

LOUGHBOROUGH METHODIST CIRCUIT

Charity number 1129524

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

LOUGHBOROUGH METHODIST CIRCUIT

Financial Statements

Year ended 31 August 2023

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Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-based accounts for the year to 31 August 2023 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  Date 31/10/23

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 2023 were presented to the Circuit meeting held on 23 November 2023.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting: Rev Karen Beecham Date 28.11.23

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 2023 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.

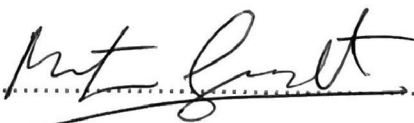
Independent Examiner's Statement

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 Laneslaw Avenue, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 4NT

Date: 31 Oct 2023

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Total 2022-23
		£	£	£	£	£
Income						
Income from monetary investments		2,529	6,492			9,021
Assessments on Churches		172,000				172,000
Grants received		22,642				22,642
Other charitable income		5,913			12,425	18,338
Total income		203,084	6,492	0	12,425	222,001
Expenditure						
Grants and donations					12,800	12,800
Salaries and associated costs	6	123,464			35,352	158,816
Property maintenance				12,736		12,736
Connexional assessment & model trust levy						0
District Assessment & Levy		33,986	7,639			41,625
Office expenses		4,378				4,378
Other outgoings		26,007	578		2,743	29,328
Total charitable expenditure		187,835	8,217	12,736	50,895	259,683
Net income/(expenditure)		15,249	(1,725)	(12,736)	(38,470)	(37,682)
Transfers between funds		(13,000)	(6,000)	13,000	6,000	0
Net movement in funds		2,249	(7,725)	264	(32,470)	(37,682)
Total funds brought forward		825,065	222,564	4,866	84,655	1,137,150
Total funds carried forward		827,314	214,839	5,130	52,185	1,099,468

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2022

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Total 2021-22
		£	£	£	£	£
Income						
Income from monetary investments		198	782	0	29	1,009
Assessments on Churches		164,132	0	0	0	164,132
Grants received		17,848	0	0	0	17,848
Other charitable income		5,120	0	2,831	400	8,351
Total income		187,298	782	2,831	429	191,340
Expenditure						
Grants and donations		0	105,000	0	600	105,600
Salaries and associated costs	6	130,703	0	0	0	130,703
Property maintenance		0	0	16,450	0	16,450
Connexional assessment & model trust levy		0	0	0	0	0
District Assessment & Levy		33,951	18,173	0	0	52,124
Office expenses		5,989	0	0	0	5,989
Other outgoings		23,336	25,023	0	2,167	50,526
Total charitable expenditure		193,979	148,196	16,450	2,767	361,392
Net income/(expenditure)		(6,681)	(147,414)	(13,619)	(2,338)	(170,052)
Transfers between funds		(1,925)	(8,280)	7,500	2,705	0
Net movement in funds		(8,606)	(155,694)	(6,119)	367	(170,052)
Total funds brought forward		833,671	378,258	10,985	84,288	1,307,202
Total funds carried forward		825,065	222,564	4,866	84,655	1,137,150

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023

	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Totals 2023	Totals 2022
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets							
Circuit Manses	9	792,750	0	0	0	792,750	792,750
Total fixed assets		792,750	0	0	0	792,750	792,750
Current Assets							
Debtors	10	9,569	14,000	0	0	23,569	28,898
Investments with TMCP		0	200,839	0	0	200,839	202,564
Central Finance Board Deposits		60,446	0	0	51,219	111,665	68,150
Cash at Bank and in hand		1,761	0	5,130	966	7,857	82,246
Total current assets		71,776	214,839	5,130	52,185	343,930	381,858
Current liabilities							
Creditors (due in under 1 year)		(37,213)	0	0	0	(37,213)	(37,458)
Total current liabilities		(37,213)	0	0	0	(37,213)	(37,458)
Net current assets/liabilities		34,564	214,839	5,130	52,185	306,718	344,400
Net assets		827,314	214,839	5,130	52,185	1,099,468	1,137,150
Funds of the Circuit							
General Fund (Unrestricted)		827,314				827,314	825,065
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			214,839			214,839	222,564
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	11			5,130		5,130	4,866
Total Unrestricted Funds						1,047,283	1,052,495
Restricted Funds	11				52,185	52,185	84,655
Total Funds		827,314	214,839	5,130	52,185	1,099,468	1,137,150

Signed

Rachel Thorpe
Circuit Treasurer

Loughborough Methodist Circuit

Notes to the Accounts

Year Ended 31 August 2023

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 2023/24 assessment received in August 2023.

