

LOUGHBOROUGH METHODIST CIRCUIT

Charity number 1129524

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

LOUGHBOROUGH METHODIST CIRCUIT

Financial Statements

Year ended 31 August 2024

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Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-based accounts for the year to 31 August 2024 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 19/9/24

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 2024 were presented to the Circuit meeting held on 5 December 2024.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting: Rev Karen Beecham Date 5/12/24

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 2024 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: 18 Nov 2024

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2024

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Total 2023-24
		£	£	£	£	£
Income						
Income from monetary investments		1,935	11,914			13,849
Assessments on Churches		190,000				190,000
Grants received		3,817				3,817
Other charitable income		6,129	24,000		12,511	42,640
Total income		201,881	35,914	0	12,511	250,306
Expenditure						
Grants and donations					5,600	5,600
Salaries and associated costs	6	135,272			57,630	192,902
Property maintenance				27,435		27,435
Connexional assessment & model trust levy						0
District Assessment & Levy		33,546	7,542		15,000	56,088
Office expenses		4,224				4,224
Other outgoings		26,104	572		1,937	28,613
Total charitable expenditure		199,146	8,114	27,435	80,167	314,862
Net income/(expenditure)		2,735	27,800	(27,435)	(67,656)	(64,556)
Transfers between funds		(10,500)	(56,000)	34,500	32,000	0
Net movement in funds		(7,765)	(28,200)	7,065	(35,656)	(64,556)
Total funds brought forward		827,314	214,839	5,130	52,185	1,099,468
Total funds carried forward		819,549	186,639	12,195	16,529	1,034,912

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

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024

	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Totals 2024	Totals 2023
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets							
Circuit Manse	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	9,801	8,000			17,801	23,569
Investments with TMCP			178,639			178,639	200,839
Central Finance Board Deposits		52,808				52,808	111,665
Cash at Bank and in hand		2,615		12,195	16,529	31,339	7,857
Total current assets		65,224	186,639	12,195	16,529	280,587	343,930
Current liabilities							
Creditors (due in under 1 year)		(38,425)	0	0	0	(38,425)	(37,213)
Total current liabilities		(38,425)	0	0	0	(38,425)	(37,213)
Net current assets/liabilities		26,799	186,639	12,195	16,529	242,162	306,718
Net assets		819,549	186,639	12,195	16,529	1,034,912	1,099,468
Funds of the Circuit							
General Fund (Unrestricted)		819,549				819,549	827,314
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			186,639			186,639	214,839
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	11			12,195		12,195	5,130
Total Unrestricted Funds						1,018,382	1,047,283
Restricted Funds	11				16,529	16,529	52,185
Total Funds		819,549	186,639	12,195	16,529	1,034,912	1,099,468

Signed

Rachel Thorpe
Circuit Treasurer

**Loughborough Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts
Year Ended 31 August 2024**

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 2024/25 assessment received in August 2024.

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.

	2023/24	2022/23
Trustee expenses:		
Number of Trustees	47	46
Total trustee expenses	<u>£14,732</u>	<u>£14,060</u>

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

5 Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
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:	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind	159,621	130,361
Employer's National Insurance costs	11,332	9,409
Pension costs	21,949	19,046
Total staff costs	<u>192,902</u>	<u>158,816</u>

Average number of full-time equivalent employees in the year were: 5.9 5.1

7 Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

At 31 August 2024 Resolutions of the Circuit Meeting had approved Grants of £10,000 (2023: £15,600) that had not been paid.

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

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Balance brought forward from last year	0	0
Offerings/Gifts - received for External Organisations	2,271	3,531
Offerings/Gifts - passed to External Organisations	<u>(2,271)</u>	<u>(3,531)</u>
Balance carried forward	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

9 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Manse	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

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Loan to Barrow-upon-Soar Methodist Church	5,000	10,000
Loan to East Leake Methodist Church	3,000	4,000
Prepayments and accrued income	9,801	9,569
Total staff costs	17,801	23,569

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 2023/24

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	51,219	12,511	(80,167)	32,000	15,563	For Mission Work
Total Restricted	52,185	12,511	(80,167)	32,000	16,529	
Designated Funds						
Property Inspection Fund	3,654	0	(5,545)	3,000	1,109	For Quinquennial and other Property Inspection costs
Manse Repair Fund	1,476	0	(21,890)	31,500	11,086	For the maintenance of the Manses
Total Designated	5,130	0	(27,435)	34,500	12,195	
Totals	57,315	12,511	(107,602)	66,500	28,724	

From 1 September 2022 the costs of employment and the associated expenses of the circuit lay pastors £59,2664 (2022/23: £37,792), less grants received to part cover such costs £12,511 (2022/23: £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 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	

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

For the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024.

