

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales · Charity number 1132795

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2009-11-19

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 91 Clockhouse Lane
Romford
RM5 3QP

Phone 01708960549

Email ROMFORDCIRCUIT.adm@gmail.com

Website www.romford-circuit.org.uk

Activities

Objects: 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 the 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.

Activities: Romford Methodist Circuit is the primary unit to which the 10 local churches are connected for the purposes of mission. It is the Circuit to which ministers are stationed and preachers trained and it is responsible for the effective deployment of the resources of ministry - people, property and finance, providing sacred space and space for community activities in sympathy with our Christian ethos.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Essex
- Havering
- Thurrock

Finances

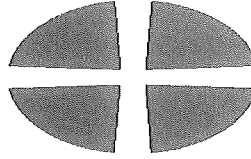
Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£330,530	£484,708	-	-
2024-08-31	£329,291	£415,537	-	-
2023-08-31	£325,602	£437,614	-	-
2022-08-31	£1,655,439	£1,072,856	£8,757,488	7
2021-08-31	£308,949	£317,981	-	-
2020-08-31	£338,061	£315,066	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Eleanor Gillian Jackson	Chair	2022-09-01
Anne Barbara Ling		2022-06-21
Bruce Frederick Langridge		2021-09-16
Cathy Simmons		2014-01-19
Christine Joyce Scrutton		2025-06-22
Cicely Pearson		2016-09-01
DENISE SWANTON		
Dr NIGEL FRANCIS MASTERS BSC ARCS		
Evelyn Song		2021-06-01
Gillian Cook		2025-06-22
Gillian Joyce Hills		2021-09-16
Gordon Michael Reed		2025-06-22
Hilary Bull		2020-09-15
JAYNE ROSEMARY MATTHEWS		2015-09-01
JOAN WINIFRED PUGSLEY		2013-06-10
Jacqueline Alison Howard		2018-09-01
James Coleman		2019-09-12
Janice Elsie Mann		2025-03-04
Janice Susan Gowlett		2013-06-10
Jonathan Sisman		2021-09-01
KIRSTEEN MELISSA HOWE		2025-07-28
Lady Asafu-Adjaye		2020-09-15
MALCOLM NEIL RICHARDSON		
Manasa Jerera		2014-01-19
Mary Acquah		2020-09-15
Melani Samuel-Good		2024-09-01
Olurotimi Olajide Onafeko		2025-09-01

Name	Role	Appointed
PAMELA ANN COLES		2012-01-31
PENELOPE ANNE MASTERS SRN, RM		
Patricia Nakabukye		2024-09-01
Peter Caton		2021-07-21
Peter Geoffrey Hobbs		2022-09-01
Peter Richard Howe		2025-07-28
Regina Abigail Coleman		2018-09-01
Rev Jongikaya Zihle		2024-09-01
Rev Rachel Read		2024-09-01
Rev Robert Johnson Maginley		2024-09-01
Rev Rohama Asif		2021-09-01
Rosemary Helen Hibbard		2020-09-15
Sarah Jane Rigby		2021-09-01
Shelter Seanehia		2025-09-01
Stephen Owusu		2021-09-01
Susan Elizabeth Stevens		2018-01-01
TREVOR BERTRAM PUGSLEY		
TURPLIN DIXON		
Thomas Edward James Smith		2018-09-01
Thomas Mercer		2021-09-01
Timothy Howard Banks		2022-01-25
William Donaldson Andrews		2022-06-21

Accounts



**Circuit
Accruals Accounts
2024-25**

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS
ACCRUALS BASIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

Romford Circuit Circuit no **35/32**

Registered Charity - Registration number **1132795**

Circuit Chair	Revd Dr E Jackson
Circuit Ministers	Revd R Asif
	Deacon SJ Rigby
	Revd Dr E Jackson
	Revd R Maginley
	Revd R Read (From 1/9/24)
Circuit Stewards	J Gowlett
	R Hibbard
	T Pugsley
	T Dixon
Circuit Treasurer	T Smith

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Romford Methodist Circuit exists to enable and champion the work of churches in the Greater London and Essex area. There were nine Churches in the Romford Circuit throughout the year. Revd Dr E Jackson was the Chair of the Circuit throughout the year. The Chair works together with a team of paid and voluntary officers to support and develop the life of the Circuit.

On 19 November 2009, the Circuit was entered into the Register of Charities and the Charity Number is 1132795.

The Managing Trustees of the Romford Circuit are the members of the Circuit Meeting which meets at least three times a year to consider the work of God in the Circuit and the general management of the Circuit and its business. The membership of the Meeting is governed by the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church. The officers of the Circuit who are appointed by the Circuit Meeting to act upon its behalf comprise the Superintendent Minister, the Ministerial Staff Team, the Circuit Stewards and the Circuit Financial Steward (treasurer), Circuit Property Steward and Manse Stewards.

2 Objectives and Activities

2.1 Aims and organisation

The aims of the Circuit Meeting through its officers are twofold:

- to secure and sustain the Circuit's viability and future
- to give assurance to the general public that the Circuit, which is a charity, intends to use all of the money coming into its care for the purpose of the charity.

2.2 Romford Methodist Circuit Vision

The Circuit's Mission Policy states, "The Romford Circuit exists to further God's Kingdom by enabling, supporting and resourcing local Churches to function effectively in their discipleship and mission.

Essentially it provides currently for the

- Ministerial oversight and pastoral care of the 9 local churches in the Circuit
- The preaching plan which enables worship on a weekly basis in each church, plus extra circuit and seasonal services
- The maintenance of seven Circuit manses
- The management, oversight and work of the Circuit Mission Outreach Project (CMOP) and maintenance of the building from which this happens
- The oversight of two church premises where there are no longer active Methodist congregations

In carrying out its ministry and mission the Circuit holds the following values:

- Provision of regular worship in Circuit churches
- Promoting engagement with the Bible in our daily lives
- Communicating the gospel effectively
- Recognising the ministry of the whole people of God and therefore empowering the lay people in the circuit
- Serving the community through offering groups and occasions to meet like Toddler Groups, Lunch Clubs, craft groups, groups for elders and providing space for community organisations like Guides and Scouts, theatre groups
- Creating safe spaces for all, including children and vulnerable adults
- Actively working for justice and peace in the world and in our local communities
- Supporting and encouraging the rich cultural diversity of the Churches and Circuit

3 Review of progress and achievements

3.1 Romford Methodist Circuit Annual Report

The Romford Methodist Circuit Annual Report is prepared and presented to the Circuit meeting. It gives full detail of the activities of the Circuit and all the Churches making up the Circuit and the core central resources.

3.2 Circuit Goals

The principal purpose of the Circuit is to act as a supporting body between Churches and the Connexion. The Circuit does not seek and, in large measure, does not attain direct contact with the public. The direct contact is by the Churches and it is these that the Circuit supports in their desire to provide benefit to the public.

The goals of the Circuit are listed below:

- To develop lay leadership - in breadth, depth, numbers and confidence
- To ensure that every minister and local preacher is engaged in an intentional review and development of their ministry (primarily through the programmes of MDR, supervision training and the Continuing Development of Local Preachers).

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

3.3 Plans for future years

- Encourage initiatives for mission in Churches within the Circuit.
- Ensure that all those within the Circuit that should attend the Safeguarding Leadership Module do so.
- Ensure that any local issues emanating from the Past Cases Review are dealt with sympathetically, fully and in a timely manner.

4 Financial Plans and Review

- The Circuit's financial requirements are reviewed each year in the context of the aims listed above and the local Churches are invited to make offers of a share in meeting the total cost.
- The annual budget includes a provision for the general maintenance of the manses on the basis of £4,800 allocated to each property each year, however, if large expenditure is needed within the year to maintain manses or refurbish a newly purchased manse, the work needed will be agreed and authorised on a case by case basis. Large capital requirements are generally met from funds held in the Circuit Manse Fund (Designated).
- Circuit income is drawn primarily from the assessments paid by the nine Circuit Churches. During the year assessments increased to £189,225 (2024: £186,732).
- Rental income was received during the year from the letting of three Manses, this income is regarded as relatively short term in nature.
- Expenditure excluding capital levies on property sales increased to £484,708 (2024: £415,537) mainly due to the increased other expenses which included large professional fees, increase in the DAF levy on the value of the Circuit Model Trust Fund and increase in property expenses re provision for bad debt-rent of 39 Grey Towers Avenue.
- At 31 August 2025, unrestricted reserves, excluding the property fund, stood at £955,357 (2024: £1,057,633).
- The Circuit's Funds are split in the following categories:

Unrestricted Funds

- General Fund – this fund together with other unrestricted funds represent at least six months expenditure of the Circuit's general activities and whilst this represents a significant sum, in normal circumstances it is considered important that this level of funding be maintained to meet unexpected expenditure. The balance at the year end was £6,235,852 (2024: £6,298,324) after adjustments for accruals, including £6,165,000 relating to the manses within the Circuit but where the title lies with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.
- Circuit Model Trust Fund – the residual balance of funds which arose from the sale of Churches previously closed and sold and the previous sale of Manses (balance at the year end £769,395 after £40,000 of this fund was transferred to designated funds to assist member churches by way of grant).

Designated Funds

- Manse Fund - funds held for maintenance and upkeep of manses used by ministers and manses not currently occupied by ministers which are let.
- Other (Church support) - funds held to enable Circuit to assist member Churches with urgent or exceptional needs.

Restricted Funds

- Circuit Benevolent Fund – funds held to allow the Circuit to respond quickly to instances of poverty and hardship (Balance at the year end £2,575). The balance is considered adequate.
- Mission Outreach Fund (Formerly Youth Forum and Special Project Fund) – These funds are for circuit outreach work. The Collier Row Mission Outreach Project was started on 14 January 2018. The Mission Outreach Project management team included Revd Dr E Jackson, Deacon S J Rigby, Revd R Read, Joan Pugsley and Turplin Dixon.
- Aveley Bequests and Funeral Collections - funds deriving from legacies for the benefit of the former Aveley Church and funeral collections where the family have made specific requests (Balances at the year end £11,106).