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 and payment to employed lay pastors.

Trustee expenses:	2022/23	2021/22
Number of Trustees	46	48
Total trustee expenses	£14,060	£11,771

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

5 Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
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:	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind	130,361	104,335
Employer's National Insurance costs	9,409	8,272
Pension costs	19,046	18,096
Total staff costs	158,816	130,703

Average number of full-time equivalent employees in the year were:	5.1	4.1
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7 Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

At 31 August 2023 Resolutions of the Circuit Meeting had approved Grants of £15,600 (2022: £10,756) that had not been paid.

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

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Balance brought forward from last year	0	0
Offerings/Gifts - received for External Organisations	3,531	2,501
Offerings/Gifts - passed to External Organisations	(3,531)	(2,501)
Balance carried forward	0	0

9 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Manses	Total
Balance brought forward	792,750	792,750
Balance carried forward	792,750	792,750
Depreciation brought forward	0	0
Depreciation carried forward	0	0
Net Book Value brought forward	792,750	792,750
Net Book Value carried forward	792,750	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

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Loan to Barrow-upon-Soar Methodist Church	10,000	15,000
Loan to East Leake Methodist Church	4,000	5,000
Prepayments and accrued income	9,569	8,898
Total staff costs	23,569	28,898

The loans to Barrow-upon-Soar and East Leake Methodist Churches are both non-interest bearing and due for repayment in greater than one year.

11 Analysis of restricted and designated funds 2022/23

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Closing Balance	Purpose of the fund
Restricted Funds						
AD 2000	966	0	0	0	966	For musical worship
Mission Fund	83,689	12,425	(50,895)	6,000	51,219	For Mission Work
Total Restricted	84,655	12,425	(50,895)	6,000	52,185	
Designated Funds						
Property Inspection Fund	1,662	0	(1,008)	3,000	3,654	For Quinquennial and other Property Inspection costs
Manse Repair Fund	3,204	0	(11,728)	10,000	1,476	For the maintenance of the Manses
Total Designated	4,866	0	(12,736)	13,000	5,130	
Totals	89,521	12,425	(63,631)	19,000	57,315	

From 1 September 2022 the costs of employment and the associated expenses of the circuit lay pastors (£37,792), less grants received to part cover such costs (£12,225) are paid from the Mission Fund in accordance with the direction given by the Trustees at a Circuit Meeting in June 2022.

Comparative analysis of restricted and designated funds 2021/22

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Closing Balance	Purpose of the fund
Restricted Funds						
AD 2000	1,644	0	(678)	0	966	For musical worship
LMCIC	77,561	29	(1,109)	(76,481)	0	For provision of accommodation to foreign students
Mission Fund	5,083	400	(980)	79,186	83,689	For Mission Work
Total Restricted	84,288	429	(2,767)	2,705	84,655	
Designated Funds						
Property Inspection Fund	6,300	0	(7,638)	3,000	1,662	For Quinquennial and other Property Inspection costs
Manse Repair Fund	4,685	2,831	(8,812)	4,500	3,204	For the maintenance of the Manses
Total Designated	10,985	2,831	(16,450)	7,500	4,866	
Totals	95,273	3,260	(19,217)	10,205	89,521	

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

For the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023.

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. The exception is the Chinese Church.

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 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 2022 to 31 August 2023.

