

LOUGHBOROUGH METHODIST CIRCUIT

Charity number 1129524

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

LOUGHBOROUGH METHODIST CIRCUIT

Financial Statements

Year ended 31 August 2021

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Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-based accounts for the year to 31 August 2021 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit meeting.

Signature of treasurer *RTH* Date *1/12/21*

Name and address of treasurer: Rachel Thorpe, 52 Priory Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 3PP.

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 were presented to the Circuit meeting held on 25 November 2021.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting *A Lomax*

Name of the Chair of the meeting: Rev Andrew Lomax Date *6/12/21*

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Loughborough Methodist Circuit

Charity Number 1129524

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Loughborough Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2021 set out on pages 3 to 9. As the Circuit's trustees, 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 Circuit's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
- 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.
- the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts.

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.

Signature of independent examiner:



Name of independent examiner: Martyn Speight

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner: N/A

Address: 6 Laneshaw Avenue, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 4NT

Date: 30 November 2021

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2021

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020-21 £
Income						
Income from monetary investments		92	298	0	36	426
Assessments on Churches		141,635	0	0	0	141,635
Grants received		28,279	0	0	0	28,279
Other charitable income		7,464	0	0	9,492	16,956
Total income		177,470	298	0	9,528	187,296
Expenditure						
Salaries and associated costs	6	114,579	0	0	0	114,579
Property maintenance		0	0	5,975	942	6,917
Connexional assessment & model trust levy		0	149,738	0	0	149,738
District Assessment & Levy		39,251	2,726	0	0	41,977
Office expenses		4,093	0	0	0	4,093
Other outgoings		15,366	209	0	13,303	28,878
Total charitable expenditure		173,289	152,673	5,975	14,245	346,182
Gain on sale of fixed assets		0	42,345	0	0	42,345
Net income/(expenditure)		4,181	(110,030)	(5,975)	(4,717)	(116,541)
Transfers between funds		(388,780)	381,280	7,500	0	0
Net movement in funds		(384,599)	271,250	1,525	(4,717)	(116,541)
Total funds brought forward		1,218,270	107,008	9,460	89,005	1,423,743
Total funds carried forward		833,671	378,258	10,985	84,288	1,307,202

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2020

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Total 2019-20
		£	£	£	£	£
Income						
Income from monetary investments		365	1,043	0	185	1,593
Assessments on Churches		163,320	0	0	0	163,320
Grants received		27,500	0	0	0	27,500
Other charitable income		5,654	0	0	24,415	30,069
Total income		196,839	1,043	0	24,600	222,482
Expenditure						
Grants and donations		0	1,500	0	0	1,500
Salaries and associated costs	6	127,932	0	0	0	127,932
Property maintenance		0	0	10,494	1,895	12,389
Connexional assessment & model trust levy		0	3,881	0	0	3,881
District Assessment & Levy		38,509	0	0	0	38,509
Office expenses		3,616	0	0	0	3,616
Other outgoings		20,168	255	0	10,502	30,925
Total charitable expenditure		190,225	5,636	10,494	12,397	218,752
Net income/(expenditure)		6,614	(4,593)	(10,494)	12,203	3,730
Transfers between funds		5,511	(16,011)	10,500	0	0
Net movement in funds		12,125	(20,604)	6	12,203	3,730
Total funds brought forward		1,206,145	127,612	9,454	76,802	1,420,013
Total funds carried forward		1,218,270	107,008	9,460	89,005	1,423,743

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2021

	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Totals 2021	Totals 2020
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets							
Circuit Manses & Equipment	9	792,750	0	0	0	792,750	792,750
Other properties	9	0	0	0	0	0	382,000
Total fixed assets		792,750	0	0	0	792,750	1,174,750
Current Assets							
Debtors	10	8,479	20,000	0	0	28,479	29,950
Investments with TMCP		0	358,258	0	0	358,258	87,008
Central Finance Board Deposits		52,823	0	0	26,080	78,903	108,003
Cash at Bank and in hand		16,543	0	10,985	58,208	85,736	64,495
Total current assets		77,845	378,258	10,985	84,288	551,376	289,456
Current liabilities							
Creditors (due in under 1 year)		(36,924)	0	0	0	(36,924)	(40,463)
Total current liabilities		(36,924)	0	0	0	(36,924)	(40,463)
Net current assets/liabilities		40,921	378,258	10,985	84,288	514,452	248,993
Net assets		833,671	378,258	10,985	84,288	1,307,202	1,423,743
Funds of the Circuit							
General Fund (Unrestricted)		833,671				833,671	1,218,270
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			378,258			378,258	107,008
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	11			10,985		10,985	9,460
Total Unrestricted Funds						1,222,914	1,334,738
Restricted Funds	11				84,288	84,288	89,005
Total Funds		833,671	378,258	10,985	84,288	1,307,202	1,423,743

Signed

Rachel Thorpe
Circuit Treasurer

**Loughborough Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts
Year Ended 31 August 2021**

1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2014 version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 – the Charities SORP (FRS102) and taking note of the Update Bulletin 1 issued in 2016.