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

4.1 Investment Policy

The investment of surplus funds is operated through the Central Finance Board (CFB) of the Methodist Church. CFB aims to provide high quality investment service seeking above average returns for long term investors, whilst ensuring that the securities held by all its funds are in line with the ethical policy of the Methodist Church. The Circuit holds unit trust investments and also funds in a deposit account with CFB. The Restricted Funds are managed by Trustees for Methodist Purposes (TMCP). These funds are also invested with the CFB.

4.2 Reserves Policy

Our Reserves Policy relates to our unrestricted funds which are freely available for any or all of the purposes of the Circuit. It is our policy to hold at least six months expenditure in hand to enable us to meet any calls for funding requirements. In addition, it is our policy to hold a manse reserve fund sufficient to meet foreseeable major expenditure.

5 Trustees Responsibilities

For each financial year ending 31 August, the trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- . select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- . observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- . make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- . state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- . prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

5.1 Risk Management

The Circuit has been considering the various risks facing the Circuit and the impact and the likelihood of issues happening, which will be reviewed every few years.

The headings under which the risks are being categorised include:

- Governance Risks including Trustees' Responsibilities
- Operational Risks including Resources, People and Property
- Financial Risks
- External Risks and Legal Risks

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

6 Structure, governance and management

6.1 Structure

The Romford Methodist Circuit is an unincorporated association and is governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976, the deed of Union and the Model Trust Deeds of the Methodist Church. It was registered with the Charity Commissioners on 19 November 2009.

Circuits are the coordinating charities for local groups of Churches; Circuits pay the stipends of the ministers and employ lay staff to serve the Churches in the Circuit; most decisions are made at or ratified by the Circuit meetings. The Methodist Conference meets once each year as the supreme denominational body for all Methodist Churches.

- 1 Overall regulatory authority rests with the Methodist Conference.
- 2 The Connexional office implements decisions made by Conference and is also responsible for the stationing of presbyters and deacons (collectively known as ministers) in individual Circuits within the District.
- 3 The Circuit Meeting passes regulatory control down to church councils for local implementation by the presbyter, the Church Stewards, and other officers, and this regulatory authority is then exercised by church councils as Managing Trustees of their charity.

6.2 Purpose of the Circuit

The purposes of the Romford Methodist Circuit are and deemed to have been since the date of the union the advancement of:

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

The primary purpose of this Circuit is to advance the mission of the Church in London, Essex and Thurrock by:

- 1 providing opportunities for Churches to work together and support each other
- 2 offering to Churches resource of finance, personnel and expertise.

6.3 Governance

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

Day to day management of the Circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team along with the Local Preachers meeting and the Circuit Finance and Property Committee.

6.4 Public Benefit Requirement

The trustees had due regard to the guidance published by the Charities Commission in compliance with its duties under section 4 of the Charities Act 2011.

This guidance sets out two key principles:

1. The organisation must have an identifiable benefit.
2. The benefit must be to the public or a section of the public.

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; and
- be a good neighbour to people in need and challenge injustice.

The trustees consider that for these reasons the charity meets these public benefit requirements.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

6.5 Related Parties

The Circuit is part of the London District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The following Methodist Churches are linked to the circuit:

Gidea Park, Harold Wood, Hornchurch, Romford, Upminster, Rainham, Brentwood, South Ockendon and Havering Road.

7 Reference and Administration Details

7.1 The full name of the Charity is Romford Methodist Circuit.

7.2 The Romford Methodist Circuit is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission in England and Wales. The organisation's Charity No is 1132795.

7.3 The address of the Circuit for correspondence is Circuit Mission Outreach Centre, Clockhouse Lane, Romford, RM5 3QP. The name of the person to whom correspondence should be addressed was Revd Dr E Jackson, Circuit Chair.

7.4 The managing trustees that served during the year were:

Revd Dr E Jackson, Revd R Asif, Revd R Maginley, Deacon S Rigby, Revd R Read.

In addition there were some 45 lay managing trustees. A full list of trustees is available on the Charity Commission website.

The Circuit's Bankers are: HSBC, Co-operative Bank and the Central Finance Board of the Methodist church "CFB".

7.5 Investments managed by the Circuit are held by Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes "TMCP"

7.6 Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the Circuit, specifically the leaflet 'The role of a Trustee in the Methodist Church' is given to all new Circuit meeting members as induction to their role as trustees.

7.7 Disclosure of information to auditors

In so far as the trustees are aware:

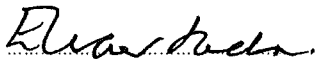
- there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditors are unaware; and

- the trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

7.8 Auditors

The auditors Clay Ratnag Strevens & Hills had been auditors to the Circuit from year ended 31 August 2016.

Approved by the managing trustees on 28/4/26 and signed on their behalf by:



Revd Dr E Jackson

Circuit Chair

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Romford Methodist Circuit (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 August 2025 which comprise Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2025, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 3, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

To identify risks of material misstatement due to fraud ("fraud risks") we assessed events or conditions that could indicate an incentive or pressure to commit fraud or provide an opportunity to commit fraud. Our risk assessment procedures included:

- Obtaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks applicable to the charity.
- Obtained an understanding of how the charity is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks by making enquiries to the trustees.
- The susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement caused by fraud or other irregularities were assessed with the following procedures:
 - Identifying and assessing the design effectiveness of controls which trustees have in place to prevent and detect fraud
 - Understanding how those charged with governance considered the potential for override of controls and management biases
 - Identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any journal entries posted with unusual account combinations

Potential fraud risks that had been identified throughout the planning and commencement of the audit were communicated to the audit team.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/library/standards-codes-policy/audit-assurance-and-ethics/auditors-responsibilities-for-the-audit/>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Clay Ratnage Strevens & Hills

Clay Ratnage Strevens & Hills

Chartered Accountants

& Statutory Auditors

Suite D, The Business Centre

Faringdon Avenue

Romford, Essex RM3 8EN

Date: 29/5/26

Clay Ratnage Strevens & Hills is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Other Funds (Restricted)	Total 2024-25	Total 2023-24
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
1 Donations & Legacies		-	-	-	1,792	1,792	1,078
2 Interest and Investment Income		23,665	-	2,871	5,190	31,726	37,513
3 Other income	3	12,932	-	-	30,632	43,564	45,391
4 Assessment on Churches	2	189,225	-	-	-	189,225	186,732
5 Contributions from Circuit Model Trust Funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
6 Connexional Advance & Property Fund		-	-	-	-	-	-
7 Capital receipts Refund of contribution to MMPS		-	-	-	-	-	-
8 Grants (including trfs from DAF)		-	-	-	15,000	15,000	20,000
9 Manse Rent Received		-	-	49,223	-	49,223	38,577
10 Total Income		225,822	-	52,094	52,614	330,530	329,291
Expenditure							
11 Grants and Donations	4	-	-	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
12 Salaries and associated costs	5	166,012	-	-	32,433	198,445	191,409
13 Property (incl Ins., C tax, utilities etc)	6	33,681	-	36,512	25,648	95,841	70,789
14 Office Expenses (Admin., tel. travel etc.)	7	7,025	-	-	578	7,603	8,254
15 District assessment		65,840	57,777	-	-	123,617	113,714
16 Depreciation		-	-	-	-	-	236
17 Other Expenditure (incl training)	8	7,100	5,641	12,908	23,993	49,642	21,791
18 Audit	9	4,560	-	-	-	4,560	4,344
19 Total Expenditure		284,218	63,418	54,420	82,652	484,708	415,537
20 Net Income/(Expenditure)		(58,396)	(63,418)	(2,326)	(30,038)	(154,178)	(86,246)
21 Transfers between funds	18	30,924	(30,000)	(2,674)	1,750	-	-
22 Sub Total		(27,472)	(93,418)	(5,000)	(28,288)	(154,178)	(86,246)
23 Transfer of balances from Farmlands Church		-	-	-	-	-	3,036
24 Gains/(losses) on sale of Manse		-	-	-	-	-	-
25 Gains/(losses) on revaluation fixed assets	10	(35,000)	-	-	-	(35,000)	-
26 Gains/(losses): on investment assets	11	-	23,378	-	-	23,378	80,222
27 Net investment in funds		(62,472)	(70,040)	(5,000)	(28,288)	(165,800)	(2,988)
28 Total funds brought forward from last year		6,298,324	839,435	120,110	1,361,680	8,619,549	8,622,537
29 Total funds carried forward at end of year		6,235,852	769,395	115,110	1,333,392	8,453,749	8,619,549

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

Balance brought forward from last year	-	-
Offerings/Gifts - received for External Organisations	654	180
Offerings/Gifts - passed to External Organisations	(654)	(180)
Balance still to be paid	-	-

The notes on pages 10 to 16 form part of these accounts.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Other Funds (Restricted)	Total 2025	Total 2024
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets							
Manse and other fixed assets	10	6,165,000	-	-	1,250,000	7,415,000	7,450,000
Investment properties		-	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	11	-	772,780	35,000	-	807,780	882,040
Total fixed assets		6,165,000	772,780	35,000	1,250,000	8,222,780	8,332,040
Current Assets							
Debtors and Prepayments	12	23,783	-	2,860	2,672	29,315	31,190
Central Finance Board and Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes deposits etc	13/14	84,523	2,883	70,742	122,484	280,632	302,498
Cash at Bank and in hand	14	18,857	-	6,820	6,975	32,652	24,178
Total current assets		127,163	2,883	80,422	132,131	342,599	357,866
Creditors and Accruals (due in under one year)	15	56,311	6,268	312	48,739	111,630	70,357
Net current (liabilities)/assets		70,852	(3,385)	80,110	83,392	230,969	287,509
Total assets less current liabilities		6,235,852	769,395	115,110	1,333,392	8,453,749	8,619,549
Long term liabilities							
Grants Payable		-	-	-	-	-	-
Other liabilities due after one year		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net assets		6,235,852	769,395	115,110	1,333,392	8,453,749	8,619,549
Funds of the Circuit							
General Fund (Unrestricted)		6,235,852				6,235,852	6,298,324
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			769,395			769,395	839,435
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)				115,110		115,110	120,110
Total Unrestricted funds						7,120,357	7,257,869
Other Funds (Restricted)					1,333,392	1,333,392	1,361,680
Total Restricted funds						1,333,392	1,361,680
Total Funds	17	6,235,852	769,395	115,110	1,333,392	8,453,749	8,619,549