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
Rev. Andrew Lomax	Superintendent	-	Trustee via office
Rev. Martin Swan	Minister	-	Trustee via office
Rev. Calvin Cheung	Minister	-	Trustee via office
Rev. Sandra Marshall	Minister	-	Trustee via office
Deacon Janet Sutton	University Chaplain	-	Trustee via office
Mr Trevor Ranson	Senior Circuit steward	-	Circuit meeting
Mrs Carolyn Thornborow	Circuit steward	-	Circuit meeting
Dr Karen Ette	Circuit steward	-	Circuit meeting
Mr B Harrison	Circuit steward		
Mr S R Peach	Circuit secretary	-	Circuit meeting
Mrs R Thorpe	Circuit treasurer	-	Circuit meeting
Rev. Andrew 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 R Newton	Lay worker (Sileby)	-	Circuit meeting
Ms V Li	Lay worker (Knightthorpe)	-	Circuit meeting
Mrs E Bristow	Lay worker (Mountsorrel)	-	Circuit meeting
Ms K Brookes-Duncan	Lay worker (Shepshed)		Circuit meeting

Mr J Pipet	Digital lay worker (12th Church)		Circuit meeting
Mr D Bristow	Quinquennial Inspections		Circuit meeting
Mrs L Cutts	MHA	-	Circuit meeting
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 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
Ms F Wong	Treasurer	-	Chinese church council
Mr M Bird	Representative	-	Quorn church council
Mrs D Bird	Senior steward	-	Quorn church council
Mr K Croysdale	Representative		Quorn church council
Mrs S Turlington	Representative	-	Quorn church council
Mrs D Scott	Treasurer	-	Christchurch Shepshed church council
Mr I Scott	Representative	-	Christchurch Shepshed church council
Mrs L Cutts	Representative	-	Christchurch Shepshed church council
Mrs R Grimley	Representative	-	Christchurch Shepshed church council
Mrs A Barber	Representative	-	Sileby church council
Mr A Thorpe	Senior steward	-	Trinity church council
Mr S Scoggins	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 manses 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 Circuit did own a property called International House, in Loughborough that had been left to it for the use of International Students. Over the years the need for this property had lessened and the difficulties of running the building had increased so the building was sold. After the Methodist Connexion had taken a percentage, funding was given to some international charities and some designated for use with international students. The remainder has been put in the Circuit Mission Funds and is being used to pay for employing lay workers in various churches; three have been appointed this year with more envisaged for next.

A new superintendent minister, Rev. Karen Beecham, has been appointed and we look forward to her work and ministry in the Circuit next year.

Our Churches:

Barrow upon Soar: The village is growing rapidly and more people are using the new premises with regular bookings by two theatre groups, a karate club, gardening club and many one-off bookings for children's birthday parties, holiday clubs, dance practice sessions, etc. Our church groups continue with bible study on alternate weeks and we attract friends to our monthly Minimarkets. Cuppa and Chatta, our afternoon group, welcomes friends for tea and refreshments and the Saturday Crochet and Craft group continues to grow. Ladies Circle meet every two weeks and in 2024 will be celebrating their Diamond Anniversary. The Men's Supper Group meet for supper and activities and both groups attract both church members and village friends. Fun@Church became the Sunday School with children meeting on Wednesday afternoons after school once a month. The church is also involved in regular activities with Barrow upon Soar Churches Together, a new event for 2023 being a Walking Nativity around the village.

Special events were held to mark Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee where there was a life-size figure of Her Majesty available for photographs, and a window display for the Coronation of King Charles III as well as the annual ones for Christmas, Easter and Remembrance Day. The bollards outside the church are yarn-bombed, which attracts a lot of interest on social media, and there is the very popular life-size stable, complete with Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, shepherds and lots of sheep in the foyer, lit up daily during Advent. BoS is looking to the future in faith that they can continue to show and share the love of Jesus with friends in the community.

East Leake Methodist Church is one of the smaller churches in the Circuit, located in the centre of the village, close to shops and adjacent to the Village Hall. It is the only circuit church not located in the Borough of Charnwood and are in fact in the Borough of Rushcliffe, Nottinghamshire.

In recent times, the village has rapidly expanded from 3,000-4,000 with population soon expected to be over 10,000 due to new and on-going housing developments.