2 Funds

The funds held constitute: General Funds held for any purpose of the Circuit which are Unrestricted. The Circuit Model Trust Fund has wide purposes defined in Standing Orders and is categorised as unrestricted. Designated funds are unrestricted funds which have been set aside by the trustees for a specific purpose. Restricted funds which are held for a narrower purpose. Details of each material fund are disclosed in note 11 to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

3 Accounting policies

Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost, except that Circuit Manses and Other properties are shown at their "deemed cost", being their insurance value as at 31 August 2015, and on the accruals basis to show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

Incoming Resources

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Circuit becomes entitled to the resources, and the trustees are reasonably certain they will receive the resources; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Resources Expended

These are recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the Circuit to pay out resources.

Grants

Grants are recognised annually only as and when any performance conditions attaching to the award are met, even when the award is for a recurrent grant over more than one year. All grants awarded for payment in future financial years are conditional on the Circuit Meeting being satisfied, on the basis of progress reports from the grantee, that the grant's achievements to date justify the payment of further instalments of that grant. Such commitments are noted as contingent liabilities in these accounts.

VAT

Since the Circuit is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged with the expenses to which it refers.

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Circuit

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £500. The freehold property is shown in the accounts at 2015 insurance values. No depreciation is provided on the buildings because the trustees consider the current residual fair value of the Manse and Other buildings to be not less than their current value. Any depreciation would not be material. The property has been reviewed for impairment.

Investments

Investments are valued in the balance sheet at market value at the year end. Investment income is included in the accounts when receivable and any gains or losses on revaluation at the year end are shown in the SOFA.

Debtors and Prepayments

Debtors are amounts owed to the Circuit and are measured on the basis of their recoverable amount.

Creditors

Creditors include both sundry expenses and specifically the 1st quarter 2021/22 assessment received in August 2021.

4 Payment to Trustees

There were no payments made to trustees for additional services provided to the Circuit by agreement with the Circuit Meeting. This excludes stipends.

Trustee expenses:	2020/21	2019/20
Number of Trustees	45	60
Total trustee expenses	£0	£4,379

Expense payments primarily relate to reimbursement for travel and computing costs.

5 Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Independent examiner's or auditors' fees for reporting on the accounts	NIL	NIL
Other fees paid to the independent examiner or auditor	NIL	NIL

6 Paid employees

Staff Costs paid during the year were:	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind	89,280	99,449
Employer's National Insurance costs	7,438	7,739
Pension costs	17,861	20,744
Total staff costs	114,579	127,932

Average number of full-time equivalent employees in the year were:	3.6	4.1
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7 Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

At 31 August 2021 Resolutions of the Circuit Meeting had approved Grants of £16,330 (2020: £18,550).

8 For information only Money received and passed on to External Organisations

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Balance brought forward from last year	0	0
Offerings/Gifts - received for External Organisations	2,391	2,391
Offerings/Gifts - passed to External Organisations	(2,391)	(2,391)
Balance carried forward	0	0

9 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Manses	Other buildings	Total
Balance brought forward	792,750	382,000	1,174,750
Balance carried forward	792,750	0	792,750
Depreciation brought forward	0	0	0
Depreciation carried forward	0	0	0
Net Book Value brought forward	792,750	382,000	1,174,750
Net Book Value carried forward	792,750	0	792,750

Fixed Assets are included at their deemed cost at 31 August 2015, as represented by their Insurance value at that date.

10 Debtors

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Loan to Barrow-upon-Soar Methodist Church	20,000	20,000
Prepayments and accrued income	8,479	9,950
Total staff costs	28,479	29,950

The loan to Barrow-upon-Soar Methodist Church is non-interest bearing and due for repayment in greater than one year.