The notes on pages 10 to 16 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the managing trustees on 28/4/26 and signed on their behalf by:

Rev'd Dr E Jackson

Rev'd Dr E Jackson

Circuit Chair

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 Accounting framework and accounting policies

i Accounting framework

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

ii Public benefit entity

The Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes below.

iii Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that Manses are shown at their market value at the end of the year, on the accruals basis to show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

iv Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

v FRS102 SORP 2019

These accounts are compliant with FRS 102 and with the FRS 102 SORP 2019.

vi Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2025, the trustees believe that the Circuit is a going concern.

vii Consolidation

The Circuit oversees the work of ministers and lay workers in Churches within the Circuit, but does not have control over those Churches, ministers or lay workers except in extreme circumstances, none of which were applicable. For this reason, the financial statements of the Churches within the Circuit are not consolidated into these financial statements.

viii Ministerial oversight and pastoral care of the nine local churches in the Circuit

Income is brought into account when it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will accrue to the Circuit. No attempt is made to measure the value of services donated by volunteers. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the time of volunteers is not recognised.

ix Expenditure

This is 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.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

x 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 Grants Committee 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 and included within the Circuit Advance Fund or other relevant designated fund in these accounts.

xi VAT

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

xii Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year. The Manses are shown in the accounts at market valuation at the end of the financial year.

xiii Debtors and creditors; bank and cash

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the Circuit or prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any trade discounts, where normal credit terms apply, or amount advanced to the Circuit. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds of bank balances and deposit account balances are shown at the realisable values.

xiv Ministers' manse costs

The Circuit is required to provide accommodation for each Minister and his / her family. The Circuit bears the cost of repairs, maintenance, building insurance, Council Tax and water charges. These costs are not shown separately as benefits-in-kind for Ministers as HMRC does not seek to tax these receipts in the hands of the Ministers.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

2 Assessment on Churches

For the current and future years, an assessment on churches is determined annually using a procedure known as "Give and Share" whereby Churches offer contributions towards the Circuit budget depending on the total required and ability to pay. Assessments on Churches in the Circuit for the year are as follows:

Church Name	2024-25	2023-24
Romford Contribution	20,600	19,500
South Ockendon Contribution	2,800	2,000
Farmlands Contribution (ceased worship 11 February 2024)	-	4,000
Rainham Contribution	11,003	10,800
Havering Road Contribution	18,756	18,299
Gidea Park Contribution	20,500	20,000
Harold Wood Contribution	26,100	23,000
Brentwood Contribution	16,966	22,646
Hornchurch Contribution	16,000	14,750
Uppminster Contribution	56,500	51,737
	<u>189,225</u>	<u>186,732</u>

3 Other income

	2024-25	2023-24
Mast and hall hire Circuit Mission Outreach Centre - Formerly Collier Row Church	30,632	31,014
Rental income Circuit Mission Outreach Centre	10,546	10,546
Uppminster manse expenses reimbursed by Newham Methodist Church	2,386	3,402
Miscellaneous income	-	429
	<u>43,564</u>	<u>45,391</u>

4 Grants were made during the year as shown in the table below:

	2024-25	2023-24
Grants to member Churches	5,000	5,000
	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>

5 Salaries and associated costs

	2024-25	2023-24
Gross Pay	128,010	138,413
Employer's National Insurance Contribution	13,856	12,915
Employer's pension contribution to the defined benefit scheme	24,816	36,169
Lay staff Gross Pay	27,986	25,123
Lay staff Employer's National Insurance	1,923	957
Lay staff employer's pension contribution to the defined contribution scheme	1,679	1,507
Apprentice levy	781	814
Payroll and pension admin charges	480	480
Refund of contribution to MMPS	(1,086)	(24,969)
	<u>198,445</u>	<u>191,409</u>

Gross salaries paid to four ministers and two lay staff in the year.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

5 Salaries and associated costs (Continued)

Payment to Trustees

It is Circuit policy to offer to reimburse members of the Circuit Meeting and others involved in the administration of Circuit affairs for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties. The Chair of the Circuit undertakes the primary executive role within the Circuit. Apart from the Chair of the Circuit and Ministers, no member of the Circuit Council was in receipt of any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the Circuit, although certain travelling and administration costs were reimbursed whenever this was requested. During the year, the Circuit paid £3,100 (2024 - £1,788) to Mr T Pugsley, a trustee, for repair work carried out at various Manses and to the Collier Row premises.

No accrual is made for the Chair's entitlement to a sabbatical as her functions are undertaken by other Circuit Chair or delegated persons at minimal extra cost to the Circuit.

Pensions

Most ordained presbyters and deacons are members of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS). This is a defined benefit scheme. The Supreme Court held in 2014 that Methodist ministers (which term includes presbyters and deacons) are not employees of the Church. For simplicity, however, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions and pension contributions, the terms 'employer' and 'employee' are used as they would be in an employing body. The MMPS is in deficit but a plan for removal of the deficit is being implemented. It would be difficult to determine the liability that could fall on the London District and no attempt has been made to attempt this valuation. The lay workers are enrolled in a defined contribution scheme managed by The Pension Trust.

6	Property costs	2024-25	2023-24
	Manse repairs	31,869	24,782
	Insurance and utilities	23,425	19,404
	Council tax	16,961	16,057
	Provision for doubtful debt (rent)	13,040	-
	CMOP share of lost rent	10,546	10,546
		<u>95,841</u>	<u>70,789</u>

It should be noted that the Circuit chair and ministerial team are required to occupy the Circuit manses. Circuit pays for the Manse and project centre repairs on a regular basis. Any major refurbishments are discussed and approved at the Circuit meeting before the work starts. Circuit pays for Manse's insurances, utilities and council tax for all the Manses occupied by chair and trustees except for two Manses which are let out.

7	Office expenses	2024-25	2023-24
	Telephone	2,939	4,185
	Travel	2,981	2,671
	Postage and stationery	1,220	974
	Software	340	248
	Bank charges	123	176
		<u>7,603</u>	<u>8,254</u>

8	Other expenditure	2024-25	2023-24
	Preachers fees and expenses	717	962
	Training and conference	362	218
	Sundries	533	1,352
	Other charges	8,355	10,367
	Professional fees and survey costs	38,657	7,157
	Mission Outreach Fund Activities and Resources	1,018	1,735
		<u>49,642</u>	<u>21,791</u>

9	Fees for examination or audit of the accounts	2024-25	2023-24
	Auditors' fees	2,053	1,956
	Other fees (e.g.: advice, accountancy services)	2,507	2,388
		<u>4,560</u>	<u>4,344</u>

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

10 Total Tangible Fixed Assets

	Other Fixed Assets	Land and Buildings (Other)	Land and Buildings (Manse)	Total
Cost or valuation				
Balance at 1st Sept 2024	-	2,050,000	5,400,000	7,450,000
Additions in the year	-			-
Contribution received	-			-
Depreciation	-			-
Revaluations in the year	-		(35,000)	(35,000)
Disposals in year	-			-
Balance at 31st August 2025	-	2,050,000	5,365,000	7,415,000

The Land and Buildings were revalued at 31 August 2022 and agreed by the Trustees, however, during the year adjustment has been made in respect of two manse where updated valuations have been received by Trustees. No depreciation is provided on the building because the trustees consider the current fair value of the manse buildings (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year-end) to be not less than its current value. Any depreciation would not be material. The manse have been reviewed for impairment.

Investment properties

No manse is currently deemed to be held for the long term investment purposes of the Circuit.

11 Investments

Unit trusts at market value	
Balance at 1st Sept 2024	882,040
Additions in the year	95,762
Disposals in year	(193,400)
Revaluations in the year	23,378
Balance at 31st August 2025	807,780

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

12 Debtors and prepayments

	2024-25	2023-24
Prepayments and accrued income		
Stipends paid in advance	14,447	13,711
Council tax and utilities	1,192	1,368
Rent receivable	3,487	2,094
Insurance	2,917	3,385
Church assessment due	-	6,000
Contribution to manse running costs	1,005	2,044
Accrued investment income	6,267	2,588
Total	29,315	31,190

13 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

The funds that support the Circuit Model Trust Fund are held by TMCP. TMCP is the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated funds. TMCP ensure that, through providing guidance and acting under their direction, the Managing Trustees comply with charity law and Methodist law and policy as determined by the Methodist Conference.

14 Central Finance Board (CFB) and cash at bank

The circuit has a current account with HSBC UK Bank plc and a current account at The Co-operative Bank Plc, both authorised institutions. The sums held on the account are immediately available. In addition, the Circuit has three deposit accounts at CFB. Interest is earned on these CFB accounts and credited monthly. This number excludes the restricted fund accounts.

15 Creditors and accrued expenses

	2024-25	2023-24
Creditors		
Expenses reimbursement	484	444
Audit and accountancy fees	4,560	4,344
	5,044	4,788
Accruals and deferred income		
Deferred income for activity next year	73,245	62,741
Other accrued property expenses	1,794	-
Accrued investment income	6,268	2,588
Agents fees related to rent arrears	312	240
Council tax	2,121	-
Accrued legal/professional fees	22,846	-
Total of creditors and accrued expenses	111,630	70,357

16 Grant commitments

Further grant income of £60,000 over 3 years was agreed by the District Advance Fund to support the Circuit Mission Outreach Project from 2025/26.