The worship area is flexible, with a visual and audio system and Wi-Fi enabling "Zooming" of Sunday services and other church meetings. This has helped to continue with outreach to church members who are unable to attend for various reasons, and on occasions, those who do not live in the local area or are away on holiday.

The congregation offers a community coffee morning each Saturday morning, badged as a "warm space" during the winter months.

All facilities are on the ground floor and easily accessible for disabled. This has encouraged the local Community Care to run a Memory Café, once a week.

The Brownie group meets weekly, with a Ladies Fellowship meeting fortnightly, as does a Bible study/social group called Four Square. Services are held at a local residential care home in partnership with Churches Together.

In response to our church mission statement we offer facilities for community art, craft, and exercise groups, a second Brownie pack and East Leake Community Care group. The church benefits greatly by having an active part time local pastor. There are also strong ecumenical links between the Anglican, Baptist and Roman Catholic churches in the village.

Knightthorpe Methodist Church officially kick-started their community engagement project in the summer, having spent the first half of the year on fostering connections and partnership opportunities with local organisations and charities.

As part of the community engagement activities, a Gardening Club has been established where new and experienced gardeners meet regularly on Wednesday afternoons to do gardening tasks for the Church and is partnered with Incredible Edible Loughborough (IEL)

to develop a community garden in the Church's front lawn. Any harvest will be shared with the local community. A community Christmas wreath workshop ran in November.

The longer-term goal is that the Church spaces can fill the lack of a community hub in the area, where the local community can meet for activities, and that they can be served in response to their needs and thereby sow the seeds of the Gospel which can take root and come to life at God's will and timing.

The Coffee and Crafts group continues to meet on Wednesday mornings and there are room lettings to various groups throughout each week.

Mountsorrel Methodist Church has a large suite of premises, which are used by various groups, seven days a week including Boys' Brigade and a Ladies' Night.

A commercial pre-school playgroup meets five days per week, the Loughborough Seventh-day Adventist Church meets on Saturdays plus a dance school and keep-fit classes.

On the fourth Sunday of each month, the service is at 4.00 p.m. followed by a bring-and-share tea.

A lay community worker appointed by the Loughborough Circuit who is piloting a Praying for the Streets project.

Shepshed Christchurch's focus has been on community and has had a community lay-worker appointed during the year.

The weekly Friday coffee mornings continue to grow in popularity, providing an opportunity to meet regularly with local people who are generally non-attendees of Christchurch.

The warm hub, originally set up as a space for the community to come together and to stay warm despite the rising living costs, has proved to be so well received it has continued into the warmer months with a new name of Chat & Chomp.

A space within the church itself has been created that can be used for quiet contemplation, bible study and reflection. This space is open to all during the community centred fellowship. Successful fundraising events have provided opportunities to greet new faces and welcome in old friends.

Sileby Methodist Church has had a community and outreach lay worker appointed this year who runs an informal worship lounge on alternate Sundays.

Coffee mornings are held weekly on Thursdays from 10.00 a.m.–12 noon and coffee evenings, 6.00 p.m.–8.00 p.m. on the first and third Monday of the month.

There is an open-mic night, Café Live, every fourth Sunday from 7.00 p.m.–9.30 p.m. with hot pasties and sausage rolls provided.

On Shrove Tuesday there was a pancake lunch.

Trinity Methodist Church is part of a three-churches partnership with the local URC and Baptist churches and there have been various joint services across the year.

There have been united services with the Chinese congregation, which leads to a full church, part of the service is in English and part in Cantonese with simultaneous translations of the sermon and other translations via the screen. Each service has also been followed by a joint lunch where a couple of times there has been Chinese first courses and British deserts (playing to our strengths maybe.)

