment Fund	13,223	(233)	12,990
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>2,809,918</u>	<u>(11,854)</u>	<u>2,798,064</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	433,594	(417,534)	-	16,060
Circuit Model Trust Fund	2,558	(29,987)	(252)	(27,681)
	<u>436,152</u>	<u>(447,521)</u>	<u>(252)</u>	<u>(11,621)</u>
Endowment funds				
Endowment Fund	-	-	(233)	(233)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>436,152</u>	<u>(447,521)</u>	<u>(485)</u>	<u>(11,854)</u>

NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.9.19 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.8.21 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	2,444,754	152,904	473,775	3,071,433
Circuit Model Trust Fund	322,620	(37,516)	(473,775)	(188,671)
Manse repair costs	28,000	-	-	28,000
	<u>2,795,374</u>	<u>115,388</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,910,762</u>
Restricted funds				
Circuit training fund	1,321	-	-	1,321
Endowment funds				
Endowment Fund	13,223	2,152	-	15,375
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>2,809,918</u>	<u>117,540</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,927,458</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	828,749	(853,845)	178,000	152,904
Circuit Model Trust Fund	3,437	(43,278)	2,325	(37,516)
	<u>832,186</u>	<u>(897,123)</u>	<u>180,325</u>	<u>115,388</u>
Endowment funds				
Endowment Fund	-	-	2,152	2,152
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>832,186</u>	<u>(897,123)</u>	<u>182,477</u>	<u>117,540</u>

Details on agreed expenditure from the Circuit Model Trust Fund can be found within the Other Financial Commitments note to these financial statements.

The deficit on the CMTF will be reversed on the sale of the Oakley manse which is expected to be in early 2022.

Transfers between funds

Amounts were transferred between the CMTF and the general fund on purchase of the manse which is to be fully finance from the CMTF. The amount transferred during the year represent those source of funds used. The balance will be transferred once the sale has been completed.

NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

20. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

Transactions between the Circuit and its member churches

The Circuit received share offers of £378,306 (2020: £408,419) from the churches within the circuit.

The Circuit awarded grants totalling £Nil (2020: £860) for property schemes.

They received no loan repayments from churches. See debtors note for further details

Transactions between the Circuit and the Beds, Essex and Herts District (BEH).

The Circuit paid BEH £19,344 (2020: £16,831) in district assessment. They also paid them £12,234 (2020: £13,897) by way of levies on the net sale of properties and or the balance on monies held in the Circuit Model Trust Fund at start of the financial year..

Transactions between the Circuit and Connexion

The Circuit paid Connexion £68,596 (2020: £68,757) in assessment which is collected by BEH.

21. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

The Oakley manse was sold for gross proceeds of £517,000.

The Baulk (Biggleswade manse) was sold for gross proceeds of £581,631.

The circuit is in the process of buying a new manse in Biggleswade at a purchase cost of approximately £523,700.

A decision has been taken to close Wilstead Methodist Church and therefore the Circuit now has responsibility for maintaining and selling the property.

22. FUNDS RECEIVED AS AGENT

During the year the Circuit received funds from 17 (2020: 18) churches within the Circuit amounting to £ 11,521 (2020: £11,837) which were fully paid over to other Connexional funds.