During the year it was agreed a grant of £5,000 would be made to Rainham Church, subject to meeting the conditions of the grant.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

17 Circuit funds (Unrestricted and Restricted)

The Circuit maintains a number of separate funds. The purpose, type, movement and state as at the end of year is documented below.

The funds held constitute: General Funds for any purpose and Circuit Development Fund, the capital normally being unavailable for spending and the income from which is either Restricted or Unrestricted. Details of each material fund are disclosed in the notes below.

Project		2024-25	2023-24
General Funds - Unrestricted	For use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the objectives of the Circuit. This excludes funds which have been designated for a specific purpose.	6,235,852	6,298,324
Circuit Model Trust Fund - Unrestricted	The residual balance of funds which arose from the sale of Churches previously closed and sold and the previous sale of Manses. For specific purposes but not restricted by document or deed to that purpose alone.	769,395	839,435
Designated Funds - Unrestricted	Manse Fund for the maintenance of manses	75,110	75,110
	Other - to assist member Churches	40,000	45,000
Mission Outreach Fund - Restricted	Circuit Mission Outreach	3,537	3,537
(Formerly Youth Forum/ Special Project Fund)	Collier Row Mission Outreach Project	1,316,174	1,345,425
Legacies and funeral collections	For use for the purposes specified in the relevant Wills or family requests	11,106	10,635
Circuit Benevolent Fund - Restricted	To help meet the exceptional needs of presbyters and deacons Circuit lay employees and their dependents within the Romford Circuit that cannot be met at a local Church or Circuit level alone, by providing a resource from which confidential payments can be made at the discretion of the Trustees.	2,575	2,083
		8,453,749	8,619,549

18 Transfer between funds

	2024-25	2023-24
Property surplus transfer to general fund	2,674	18,459
CMTF transfer to general fund	30,000	40,000
Contribution from general fund to circuit mission	1,750	1,750
Transfer donation from CMTF to Benevolent Fund	-	518
CMTF transfer to designated fund	-	50,000

19 Volunteer contribution

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit, Church) within the Methodist church in GB is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. Principally this contribution is by serving on committees of the Circuit that deal with mission, manses, finance, policy, grants, training, development. We are grateful to all of them for their help and commitment.

20 Connected Organisations and related parties

Connected organisations include the Methodist Connexion, the District and Churches within the Circuit, CFB and TMCP.

All of these entities have their own trustees or directors and autonomous administration. Details of transactions occurring during the year were as follows:

	Name of Connected Organisation	Receipts	Payments
Donor:	Churches within the Romford Circuit - Assessments	189,225	
Donor/Donee:	The London District (levies/grants)	15,000	68,970
Donee:	Methodist Church Fund via the London District		54,647
Donee:	Grant paid to Churches within the Romford Circuit		5,000
		204,225	128,617

DECLARATIONS

Treasurer

I confirm that I have prepared the accounts from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit

Signature of Treasurer

Tom E J Smith

Name

Tom E J Smith FCA CTA

Address

Circuit Mission Outreach Centre, Clockhouse Lane,
Romford RM5 3QP

Date

28/4/26

Presentation to the Circuit Meeting for approval.

I confirm that the Accounts will be presented to the Circuit Meeting on 28 April 2026 for approval.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Rev Dr E Jackson

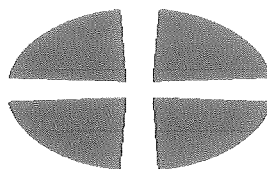
Name of the Chair of the meeting

Rev Dr E Jackson

Date

28/4/26 .

Accounts



**Circuit
Accruals Accounts
2023-24**

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS
ACCRUALS BASIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Romford Circuit Circuit no **35/32**

Registered Charity - Registration number **1132795**

Circuit Chair	Revd Dr E Jackson
Circuit Ministers	Revd K Bell (To 31/8/24)
	Revd R Asif
	Deacon SJ Rigby
	Revd Dr E Jackson
	Revd R Maginley
Circuit Stewards	J Gowlett
	R Hibbard
	T Pugsley
	T Dixon
Circuit Treasurer	T Smith

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Romford Methodist Circuit exists to enable and champion the work of churches in the Greater London and Essex area. There were ten Churches in the Romford Circuit at the beginning of the year. The Farmlands Church ceased to worship on 11th February 2024 and its funds have been transferred into the Circuit. Revd Dr E Jackson was the Chair of the Circuit throughout the year. The Chair works together with a team of paid and voluntary officers to support and develop the life of the Circuit.

On 19 November 2009, the Circuit was entered into the Register of Charities and the Charity Number is 1132795.

The Managing Trustees of the Romford Circuit are the members of the Circuit Meeting which meets at least three times a year to consider the work of God in the Circuit and the general management of the Circuit and its business. The membership of the Meeting is governed by the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church. The officers of the Circuit who are appointed by the Circuit Meeting to act upon its behalf comprise the Superintendent Minister, the Ministerial Staff Team, the Circuit Stewards and the Circuit Financial Steward (treasurer), Circuit Property Steward and Manse Stewards.

2 Objectives and Activities

2.1 Aims and organisation

The aims of the Circuit Meeting through its officers are twofold:

- to secure and sustain the Circuit's viability and future
- to give assurance to the general public that the Circuit, which is a charity, intends to use all of the money coming into its care for the purpose of the charity.

2.2 Romford Methodist Circuit Vision

The Circuit's Mission Policy states "The Romford Circuit exists to further God's Kingdom by enabling and supporting the local Churches in their discipleship and mission; resourcing local Churches under the power of the Holy Spirit to function as effective worship, witness and welfare centres. The Circuit achieves this by holding the following values in all its dealings with individuals, communities, local and national authorities, other charities and businesses,

- Bible knowledge: Engaging with the scriptures in our daily lives
- Serving the community: Concern and help for the needs of the local community
- Diversity and Cultural relevance: Maintaining the rich diversity of the Churches and Circuit and communicating the Gospel effectively
- Empowered laity: Recognising the ministry of the whole people of God
- Safeguarding: Creating safer spaces for all including children and vulnerable adults
- Quest for a just world: Actively working for peace with justice"

Essentially it provides for the,

- ministerial oversight and pastoral care of the ten local churches in the Circuit
- and the maintenance of seven Circuit manses

3 Review of progress and achievements

3.1 Romford Methodist Circuit Annual Report

The Romford Methodist Circuit Annual Report is prepared and presented to the Circuit meeting. It gives full detail of the activities of the Circuit and all the Churches making up the Circuit and the core central resources.

3.2 Circuit Goals

The principal purpose of the Circuit is to act as a supporting body between Churches and the Connexion. The Circuit does not seek and, in large measure, does not attain direct contact with the public. The direct contact is by the Churches and it is these that the Circuit supports in their desire to provide benefit to the public.

The goals of the Circuit are listed below:

- To develop lay leadership - in breadth, depth, numbers and confidence
- To ensure that every minister and local preacher is engaged in an intentional review and development of their ministry (primarily through the programmes of MDR, supervision training and the Continuing Development of Local Preachers).

3.3 Plans for future years

- Encourage initiatives for mission in Churches within the Circuit.
- Ensure that all those within the Circuit that should attend the Safeguarding Leadership Module do so.
- Ensure that any local issues emanating from the Past Cases Review are dealt with sympathetically, fully and in a timely manner.

4 Financial Plans and Review

- The Circuit's financial requirements are reviewed each year in the context of the aims listed above and the local Churches are invited to make offers of a share in meeting the total cost.
- The annual budget includes a provision for the general maintenance of the manses on the basis of £4,607 allocated to each property each year, however, if large expenditure is needed within the year to maintain manses or refurbish a newly purchased manse, the work needed will be agreed and authorised on a case by case basis. Large capital requirements are generally met from funds held in the Circuit Manse Fund (Designated).
- Circuit income is drawn primarily from the assessments paid by the ten Circuit Churches. During the year assessments increased to £186,732 (2023: £182,676).
- Rental income was received during the year from the letting of two Manses, this income is regarded as relatively short term in nature.
- Expenditure excluding capital levies on property sales reduced to £415,537 (2023: £437,614) mainly due to the decrease in the DAF levy on the value of the Circuit Model Trust Fund.
- At 31 August 2024, unrestricted reserves, excluding the property fund, stood at £1,057,633 (2023: £1,062,952).
- The Circuit's Funds are split in the following categories:

Unrestricted Funds

- General Fund – this fund together with other unrestricted funds represent at least six months expenditure of the Circuit's general activities and whilst this represents a significant sum, in normal circumstances it is considered important that this level of funding be maintained to meet unexpected expenditure. The balance at the year end was £6,298,324 (2023: £6,270,883) after adjustments for accruals, including £6,200,000 relating to the manses within the Circuit but where the title lies with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.
- Circuit Model Trust Fund – the residual balance of funds which arose from the sale of Churches previously closed and sold and the previous sale of Manses (Balance at the year end £839,435 after £45,000 of this fund was transferred to designated funds to assist member churches by way of grant.

Designated Funds

- Manse Fund - funds held for maintenance and upkeep of manses used by ministers and manses not currently occupied by ministers which are let.
- Other (Church support) - funds held to enable Circuit to assist member Churches with urgent or exceptional needs.

Restricted Funds

- Circuit Benevolent Fund – funds held to allow the Circuit to respond quickly to instances of poverty and hardship (Balance at the year end £2,083). The balance is considered adequate.
- Mission Outreach Fund (Formerly Youth Forum and Special Project Fund) – These funds are for circuit outreach work. The Collier Row Mission Outreach Project was started on 14 January 2018. The Mission Outreach Project management team included Revd Dr E Jackson, Revd K Bell, Deacon S J Rigby, Joan Pugsley and Turplin Dixon.
- Aveley Bequests and Funeral Collections - funds deriving from legacies for the benefit of the former Aveley Church and funeral collections where the family have made specific requests (Balances at the year end £10,635).