A more recent change is that after over 40 years of faithful service, printing for churches and other voluntary organisations, Teamprint, has finally called it a day. It was founded by the late Reverend Sidney Richardson and over the years there have been many volunteers and the

team have printed numerous magazines and even a few books, including Sidney's autobiography. Unfortunately, COVID-19 led to their temporary closure and this gave a further impetus for groups to change their magazines to mainly digital versions, leading to a much reduced need for Teamprint and the last group of four volunteers decided to call time. At Trinity we would like to offer many thanks to all those who have served in this unique group assisting churches and voluntary groups. However, this does mean Trinity has a newly available space and we will be thinking how best we can utilise this over the coming months.

Woodhouse Eaves Methodist Church:

Play and Praise, a thriving parent-toddler group for preschool children meets at 9.15 a.m. every Thursday morning in term time.

Prayer Meetings are held on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Fridays of the month at the church, 8.30–9.00 a.m. – a focused time to start the day.

Taketime is time to reflect and meditate on a bible passage held at the church on the first Friday of the month and via Zoom on the third, both at 10.30 a.m. Everyone in the circuit is welcome to join in.

An informal family time of crafts, fun, food and bible stories is held on the second Sunday of each month at 4.00 p.m.

Christians in the Forest Bible Study is an ecumenical bible study run by the churches in Woodhouse, Woodhouse Eaves and Swithland. Weekly meetings looking at seasonal themes. The church building is used extensively by the community.

Wymeswold Methodist Church: Although we are small in number, Wymeswold are big with their ideas and try to engage with the community whenever they can. They have a good relationship with the village school and help to coordinate an Ecumenical Group of Open the Book Storytellers who go into school each week to bring the bible stories alive to the children. The school children and staff are invited to the chapel twice a year for experience journeys. They celebrated 'Experience Easter' and for the first time, 'Experience Harvest'. Next year's experiences will be 'Experience Pentecost' and 'Experience Christmas'.

With works undertaken for the installation of a new boiler came additional costs and plans for continued maintenance, which has necessitated a push on fundraising.

A fortnightly pre-school group known as Mini-Fish, continues. The first half of the year there were three or four children attending, three of whom were due to start school in September, so this meant that numbers have been low and so this group will be reviewed. Wymeswold are looking at offering a warm chapel welcome to anyone feeling lonely, or in need of some socialisation. Primarily, it is hoped to offer this to those who may be struggling perhaps as carers, and there are those who are suffering with early-stage dementia or illnesses such as Parkinson's. The doors will still be open to the pre-school children, their parents and grandparents as well and it is hoped to foster a multigenerational afternoon to socialise together.

The Chinese Methodist Congregation: The Chinese community will also be having a community lay worker who, with support from Rev. Calvin Cheung, will work with the Chinese Overseas Christian Mission to conduct the Y'Fire Programme among the Chinese Congregation of Methodists between Leicester, Loughborough and Derby. This programme is to draw the new immigrants, Chinese youth back to the church during weekends. Following on from this, there is a plan to conduct a new programme called God's Army Workshop. This will be a summer programme that will include teaching the word of God

time, playing time, training time, and popcorn and movies time. They are also looking to start a young children's Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) through Zoom on Tuesday, Wednesday Thursday and Saturday evenings.

The Twelfth 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 top priority has been to produce a worship service each week – different preachers leading in their own different ways. The majority of services are pre-recorded, but are live-streamed sometimes, including from Trinity on the first Sunday of each month.

The hymn video library now has over 260 different hymns. If there is not a recording of a hymn that a preacher wants, then there is every endeavour to get a version recorded.

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.

Brief financial review of the year.

In the financial year 2022–23, the Circuit ended up with a surplus of over £2,000 in the General account. As usual, most of the income came from the Circuit churches and most of the expenditure was to do with employing Circuit ministers, their housing and travel costs and paying for a Circuit administrator.

The Circuit also has a large amount of money in reserves that is the result of selling property, it has been agreed to spend this money on mission. By the end of the financial year, six churches (five physical plus the online church) all had part time lay workers attached to them to improve their Mission work. The aim is to increase that number over 2023–24.

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

Full Name REV KAREN ANNE BEECHAM

Position Chair SUPERINTENDENT

Date 20.06.24

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Beecham', enclosed within a hand-drawn oval. A small dot is visible to the right of the oval.