11 Analysis of restricted and designated funds 2020/21

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Closing Balance	Purpose of the fund
Restricted Funds						
AD 2000	1,644	0	0	0	1,644	For musical worship
LMCIC	82,278	9,528	(14,245)	0	77,561	For provision of accommodation to foreign students
Mission Fund	5,083	0	0	0	5,083	For Mission Work
Total Restricted	89,005	9,528	(14,245)	0	84,288	
Designated Funds						
Property Inspection Fund	5,764	0	(2,464)	3,000	6,300	For Quinquennial and other Property Inspection costs
Manse Repair Fund	3,696	0	(3,511)	4,500	4,685	For the maintenance of the Manses
Total Designated	9,460	0	(5,975)	7,500	10,985	
Totals	98,465	9,528	(20,220)	7,500	95,273	

Comparative analysis of restricted and designated funds 2019/20

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Closing Balance	Purpose of the fund
Restricted Funds						
AD 2000	1,776	0	(132)	0	1,644	For musical worship
LMCIC	69,943	24,600	(12,265)	0	82,278	For provision of accommodation to foreign students
Mission Fund	5,083	0	0	0	5,083	For Mission Work
Total Restricted	76,802	24,600	(12,397)	0	89,005	
Designated Funds						
Property Inspection Fund	4,156	0	(1,392)	3,000	5,764	For Quinquennial and other Property Inspection costs
Manse Repair Fund	5,298	0	(9,102)	7,500	3,696	For the maintenance of the Manses
Total Designated	9,454	0	(10,494)	10,500	9,460	
Totals	86,256	24,600	(22,891)	10,500	98,465	

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

For the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021.

The Trustees are pleased to submit their Annual Report on the activities of the Loughborough Circuit.

As a circuit of churches we aim to support each other in maintaining our places of worship as centres for community engagement and spiritual renewal. This annual report of the Loughborough Methodist Circuit reflects that aim in the diversity of outreach opportunities that we have undertaken throughout the year. Though the membership of the churches remains fairly static, it is encouraging to see that the enthusiasm and commitment of all involved in the churches continues to be a blessing in the communities they serve.

The age profile of church members tends to be mainly those over 50, which is disappointing given the level of work that is done with children and young families. However, we continue to look for ways in which we might reverse this trend, while recognising the importance of continued support and encouragement in those churches that have a particular ministry to and with the older generations.

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice 2015 as applicable to the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102.

Charity Name

Loughborough Methodist Circuit

Registered Charity Number

1129524

Date of registration

11 May 2009

Charity's Principal Address

The Circuit Administrator
Trinity Methodist Church
Royland Road
Loughborough
Leicestershire
LE11 2EH

Names of Trustees who manage the charity for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021.

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
Rev. A Lomax	Superintendent	-	Trustee via office
Rev. M Swan	Minister	-	Trustee via office
Rev. C Cheung	Minister	-	Trustee via office
Rev. J H Pugh	Minister	Retired July 2021	Trustee via office
Rev. D Bowler	Authorised Minister	-	Trustee via office
Deacon J Sutton	University Chaplain	-	Trustee via office
Rev. D Maw	Minister Supernumerary	Retired July 2021	Trustee via office
Mr L Longmire	Circuit steward	-	Circuit meeting
Mr T Ranson	Circuit steward	-	Circuit meeting
Mrs C Thornborow	Circuit steward	-	Circuit meeting
Dr K Ette	Circuit steward	-	Circuit meeting
Mr S R Peach	Circuit secretary	-	Circuit meeting
Mrs R Thorpe	Circuit treasurer	-	Circuit meeting
Rev. A Lomax	Safeguarding Officer	-	Circuit meeting
Mr J Bateman	Local preachers' secretary	-	Circuit meeting
Mr G Mercy	Local preachers' representative	-	Circuit meeting
F Edum-Fotwe	World Church	-	Circuit meeting
Mr S R Peach	Action for Children	-	Circuit meeting
Mrs C Watkins	Local Pastor (East Leake)	-	Circuit meeting
Mr J Pipet	Digital lay worker (12th Church)	From August 2021	Circuit meeting
Mrs L Cutts	MHA	-	Circuit meeting
Mr A Speight		-	International House
Mrs S Webb	Senior steward	-	Barrow church council
Mr P Yates	Treasurer	-	Barrow church council
Mr B Harrison	Senior steward	-	East Leake church council
Mr R Latham	Treasurer	-	East Leake church council
Mrs A Latham	Representative	-	East Leake church council
Mrs P Hargraves	Representative	-	East Leake church council