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

4.1 Investment Policy

The investment of surplus funds is operated through the Central Finance Board (CFB) of the Methodist Church. CFB aims to provide high quality investment service seeking above average returns for long term investors, whilst ensuring that the securities held by all its funds are in line with the ethical policy of the Methodist Church. The Circuit holds unit trust investments and also funds in a deposit account with CFB. The Restricted Funds are managed by Trustees for Methodist Purposes (TMCP). These funds are also invested with the CFB.

4.2 Reserves Policy

Our Reserves Policy relates to our unrestricted funds which are freely available for any or all of the purposes of the Circuit. It is our policy to hold at least six months expenditure in hand to enable us to meet any calls for funding requirements. In addition, it is our policy to hold a manse reserve fund sufficient to meet foreseeable major expenditure.

5 Trustees Responsibilities

For each financial year ending 31 August, the trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity .

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- . select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- . observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- . make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- . state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- . prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

5.1 Risk Management

The Circuit has been considering the various risks facing the Circuit and the impact and the likelihood of issues happening, which will be reviewed every few years.

The headings under which the risks are being categorised include:

- Governance Risks including Trustees' Responsibilities
- Operational Risks including Resources, People and Property
- Financial Risks
- External Risks and Legal Risks

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

6 Structure, governance and management

6.1 Structure

The Romford Methodist Circuit is an unincorporated association and is governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976, the deed of Union and the Model Trust Deeds of the Methodist Church. It was registered with the Charity Commissioners on 19 November 2009.

Circuits are the coordinating charities for local groups of Churches; Circuits pay the stipends of the ministers and employ lay staff to serve the Churches in the Circuit; most decisions are made at or ratified by the Circuit meetings. The Methodist Conference meets once each year as the supreme denominational body for all Methodist Churches.

- 1 Overall regulatory authority rests with the Methodist Conference.
- 2 The Connexional office implements decisions made by Conference and is also responsible for the stationing of presbyters and deacons (collectively known as ministers) in individual Circuits within the District.
- 3 The Circuit Meeting passes regulatory control down to church councils for local implementation by the presbyter, the Church Stewards, and other officers, and this regulatory authority is then exercised by church councils as Managing Trustees of their charity.

6.2 Purpose of the Circuit

The purposes of the Romford Methodist Circuit are and deemed to have been since the date of the union the advancement of:

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

The primary purpose of this Circuit is to advance the mission of the Church in London, Essex and Thurrock by:

- 1 providing opportunities for Churches to work together and support each other
- 2 offering to Churches resource of finance, personnel and expertise.

6.3 Governance

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

Day to day management of the Circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team along with the Local Preachers meeting and the Circuit Finance and Property Committee.

6.4 Public Benefit Requirement

The trustees had due regard to the guidance published by the Charities Commission in compliance with its duties under section 4 of the Charities Act 2011.

This guidance sets out two key principles:

1. The organisation must have an identifiable benefit.
2. The benefit must be to the public or a section of the public.

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; and
- be a good neighbour to people in need and challenge injustice.

The trustees consider that for these reasons the charity meets these public benefit requirements.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

6.5 Related Parties

The Circuit is part of the London District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The following Methodist Churches are linked to the circuit:

Gidea Park, Harold Wood, Hornchurch, Romford, Upminster, Rainham, Brentwood, South Ockendon, Farmlands (to 11 February 2024) and Havering Road.

7 Reference and Administration Details

7.1 The full name of the Charity is Romford Methodist Circuit.

7.2 The Romford Methodist Circuit is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission in England and Wales. The organisation's Charity No is 1132795.

7.3 The address of the Circuit for correspondence is Circuit Mission Outreach Centre, Clockhouse Lane, Romford, RM5 3QP. The name of the person to whom correspondence should be addressed was Revd Dr E Jackson, Circuit Chair.

7.4 The managing trustees that served during the year were:

Revd Dr E Jackson, Revd R Asif, Revd K Bell, Revd R Maginley, Deacon S Rigby

In addition there were some 45 lay managing trustees. A full list of trustees is available on the Charity Commission website.

The Circuit's Bankers are: HSBC, Co-operative Bank and the Central Finance Board of the Methodist church "CFB".

7.5 Investments managed by the Circuit are held by Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes "TMCP"

7.6 Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the Circuit, specifically the leaflet 'The role of a Trustee in the Methodist Church' is given to all new Circuit meeting members as induction to their role as trustees. Trustee training was held on 28 November 2017.

7.7 Disclosure of information to auditors

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

7.8 Auditors

The auditors Clay Ratnage Strevens & Hills had been auditors to the Circuit from year ended 31 August 2016.

Approved by the managing trustees on 1/4/2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Revd Dr E Jackson

Circuit Chair

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Romford Methodist Circuit (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2024, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 3, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

To identify risks of material misstatement due to fraud ("fraud risks") we assessed events or conditions that could indicate an incentive or pressure to commit fraud or provide an opportunity to commit fraud. Our risk assessment procedures included:

- Obtaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks applicable to the charity.
- Obtained an understanding of how the charity is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks by making enquiries to the trustees.
- The susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement caused by fraud or other irregularities were assessed with the following procedures:
- Identifying and assessing the design effectiveness of controls which trustees have in place to prevent and detect fraud
- Understanding how those charged with governance considered the potential for override of controls and management biases
- Identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any journal entries posted with unusual account combinations

Potential fraud risks that had been identified throughout the planning and commencement of the audit were communicated to the audit team.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/library/standards-codes-policy/audit-assurance-and-ethics/auditors-responsibilities-for-the-audit/>. This description forms part

Clay Ratnage Strevens & Hills

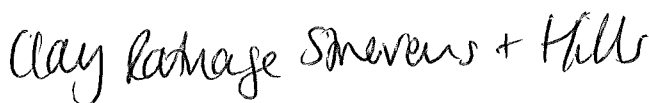
Chartered Accountants

& Statutory Auditors

Suite D, The Business Centre

Faringdon Avenue

Romford, Essex RM3 8EN



Date: 2/7/2025

Clay Ratnage Strevens & Hills is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Other Funds (Restricted)	Total 2023-24	Total 2022-23
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
1 Donations & Legacies		843	-	-	235	1,078	693
2 Interest and Investment Income		28,239	-	3,217	6,057	37,513	31,236
3 Other income	3	14,032	-	345	31,014	45,391	52,222
4 Assessment on Churches	2	186,732	-	-	-	186,732	182,676
5 Contributions from Circuit Model Trust Funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
6 Connexional Advance & Property Fund		-	-	-	-	-	-
7 Capital receipts Refund of contribution to MMPS		-	-	-	-	-	-
8 Grants (including trfs from DAF)		-	-	-	20,000	20,000	25,000
9 Manse Rent Received		-	-	38,577	-	38,577	33,775
10 Total Income		229,846	-	42,139	57,306	329,291	325,602
Expenditure							
11 Grants and Donations	4	-	-	5,000	-	5,000	-
12 Salaries and associated costs	5	159,846	-	-	31,563	191,409	199,718
13 Property (incl Ins., C tax, utilities etc)	6	29,300	-	18,965	22,524	70,789	78,402
14 Office Expenses (Admin., tel. travel etc.)	7	7,684	-	-	570	8,254	6,696
15 District assessment		53,692	60,022	-	-	113,714	127,455
16 Depreciation		236	-	-	-	236	749
17 Other Expenditure (incl training)	8	7,048	7,724	4,715	2,304	21,791	20,454
18 Audit	10	4,344	-	-	-	4,344	4,140
19 Total Expenditure		262,150	67,746	28,680	56,961	415,537	437,614
20 Net Income/(Expenditure)		(32,304)	(67,746)	13,459	345	(86,246)	(112,012)
21 Transfers between funds	18	56,709	(90,000)	31,541	1,750	-	-
22 Sub Total		24,405	(157,746)	45,000	2,095	(86,246)	(112,012)
23 Transfer of balances from Farmlands Church		3,036	-	-	-	3,036	-
24 Gains/(losses) on sale of Manse		-	-	-	-	-	-
25 Gains/(losses) on revaluation fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-	-
26 Gains/(losses): on investment assets	11	-	80,222	-	-	80,222	(22,939)
27 Net investment in funds		27,441	(77,524)	45,000	2,095	(2,988)	(134,951)
28 Total funds brought forward from last year		6,270,883	916,959	75,110	1,359,585	8,622,537	8,757,488
29 Total funds carried forward at end of year		6,298,324	839,435	120,110	1,361,680	8,619,549	8,622,537

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

Balance brought forward from last year	-	-
Offerings/Gifts - received for External Organisations	180	-
Offerings/Gifts - passed to External Organisations	(180)	-
Balance still to be paid	-	-

The notes on pages 10 to 16 form part of these accounts.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Other Funds (Restricted)	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets							
Manse and other fixed assets	10	6,200,236	-	-	1,249,764	7,450,000	7,450,236
Investment properties		-	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	11	-	837,040	45,000	-	882,040	916,959
Total fixed assets		6,200,236	837,040	45,000	1,249,764	8,332,040	8,367,195
Current Assets							
Debtors and Prepayments	12	29,096	-	2,000	94	31,190	26,371
Central Finance Board and Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes deposits etc	13/14	100,753	4,983	68,871	127,891	302,498 <i>Trust 10,890</i>	280,515
Cash at Bank and in hand	14	18,953	-	5,202	23	24,178	20,952
Total current assets		148,802	4,983	76,073	128,008	357,866	327,838
Creditors and Accruals (due in under one year)	15	50,714	2,588	963	16,092	70,357	72,496
Net current (liabilities)/assets		98,088	2,395	75,110	111,916	287,509	255,342
Total assets less current liabilities		6,298,324	839,435	120,110	1,361,680	8,619,549	8,622,537
Long term liabilities							
Grants Payable		-	-	-	-	-	-
Other liabilities due after one year		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net assets		6,298,324	839,435	120,110	1,361,680	8,619,549	8,622,537
Funds of the Circuit							
General Fund (Unrestricted)		6,298,324				6,298,324	6,270,883
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			839,435			839,435	916,959
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)				120,110		120,110	75,110
Total Unrestricted funds						7,257,869	7,262,952
Other Funds (Restricted)					1,361,680	1,361,680	1,359,585
Total Restricted funds						1,361,680	1,359,585
Total Funds	17	6,298,324	839,435	120,110	1,361,680	8,619,549	8,622,537