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 2024 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 2023 to 31 August 2024,

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
Rev. Karen Beecham	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
Mr Trevor Ranson	Senior circuit steward	-	Circuit meeting
Dr Karen Ette	Circuit steward	-	Circuit meeting
Mr B Harrison	Circuit steward Senior steward	- -	Circuit meeting East Leake church council
Mr S R Peach	Circuit secretary Action for Children	- -	Circuit meeting Circuit meeting
Mrs R Thorpe	Circuit treasurer Treasurer	-	Circuit meeting Trinity church council
Mrs Eleri Bristow	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
Mrs C Watkins	Local Pastor (East Leake)	-	Circuit meeting
Mr R Newton	Lay-pastor (Sileby)	-	Circuit meeting
Ms V Li	Lay-worker (Knightthorpe)	-	Circuit meeting
Mrs E Bristow	Lay-pastor (Wymeswold) Circuit safeguarding officer	-	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 Representative	-	Circuit meeting Christchurch Shepshed church council
Mrs S Webb	Senior steward	-	Barrow church council
Mr P Yates	Treasurer	-	Barrow 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 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
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.
- 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.

Our Churches:

Barrow upon Soar: The Ladies' Fellowship celebrated their diamond anniversary. The church has supported many charities over the years and the chosen charity for 2024–2025 is Street Pastors. They also have a bereavement group once a month and a men's supper club.

Christchurch, Shepshed: in May, Christchurch hosted the village Connected Worship service. The service was led jointly by members of St Botolph's, Shepshed Baptists and Christchurch. It is a time of praise, worship, prayer and reflection accompanied by live music. In July the annual over 80s afternoon tea was held. On the third Sunday of the month, the 'Something Different' gathering is held for informal praise and worship. There is a charity coffee morning on the first Friday of the month and on Wednesdays there is the community Chat and Chomp, which is run by staff, students and volunteers of a local college.

East Leake: East Leake is the only circuit church not located in the Borough of Charnwood, and is in the Borough of Rushcliffe, Nottinghamshire. The church has been actively working towards having a community lay worker and have had a constructive conversation with representatives from the church's leadership team, and members of the circuit and the District

enabler. The feedback received was that East Leake Methodist Church is a welcoming church, spiritually mature and inclusive and witnesses to those who are disabled or neurodiverse, a church whose building is well-used by the community. It is a church of committed volunteers that have little capacity – a church of friendship.

Knightthorpe Methodist Church: continues to engage with the community through activities for everyone, which seeks to fulfil the local community's needs and to enhance the involvement of members and friends of the church and circuit as volunteers and participants. Some of the community engagement activities are: the gardening club, who meet bi-weekly on Wednesday afternoons, working with Incredible Edible and students from Loughborough University. The front garden has been transformed into a vegetable garden for anyone in the community to both join in with and enjoy the produce. There was an evening of carol singing on the front lawn and spring and summer parties, which were well-attended by members of the community and church. There has also been jewellery making and calligraphy workshops. The coffee and craft group continue to meet on Wednesday mornings, coffee mornings on the first Saturday of the month and room lettings to various groups throughout the week.

The Chinese Methodist Congregation: The largest church in the circuit, the Chinese congregation continues to grow and celebrated their 12th anniversary in January. Also in January, and in May, there was a combined senior adults' fellowship with the Derby Chinese Church. A choir has also been formed. In June, the Chinese church hosted an evangelical tour party from Hong Kong. From January to June 2024, Y-Fire – Youth Programme ran every Saturday for around 30 young people from curriculum Years 6 to 13.

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. The Wesley History Society meets in the chapel twice year and two members of the congregation host an afternoon of strawberry teas at their home in June. Organ recitals continue throughout the year and for the church anniversary on Saturday, 31 August, one was given by Dr Simon Ainge, followed by tea and fellowship.