Mr H Tyler	Representative	-	Knightthorpe church council
Mrs C Concannon	Representative	-	Knightthorpe church council
Mr D Ette	Representative	-	Knightthorpe church council
Mrs D Mee	Senior steward	-	Mountsorrel church council
Mr G Wainwright	Treasurer	-	Mountsorrel church council
Mr L Longmire	Representative	-	Mountsorrel church council
Mrs J Cheung	Representative	-	Chinese Church Council
Mr M Bird	Representative	-	Quorn church council
Mrs D Bird	Senior steward	-	Quorn church council
Mrs D Scott	Treasurer	-	Christchurch Shepshed church council
Mr I Scott	Representative	-	Christchurch Shepshed church council
Mrs L Hobson	Senior steward	-	Christchurch Shepshed church council
Mrs L Cutts	Representative	-	Christchurch Shepshed church council
Mrs A Barber	Representative	-	Sileby church council
Mrs B Bowman	Representative	-	Sileby church council
Mrs J Holloway	Treasurer	-	Sileby church council
Mr A Thorpe	Senior steward	-	Trinity church council
Mr D Bristow	Representative	-	Trinity church council
Mrs R Thorpe	Treasurer	-	Trinity church council
Mr N Cox	Representative	-	Trinity church council
Mrs S Mollart	Secretary	-	Woodhouse Eaves church council
Mrs G Thompson	Representative	-	Woodhouse Eaves church council
Mr M Blatherwick	Representative	-	Woodhouse Eaves church council
Ms M Folwell	Senior steward	-	Wymeswold church council
Ms S Fossey	Treasurer	-	Wymeswold church council

Treasurer Mrs R Thorpe

Administrator Mrs Josephine Wills

Independent Examiner Mr Martyn Speight

Bankers Caf Bank Ltd
Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church

Names of the Trustees for the Charity

The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (custodian trustee)

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 local churches and officers appointed by existing trustees. Ministers are automatically trustees.

Objectives, aims and organisation.

The Charity objective is to act as a resource provider for the Methodist Church within the area around Loughborough.

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

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

The Church exists to:

- Increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love.
- Help people to learn and grow as Christians, through mutual support and care.
- Become a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice.
- Make more followers of Jesus Christ.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objectives.

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

The main activities of the Loughborough Methodist Circuit are:

- Provision of worship in the Circuit's churches, open to all members of the public and seeking, through the ideas advanced by fresh expressions of church, to provide a range of different styles of worship that will mean the worship provided is relevant to new people.
- Training of those who lead worship and preach.
- Working in partnership with other agencies, e.g. Street Pastors, to show through the caring nature of members of the church the love of God to those out on the streets of

Loughborough in the evenings, and with Loughborough University, to participate in the chaplaincy for the students at the university.

- Providing staff for marriages, funerals and baptisms within the churches of the Circuit.
- Supervising and implementing the work of safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults in the life of the Circuit and its churches
- Overseeing of significant building work for the manse and churches to ensure each church's property is in an appropriate state for its use in furthering the church's aims.
- Supporting and directing the work of the ministry team.

The main achievements of the Loughborough Methodist Circuit during the year.

The online, twelfth church, which was set up in the circuit in March 2020, has continued and a digital lay worker appointed. The appointment is also to help churches in the circuit with their own digital outreach. Online worship was a blessing when churches had to once more close during the winter of the COVID-19 pandemic. When our churches reopened the twelfth church still enabled those who are unable to attend physically, but can do so online, to attend various events on Sundays and during the week. The Sunday morning online services are led in turn by ministers and lay preachers and use music groups and readers to enhance the worship.

Most churches in the circuit reopened for Easter. Where churches have had fortnightly services members were able to join congregations at other churches in the circuit when they didn't have one of their own, or the online service by the 12th Church.

Barrow upon Soar Methodist Church reopened after their refurbishment with restricted worship and within the guidelines. Some groups have also returned. Some outdoor sales and mini market have taken place. Sadly, some very dear friends and members of the church fellowship were lost and their lives were celebrated with thanksgiving and remembered fondly.

East Leake Methodist Church reopened when permitted. A service was sent out by email every week whether the church was open or not. Services are shown on Zoom and an informal time after service is appreciated, especially by those who cannot attend in person.

A Tuesday Chat for one hour on Tuesday afternoons is held on Zoom so everyone who has Zoom can join in.

Knightthorpe reopened for worship at Easter and has had regular fortnightly services each Sunday. No outside groups have used the church.

Along with many other organisations and charities **Mountsorrel** experienced a "new and different way of being" since March 2020.

Through the lockdown period(s) they were able to keep their premises open for most of the time and with having specific Risk Assessments in place many of the premises' users were able to continue their specific activities and meetings, albeit with differing structures.

there have been weekly Sunday Church Services, some of which have been Local Arrangements.

In September 2020 a Covid-19 Recovery Grant from Charnwood Borough Council was received, which enabled Mountsorrel to have the premises professionally cleaned on a regular basis. The grant has proved to be a great asset.