The notes on pages 10 to 16 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the managing trustees on 1/4/2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Revd Dr E Jackson

Revd Dr E Jackson

Circuit Chair

1 Accounting framework and accounting policies

i Accounting framework

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

ii Public benefit entity

The Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes below.

iii Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that Manses are shown at their market value at the end of the year, on the accruals basis to show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

iv Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

v FRS102 SORP 2019

These accounts are compliant with FRS 102 and with the FRS 102 SORP 2019.

vi Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2024, the trustees believe that the Circuit is a going concern.

vii Consolidation

The Circuit oversees the work of ministers and lay workers in Churches within the Circuit, but does not have control over those Churches, ministers or lay workers except in extreme circumstances, none of which were applicable. For this reason, the financial statements of the Churches within the Circuit are not consolidated into these financial statements.

viii Ministerial oversight and pastoral care of the ten local churches in the Circuit

Income is brought into account when it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will accrue to the Circuit. No attempt is made to measure the value of services donated by volunteers. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the time of volunteers is not recognised.

ix Expenditure

This is 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.

x 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 Grants Committee 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 and included within the Circuit Advance Fund or other relevant designated fund in these accounts.

xi VAT

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

xii Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year. The Manses are shown in the accounts at market valuation at the end of the financial year.

xiii Debtors and creditors; bank and cash

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the Circuit or prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any trade discounts, where normal credit terms apply, or amount advanced to the Circuit. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds of bank balances and deposit account balances are shown at the realisable values.

xiv Ministers' manse costs

The Circuit is required to provide accommodation for each Minister and his / her family. The Circuit bears the cost of repairs, maintenance, building insurance, Council Tax and water charges. These costs are not shown separately as benefits-in-kind for Ministers as HMRC does not seek to tax these receipts in the hands of the Ministers.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

2 Assessment on Churches

For the current and future years, an assessment on churches is determined annually using a procedure known as "Give and Share" whereby Churches offer contributions towards the Circuit budget depending on the total required and ability to pay. Assessments on Churches in the Circuit for the year are as follows:

Church Name	2023-24	2022-23
Romford Contribution	19,500	21,800
South Ockendon Contribution	2,000	2,000
Farmlands Contribution (ceased worship 11 February 2024)	4,000	8,000
Rainham Contribution	10,800	10,064
Havering Road Contribution	18,299	17,072
Gidea Park Contribution	20,000	16,800
Harold Wood Contribution	23,000	21,646
Brentwood Contribution	22,646	22,646
Hornchurch Contribution	14,750	13,500
Upminster Contribution	51,737	49,148
	<u>186,732</u>	<u>182,676</u>

3 Other income

	2023-24	2022-23
Mast and hall hire Circuit Mission Outreach Centre - Formerly Collier Row Church	31,014	36,667
Rental income Circuit Mission Outreach Centre	10,546	10,546
Upminster manse expenses reimbursed by Newham Methodist Church	3,402	5,009
Miscellaneous income	429	-
	<u>45,391</u>	<u>52,222</u>

4 Grants were made during the year as shown in the table below:

	2023-24	2022-23
Grants to member Churches	5,000	-
	<u>5,000</u>	<u>-</u>

5 Salaries and associated costs

	2023-24	2022-23
Gross Pay	138,413	128,250
Employer's National Insurance Contribution	12,915	11,693
Employer's pension contribution to the defined benefit scheme	36,169	33,538
Lay staff Gross Pay	25,123	23,038
Lay staff Employer's National Insurance	957	675
Lay staff employer's pension contribution to the defined contribution scheme	1,507	1,283
Apprentice levy	814	761
Payroll and pension admin charges	480	480
Refund of contribution to MMPS	(24,969)	-
	<u>191,409</u>	<u>199,718</u>

Gross salaries paid to five ministers and two lay staff in the year.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

5 Salaries and associated costs (Continued)

Payment to Trustees

It is Circuit policy to offer to reimburse members of the Circuit Meeting and others involved in the administration of Circuit affairs for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties. The Chair of the Circuit undertakes the primary executive role within the Circuit. Apart from the Chair of the Circuit and Ministers, no member of the Circuit Council was in receipt of any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the Circuit, although certain travelling and administration costs were reimbursed whenever this was requested. During the year, the Circuit paid £1,788 (2023 - £1,338) to Mr T Pugsley, a trustee, for repair work carried out at various Manses and to the Collier Row premises.

No accrual is made for the Chair's entitlement to a sabbatical as her functions are undertaken by other Circuit Chair or delegated persons at minimal extra cost to the Circuit.

Pensions

Most ordained presbyters and deacons are members of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS). This is a defined benefit scheme. The Supreme Court held in 2014 that Methodist ministers (which term includes presbyters and deacons) are not employees of the Church. For simplicity, however, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions and pension contributions, the terms 'employer' and 'employee' are used as they would be in an employing body. The MMPS is in deficit but a plan for removal of the deficit is being implemented. It would be difficult to determine the liability that could fall on the London District and no attempt has been made to attempt this valuation. The lay workers are enrolled in a defined contribution scheme managed by The Pension Trust.

6	Property costs	2023-24	2022-23
	Manse repairs	24,782	32,493
	Insurance and utilities	19,404	20,034
	Council tax	16,057	15,329
	CMOP share of lost rent	10,546	10,546
		<u>70,789</u>	<u>78,402</u>

It should be noted that the Circuit chair and ministerial team are required to occupy the Circuit manses. Circuit pays for the Manse and project centre repairs on a regular basis. Any major refurbishments are discussed and approved at the Circuit meeting before the work starts. Circuit pays for Manse's insurances, utilities and council tax for all the Manses occupied by chair and trustees except for two Manses which are let out.

7	Office expenses	2023-24	2022-23
	Telephone	4,185	3,631
	Travel	2,671	2,595
	Postage and stationery	974	72
	Software	248	190
	Bank charges	176	208
		<u>8,254</u>	<u>6,696</u>

8	Other expenditure	2023-24	2022-23
	Preachers fees and expenses	962	1,077
	Removal costs	-	3,393
	Ministers' relocation allowance	-	600
	Training and conference	218	184
	Sundries	1,352	1,628
	Other charges	10,367	3,224
	Professional fees and survey costs	7,157	8,536
	Mission Outreach Fund Activities and Resources	1,735	1,769
	Loan interest	-	43
		<u>21,791</u>	<u>20,454</u>

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

9	Fees for examination or audit of the accounts	2023-24	2022-23
	Auditors' fees	1,956	1,863
	Other fees (e.g.: advice, accountancy services)	2,388	2,277
		<u>4,344</u>	<u>4,140</u>

10 Total Tangible Fixed Assets

	Other Fixed Assets	Land and Buildings (Other)	Land and Buildings (Manse)	Total
Cost or valuation				
Balance at 1st Sept 2023	236	2,050,000	5,400,000	7,450,236
Additions in the year	-			-
Contribution received	-			-
Depreciation	(236)			(236)
Revaluations in the year	-			-
Disposals in year	-			-
Balance at 31st August 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>2,050,000</u>	<u>5,400,000</u>	<u>7,450,000</u>

The Land and Buildings were revalued at 31 August 2022 and agreed by the Trustees. No depreciation is provided on the building because the trustees consider the current fair value of the manse buildings (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year-end) to be not less than its current value. Any depreciation would not be material. The manses have been reviewed for impairment.

Investment properties

No manse is currently deemed to be held for the long term investment purposes of the Circuit.

11 Investments

Unit trusts at market value	
Balance at 1st Sept 2023	916,959
Additions in the year	953,269
Disposals in year	(1,068,410)
Revaluations in the year	80,222
Balance at 31st August 2024	<u>882,040</u>

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

12 Debtors and prepayments

	2023-24	2022-23
Prepayments and accrued income		
Stipends paid in advance	13,711	15,612
Council tax and utilities	1,368	1,298
Rent receivable	2,094	674
Insurance	3,385	2,939
Church assessment due	6,000	-
Contribution to manse running costs	2,044	5,848
Accrued investment income	2,588	-
Total	31,190	26,371

13 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

The funds that support the Circuit Model Trust Fund are held by TMCP. TMCP is the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated funds. TMCP ensure that, through providing guidance and acting under their direction, the Managing Trustees comply with charity law and Methodist law and policy as determined by the Methodist Conference.

14 Central Finance Board (CFB) and cash at bank

The circuit has a current account with HSBC UK Bank plc and a current account at The Co-operative Bank Plc, both authorised institutions. The sums held on the account are immediately available. In addition, the Circuit has three deposit accounts at CFB. Interest is earned on these CFB accounts and credited monthly. This number excludes the restricted fund accounts.

15 Creditors and accrued expenses

	2023-24	2022-23
Creditors		
Expenses reimbursement	444	465
Audit and accountancy fees	4,344	4,140
	4,788	4,605
Accruals and deferred income		
Deferred income for activity next year	62,741	65,173
Other accrued property expenses	-	2,718
Accrued investment income	2,588	-
Agents fees related to rent arrears	240	
Total of creditors and accrued expenses	70,357	72,496

16 Grant commitments

A further grant of £60,000 over 3 years was agreed by the District Advance Fund to support the Circuit Mission Outreach Project from 2025/26.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

17 Circuit funds (Unrestricted and Restricted)

The Circuit maintains a number of separate funds. The purpose, type, movement and state as at the end of year is documented below.