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 also 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 a 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).

During the summer months there has been a number of open gardens on Saturday mornings, which are well attended and often raise funds for a charity close to the heart of the family hosting. At Easter and Pentecost, there were a number of events alongside our Baptist and URC friends. In particular, the Good Friday service of readings and related hymns was very moving. A FEAST group has been running for a few months for our young adults where they studied the book of Acts. This was the first time in several years that we have managed to

engage better with students from the University and make them feel more at home. The church is also working towards reorganising the building to allow the playgroup to use just the halls off the entrance, which will allow the rest of the church to be available for use at the same time as the playgroup is meeting. A newly created meeting space that will be part of this will become known as the Richardson Room in memory of the late Revd Sidney Richardson, the founder and long term leader of Trinity's Teamprint. Trinity has a flourishing Boys' Brigade and Girls' Brigade with the joint Brigades' Band leading the town Remembrance Day Parade in November 2023.

Sileby Methodist Church has a community outreach and lay pastor who runs an informal worship lounge some 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. The wellbeing hub is now weekly rather than fortnightly. A theatre group meets on Thursday evenings and daytime on Saturdays. Work continues with a local school.

Woodhouse Eaves Methodist Church:

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

Taketime is an opportunity to reflect and meditate on a bible passage. It is 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.

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

We thought that food, fellowship and prayer was a good model to follow, so we trialled our first 'breakfast and prayer' session. We shared in a simple breakfast together and then moved on to praying for our world, church and community. Prayer stations were set up around church and people could move around and offer their prayers. We closed with a worship song and the Grace. It was a lovely experience which we plan to repeat in the future. We also hope to open to the community.

Wymeswold Methodist Church: Although are small in number, Wymeswold are big with their ideas and try to engage with the community whenever they can. Wymeswold now have a local lay pastor. 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. The Warm Welcome event is held on Tuesday afternoons from 1.30 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. with refreshments, but the main thing is the chatter and fellowship with the lovely dozen or more people who attend, ranging in age from 1 to 91 years or so. The monthly coffee mornings, held on the first Saturday of the month is also well-attended by a slightly different group and provides another great opportunity to chat and network with those who attend from several of the local villages. Worship is mostly held in partnership with the local Anglicans, either at St Mary's or in the Chapel. A Bible study group meets in the Chapel fortnightly on Monday evenings

The Twelfth Church: It's now getting on for 41/2 years since the Loughborough Circuit started providing a way on the internet for people to worship together as part of this circuit even if unable to attend a church service in person – the 12th Church.

St Bartholomew's United, Quorn: Reorganisation of Leicester Diocese continues at a steady pace through a project titled 'Shaped by God Together', which will result in groupings of parishes that will look remarkably like Methodist Circuits. In our case we will probably become one of 13 parishes comprising a 'Minster Community' under the leadership of a team of four people, only one of which has to be an ordained minister. This will be challenging for all concerned but also offers opportunities for the churches concerned to work together in mission and to share resources. It will probably be 2026 before this new structure is finally in place. These changes do not affect Quorn's membership and involvement in the Loughborough Circuit which we have particularly valued during our Interregnum. We will be celebrating the Golden Anniversary of the coming together of our Methodist and Anglican churches in Quorn at Pentecost on 8 June this year – a moment for celebration!

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

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.

The Circuit is in good shape financially, starting the year with over £300,000 in reserves.

The general account was in deficit in the year, as we had deliberately set a budget that runs down the general account.

The District Assessment was high in the year – it is partly based on Circuit reserves, which are large. We took £15,000 from reserves to help cover this charge as we felt it was unfair to put up assessments by that much or to take it from the general account.

We spent £59,000 on part-time lay-workers and local pastors in the year. These staff help the ministers in local churches, with the focus on mission and community outreach.

The plan is to continue employing more lay-workers over the coming years, using up the money the Circuit received from the sale of International House a few years back.

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.

The Loughborough Circuit has a circuit safeguarding officer who supports the individual churches' safeguarding officers.

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.

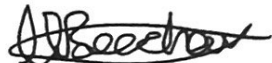
The Loughborough Circuit commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

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 Beecham

Position Chair

Date 20.03.25