Sileby Methodist Church reopened on 23 May at Pentecost and has had fortnightly services.

After refurbishment of the **Shepshed** Methodist Church it has become the church in the community hosting Brownies, Guides, Slimming World, three singing groups, a junior acting/singing group and there is a coffee morning every Friday, which since lockdown became more popular than before. It is hoped that in the near future the regular group for the Lunch Club will recommence. A bible study was set up for members and anyone who would like to join.

Trinity Church Centre continued to make use of online solutions while meeting in person was difficult, with Friday evening devotions, Sunday morning services (which later transitioned to the circuit's 12th church Facebook page) and monthly socials over the winter that were opened up to people from the other churches in the circuit. In the summer there were number of open garden mornings. As the year went on when we were able to have services in the building, numbers began to steadily grow, as people felt ready to come back to church. Brigades, playgroup and other community bookings also came back when lockdowns and restrictions permitted.

Woodhouse Eaves has suffered the same predicament as most churches during the various lockdowns. However they managed to 'Zoom' on most Sundays at an earlier time in order for folk who wished to join with 12th Church to be able to do so. The earlier time is preferred and now open they are sticking with that time for the foreseeable future. *Take Time* and ecumenical Bible studies also worked brilliantly on Zoom but then moved to 'face to face'.

A lot of redecoration was done and new carpets fitted, some of the community groups and Messy Church are able to utilise the pleasant spaces.

Praise and Play has now come under the umbrella of the church and they look forward to the new opportunities this will bring.

The **Chinese** Church continues to thrive with an ever growing congregation. Loughborough Chinese Methodist Church works with the Chinese Fellowship Group at Loughborough University and helps the Chinese students to settle in from different part of the world. The Minister also connects with the Loughborough Grammar School to help the Chinese boarders and share gospel messages with them plan to share the Chinese cultures and traditions within the Circuit.

The **12th Church** has weekly, online services that are well-attended, not just by local people but by those in other parts of the country, and other countries.

The work of the one, local pastor (at East Leake) continued.

The Circuit Stewards have continued to meet on a regular basis to contribute to the support of the Circuit Ministry and maintain the Manses.

Work at Loughborough University is supported by one of the local pastors and a circuit steward volunteering as lay chaplains alongside the Methodist University Chaplain.

The Circuit has continued its ministry to local residential and nursing homes. Ministry via participation in collective worship in schools has continued. Ecumenical teams in Quorn and Wymeswold take *Open the Book* to village primary schools.

Fresh expressions of church have continued to be developed throughout the circuit with individual churches considering the Mission Plan.

Brief financial review of the year.

Income trends.

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment paid by the circuit churches. Assessment increases for the last few years have been modest as the Circuit attempts to reduce its General Fund to be in line with the stated Reserves Policy.

Expenditure trends.

Stipend expenditure has increased each financial year in line with conference approved increases.

15% of expenditure is the Circuit contribution to the District and Connexion, of which a significant part is used to fund the work of the wider Methodist Church.

The Covid-19 pandemic has significantly reduced income to all the churches in the circuit, through loss of lettings and slightly reduced Sunday offerings. To help offset this to some degree, the churches all received a 10% rebate on their assessment.

The overall result for the year was a small surplus.

Plans for 2021–2022.

A new new full-time minister, to replace the full-time minister who retired in August 2021, was appointed.

Circuit financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that there will be 2.4 full-time ordained staff with anticipated cost of living stipend increases combined with changes in the assessment paid to the district and other costs such that on average a 2% assessment increase has been requested from the circuit churches. The foregoing it is anticipated, will result in a planned deficit for the year which will reduce the General Reserve balance to a figure more in line with the Circuit's Reserve policy.

In addition to the above, the Circuit will continue to support the Chinese minister appointed in September 2018 to serve the Chinese Community in the Loughborough area. The cost of this continued to be funded in 2020/21 by a combination of the Circuit's own resources, Chinese Community resources and District and other grants.

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves.

The circuit aims to hold around £24,000-£65,000 on its general account (5–10% of annual costs) and in addition hold amounts for the employment of lay pastors, manse repairs and church inspection to balance out the uneven nature of these expenditures.

Governance and Management.

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

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

Day-to-day management of the Circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team.

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

Safeguarding.

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

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

- The care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults.
- The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable.
- The establishing of safe, caring communities, which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.

We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.

We will respond without delay to every complaint made, which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.

We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.

We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.

We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral, to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.

In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

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

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

SECTION F DECLARATION

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Lomax', written in a cursive style.

Full Name Michael Andrew Lomax

Position Chair

Date 3rd May 2022