The funds held constitute: General Funds for any purpose and Circuit Development Fund, the capital normally being unavailable for spending and the income from which is either Restricted or Unrestricted. Details of each material fund are disclosed in the notes below.

Project		2023-24	2022-23
General Funds - Unrestricted	For use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the objectives of the Circuit. This excludes funds which have been designated for a specific purpose.	6,298,324	6,270,883
Circuit Model Trust Fund - Unrestricted	The residual balance of funds which arose from the sale of Churches previously closed and sold and the previous sale of Manses. For specific purposes but not restricted by document or deed to that purpose alone.	839,435	916,959
Designated Funds - Unrestricted	Manse Fund for the maintenance of manses	75,110	75,110
	Other - to assist member Churches	45,000	-
Mission Outreach Fund - Restricted (Formerly Youth Forum/ Special Project Fund)	Circuit Mission Outreach	3,537	3,537
	Collier Row Mission Outreach Project	1,345,425	1,344,484
Legacies and funeral collections	For use for the purposes specified in the relevant Wills or family requests	10,635	10,065
Circuit Benevolent Fund - Restricted	To help meet the exceptional needs of presbyters and deacons Circuit lay employees and their dependents within the Romford Circuit that cannot be met at a local Church or Circuit level alone, by providing a resource from which confidential payments can be made at the discretion of the Trustees.	2,083	1,499
		8,619,549	8,622,537

18 Transfer between funds

	2023-24	2022-23
Property surplus transfer to general fund	18,459	2,781
Other designated fund transfer to general fund	-	25,000
CMTF transfer to general fund	40,000	100,732
Contribution from general fund to circuit mission	1,750	-
Transfer donation from CMTF to Benevolent Fund	518	-
CMTF transfer to designated fund	50,000	-

19 Volunteer contribution

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit, Church) within the Methodist church in GB is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. Principally this contribution is by serving on committees of the Circuit that deal with mission, manses, finance, policy, grants, training, development. We are grateful to all of them for their help and commitment.

20 Connected Organisations and related parties

Connected organisations include the Methodist Connexion, the District and Churches within the Circuit, CFB and TMCP.

All of these entities have their own trustees or directors and autonomous administration. Details of transactions occurring during the year were as follows:

	Name of Connected Organisation	Receipts	Payments
Donor:	Churches within the Romford Circuit - Assessments	186,732	
Donor/Donnee:	The London District (levies/grants)	20,000	67,754
Donee:	Methodist Church Fund via the London District		45,960
Donee:	Grant paid to Churches within the Romford Circuit		5,000
		206,732	118,714

DECLARATIONS

Treasurer

I confirm that I have prepared the accounts from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit

Signature of Treasurer

Tom E J Smith

Name

Tom E J Smith FCA CTA

Address

Circuit Mission Outreach Centre, Clockhouse Lane,
Romford RM5 3QP

Date

1/4/2025

Presentation to the Circuit Meeting for approval.

I confirm that the Accounts will be presented to the Circuit Meeting on 1 April 2025 for approval.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Rev Dr E Jackson

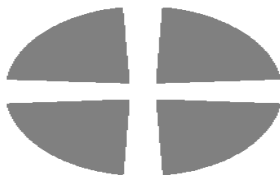
Name of the Chair of the meeting

Rev Dr E Jackson

Date

1/4/25.

Accounts



Circuit
Accruals Accounts
2022-23

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS
ACCRUALS BASIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Romford	Circuit	Circuit no	35/32
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Registered Charity - Registration number	1132795
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Circuit Chair	Revd Dr E Jackson
Circuit Ministers	Revd K Bell
	Revd J Ribeiro
	Revd R Asif
	Deacon SJ Rigby
	Revd Dr E Jackson
Circuit Stewards	J Gowlett
	R Hibbard
	T Pugsley
	T Dixon
Circuit Treasurer	T Smith

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Introduction

1.1

The Romford Methodist Circuit serves to enable and champion the work of churches in the Greater London and Essex area. There are ten Churches in the Romford Circuit. Revd Dr E Jackson was the Chair of the Circuit throughout the year. The Chair works together with a team of paid and voluntary officers to support and develop the life of the Circuit.

On 19 November 2009, the Circuit was entered into the Register of Charities and the Charity Number is 1132795.

The Managing Trustees of the Romford Circuit are the members of the Circuit Meeting which meets at least three times a year to consider the work of God in the Circuit and the general management of the Circuit and its business. The membership of the Meeting is governed by the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church. The officers of the Circuit who are appointed by the Circuit Meeting to act upon its behalf comprise the Superintendent Minister, the Ministerial Staff Team, the Circuit Stewards and the Circuit Financial Steward (treasurer), Circuit Property Steward and Manse Stewards.

2 Objectives and Activities

2.1 Aims and organisation

The aims of the Circuit Meeting through its officers are twofold:

- to secure and sustain the Circuit's viability and future
- to give assurance to the general public that the Circuit, which is a charity, intends to use all of the money coming into its care for the purpose of the charity.

2.2 Romford Methodist Circuit Vision

The Circuit's Mission Policy states "The Romford Circuit exists to further God's Kingdom by enabling and supporting the local Churches in their discipleship and mission; resourcing local Churches under the power of the Holy Spirit to function as effective worship, witness and welfare centres. The Circuit achieves this by holding the following values in all its dealings with individuals, communities, local and national authorities, other charities and businesses,

- Bible knowledge: Engaging with the scriptures in our daily lives
- Serving the community: Concern and help for the needs of the local community
- Diversity and Cultural relevance: Maintaining the rich diversity of the Churches and Circuit and communicating the Gospel effectively
- Empowered laity: Recognising the ministry of the whole people of God
- Safeguarding: Creating safer spaces for all including children and vulnerable adults
- Quest for a just world: Actively working for peace with justice"

Essentially it provides for the,

- ministerial oversight and pastoral care of the ten local churches in the Circuit
- and the maintenance of seven Circuit manses

3 Review of progress and achievements

3.1 Romford Methodist Circuit Annual Report

The Romford Methodist Circuit Annual Report is prepared and presented to the Circuit meeting. It gives full detail of the activities of the Circuit and all the Churches making up the Circuit and the core central resources.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

3.2 Circuit Goals

The principal purpose of the Circuit is to act as a supporting body between Churches and the Connexion. The Circuit does not seek and, in large measure, does not attain direct contact with the public. The direct contact is by the Churches and it is these that the Circuit supports in their desire to provide benefit to the public.

The goals of the Circuit are listed below:

- To develop lay leadership - in breadth, depth, numbers and confidence
- To ensure that every minister and local preacher is engaged in an intentional review and development of their ministry (primarily through the programmes of MDR, supervision training and the Continuing Development of Local Preachers).

3.3 Plans for future years

- Ensure that any local issues emanating from the Past Cases Review are dealt with sympathetically, fully and in a timely manner.
- Ensure that all those within the Circuit that should attend the Safeguarding Leadership Module do so.
- Encourage initiatives for mission in Churches within the Circuit.

4 Financial Plans and Review

- The Circuit's financial requirements are reviewed each year in the context of the aims listed above and the local Churches are invited to make offers of a share in meeting the total cost.
- The annual budget includes a provision for the general maintenance of the manses on the basis of £4,495 allocated to each property each year, however, if large expenditure is needed within the year to maintain manses or refurbish a newly purchased manse, the work needed will be agreed and authorised on a case by case basis. Large capital requirements are generally met from funds held in the Circuit Manse Fund (Designated).
- Circuit income is drawn primarily from the assessments paid by the ten Circuit Churches. During the year assessments reduced to £182,676 (2022: £209,878).
- Rental income was received during the year from the letting of two Manses, this income is regarded as relatively short term in nature.
- Expenditure excluding capital levies on property sales increased to £437,614 (2022: £400,221) mainly due to the increase in the DAF levy on the value of the Circuit Model Trust Fund.
- At 31 August 2023, unrestricted reserves, excluding the property fund, stood at £1,062,952 (2022: £1,205,490).
- The Circuit's Funds are split in the following categories:

Unrestricted Funds

- General Fund – this fund together with other unrestricted funds represent at least six months expenditure of the Circuit's general activities and whilst this represents a significant sum, in normal circumstances it is considered important that this level of funding be maintained to meet unexpected expenditure. Having regard to the financial difficulties experienced during the Covid pandemic, the Circuit has however agreed to allow the available unrestricted funds to be reduced to cover at least three months' budgeted expenditure. The balance at the year end was £6,270,883 (2022: £6,189,423) after adjustments for accruals, including £6,200,000 relating to the manses within the Circuit but where the title lies with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.
- Circuit Model Trust Fund – the residual balance of funds which arose from the sale of Churches previously closed and sold and the previous sale of Manses (Balance at the year end £916,959, of this £740,946 was designated for the purposes of mission activity within the Circuit.)

Designated Funds

- Manse Fund - funds held for maintenance and upkeep of manses used by ministers and manses not currently occupied by ministers which are let.
- Other (Church support) - funds held to enable Circuit to assist member Churches with urgent or exceptional needs.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

Restricted Funds

- Circuit Benevolent Fund – funds held to allow the Circuit to respond quickly to instances of poverty and hardship (Balance at the year end £1,499). The balance is considered adequate.
- Mission Outreach Fund (Formerly Youth Forum and Special Project Fund) – These funds are for circuit outreach work. The Collier Row Mission Outreach Project was started on 14 January 2018. The Mission Outreach Project management team included Revd Dr E Jackson, Revd K Bell, Deacon S J Rigby, Joan Pugsley and Turplin Dixon.

4.1 Investment Policy

The investment of surplus funds is operated through the Central Finance Board (CFB) of the Methodist Church. CFB aims to provide high quality investment service seeking above average returns for long term investors, whilst ensuring that the securities held by all its funds are in line with the ethical policy of the Methodist Church. The Circuit holds unit trust investments and also funds in a deposit account with CFB. The Restricted Funds are managed by Trustees for Methodist Purposes (TMCP). These funds are also invested with the CFB.

4.2 Reserves Policy

Our Reserves Policy relates to our unrestricted funds which are freely available for any or all of the purposes of the Circuit. It is our policy to hold at least six months expenditure in hand to enable us to meet any calls for funding requirements. In addition, it is our policy to hold a manse reserve fund sufficient to meet foreseeable major expenditure.

5 Trustees Responsibilities

For each financial year ending 31 August, the trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity .

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

5.1 Risk Management

The Circuit has been considering the various risks facing the Circuit and the impact and the likelihood of issues happening, which will be reviewed every few years.

The headings under which the risks are being categorised include:

- Governance Risks including Trustees' Responsibilities
- Operational Risks including Resources, People and Property
- Financial Risks
- External Risks and Legal Risks

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

6 Structure, governance and management**6.1 Structure**

The Romford Methodist Circuit is an unincorporated association and is governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976, the deed of Union and the Model Trust Deeds of the Methodist Church. It was registered with the Charity Commissioners on 19 November 2009.

Circuits are the coordinating charities for local groups of Churches; Circuits pay the stipends of the ministers and employ lay staff to serve the Churches in the Circuit; most decisions are made at or ratified by the Circuit meetings. The Methodist Conference meets once each year as the supreme denominational body for all Methodist Churches.

- 1 Overall regulatory authority rests with the Methodist Conference.
- 2 The Connexional office implements decisions made by Conference and is also responsible for the stationing of presbyters and deacons (collectively known as ministers) in individual Circuits within the District.
- 3 The Circuit Meeting passes regulatory control down to church councils for local implementation by the presbyter, the Church Stewards, and other officers, and this regulatory authority is then exercised by church councils as Managing Trustees of their charity.

6.2 Purpose of the Circuit

The purposes of the Romford Methodist Circuit are and deemed to have been since the date of the union the advancement of:

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

The primary purpose of this Circuit is to advance the mission of the Church in London, Essex and Thurrock by:

- 1 providing opportunities for Churches to work together and support each other
- 2 offering to Churches resource of finance, personnel and expertise.

6.3 Governance

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

Day to day management of the Circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team along with the Local Preachers meeting and the Circuit Finance and Property Committee.

6.4 Public Benefit Requirement

The trustees had due regard to the guidance published by the Charities Commission in compliance with its duties under section 4 of the Charities Act 2011.

This guidance sets out two key principles:

1. The organisation must have an identifiable benefit.
2. The benefit must be to the public or a section of the public.

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; and
- be a good neighbour to people in need and challenge injustice.

The trustees consider that for these reasons the charity meets these public benefit requirements.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

6.5 Related Parties

The Circuit is part of the London District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The following Methodist Churches are linked to the circuit:

Gidea Park, Harold Wood, Hornchurch, Romford, Upminster, Rainham, Brentwood, South Ockendon, Farmlands and Havering Road.

7 Reference and Administration Details

7.1 The full name of the Charity is Romford Methodist Circuit.

7.2 The Romford Methodist Circuit is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission in England and Wales. The organisation's Charity No is 1132795.

7.3 The address of the Circuit for correspondence is Circuit Mission Outreach Centre, Clockhouse Lane, Romford, RM5 3QP. The name of the person to whom correspondence should be addressed was Revd Dr E Jackson, Circuit Chair.

7.4 The managing trustees that served during the year were:

Revd Dr E Jackson, Revd R Asif, Revd K Bell, Revd J Ribeiro, Deacon S Rigby

In addition there were some 45 lay managing trustees. A full list of trustees is available on the Charity Commission website.

The Circuit's Bankers are: HSBC and the Central Finance Board of the Methodist church "CFB".

7.5 Investments managed by the Circuit are held by Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes "TMCP"

7.6 Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the Circuit, specifically the leaflet 'The role of a Trustee in the Methodist Church' is given to all new Circuit meeting members as induction to their role as trustees. Trustee training was held on 28 November 2017.

7.7 Disclosure of information to auditors

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

7.8 Auditors

The auditors Clay Ratnage Strevens & Hills had been auditors to the Circuit from year ended 31 August 2016.

25/3/2024

Approved by the managing trustees on and signed on their behalf by:

Revd Dr Eleanor Jackson

.....

Revd Dr E Jackson

Circuit Chair

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT****TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Romford Methodist Circuit (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2023, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the accounts, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the accounts is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern and described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT****TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 3, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including Fraud

Our approach was as follows:

- Obtaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks applicable to the charity.
- Obtained an understanding of how the charity is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks by making enquiries to the trustees.
- The susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement caused by fraud or other irregularities were assessed with the following procedures:
 - Identifying and assessing the design effectiveness of controls which trustees have in place to prevent and detect fraud
 - Understanding how those charged with governance considered the potential for override of controls and management biases
 - Identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any journal entries posted with unusual account combinations

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Clay Ratnage Strevens & Hills**Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors**

Suite D, The Business Centre

Faringdon Avenue

Romford, Essex RM3 8EN

Clay Ratnage Strevens & Hills

Date: 25/3/2024

Clay Ratnage Strevens & Hills is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Other Funds (Restricted)	Total 2022-23	Total 2021-22
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
1 Donations & Legacies		175	-	-	518	693	3,303
2 Interest and Investment Income		25,324	-	2,405	3,507	31,236	4,396
3 Other income	3	15,555	-	-	36,667	52,222	38,202
4 Assessment on Churches	2	182,676	-	-	-	182,676	209,878
5 Contributions from Circuit Model Trust Funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
6 Connexional Advance & Property Fund		-	-	-	-	-	-
7 Capital Receipts		-	-	-	-	-	1,336,785
8 Grants (including trfs from DAF)		-	-	-	25,000	25,000	30,000
9 Manse Rent Received		-	-	33,775	-	33,775	32,875
10 Total Income		223,730	0	36,180	65,692	325,602	1,655,439
Expenditure							
11 Grants and Donations	4	-	-	-	-	-	7,282
12 Salaries and associated costs	5	170,523	-	-	29,195	199,718	205,557
13 Property (incl Ins., C tax, utilities etc)	6	21,976	-	29,072	27,354	78,402	76,817
14 Office Expenses (Admin., tel. travel etc.)	7	6,170	-	-	526	6,696	10,275
15 District assessment		52,128	75,327	-	-	127,455	49,632
16 Depreciation		236	-	-	513	749	1,496
17 Other Expenditure (incl training)	8	13,860	-	4,327	2,267	20,454	44,602
18 Capital levy on sale of Manse and church building	9	-	-	-	-	-	672,635
19 Audit	10	4,140	-	-	-	4,140	4,560
20 Total Expenditure		269,033	75,327	33,399	59,855	437,614	1,072,856
21 Net Income/(Expenditure)		(45,303)	(75,327)	2,781	5,837	(112,012)	582,583
22 Transfers between funds	17	126,763	(100,732)	(27,781)	1,750	-	-
23 Sub Total		81,460	(176,059)	(25,000)	7,587	(112,012)	582,583
24 Gains/(losses) on sale of Manse		-	-	-	-	-	149,612
25 Gains/(losses) on revaluation fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-	1,355,096
26 Gains/(losses): on investment assets	12	-	(22,939)	-	-	(22,939)	(11,776)
27 Net investment in funds		81,460	(198,998)	(25,000)	7,587	(134,951)	2,075,515
28 Transfer of balances from Aveley Church		-	-	-	-	-	811,648
29 Total funds brought forward from last year		6,189,423	1,115,957	100,110	1,351,998	8,757,488	5,870,325
30 Total funds carried forward at end of year		6,270,883	916,959	75,110	1,359,585	8,622,537	8,757,488

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

Balance brought forward from last year

Offerings/Gifts - received for External Organisations

Offerings/Gifts - passed to External Organisations

Balance still to be paid

-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-

The notes on pages 10 to 16 form part of these accounts.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Other Funds (Restricted)	Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£	£	£

Tangible Fixed Assets

Manse and other fixed assets	11	6,200,236	-	-	1,250,000	7,450,236	7,450,985
Investment properties		-	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	12	-	916,959	-	-	916,959	478,209
Total fixed assets		6,200,236	916,959	-	1,250,000	8,367,195	7,929,194

Current Assets

Debtors and Prepayments	13	25,697	-	-	674	26,371	24,214
Central Finance Board and Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes deposits etc	14/15	94,102		65,654	120,759	280,515	883,778
Cash at Bank and in hand		1,644		9,456	9,852	20,952	57,422
Total current assets		121,443	-	75,110	131,285	327,838	965,414

Creditors and Accruals (due in under one year)	16	50,796	-		21,700	72,496	137,120
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Net current (liabilities)/assets		70,647	-	75,110	109,585	255,342	828,294
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Total assets less current liabilities		6,270,883	916,959	75,110	1,359,585	8,622,537	8,757,488
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Long term liabilities

Grants Payable		-	-	-	-	-	-
Other liabilities due after one year		-	-	-	-	-	-

Net assets		6,270,883	916,959	75,110	1,359,585	8,622,537	8,757,488
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Funds of the Circuit

General Fund (Unrestricted)		6,270,883				6,270,883	6,189,423
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			916,959			916,959	1,115,957
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)				75,110		75,110	100,110
Total Unrestricted funds						7,262,952	7,405,490
Other Funds (Restricted)					1,359,585	1,359,585	1,351,998
Total Restricted funds						1,359,585	1,351,998
Total Funds	18	6,270,883	916,959	75,110	1,359,585	8,622,537	8,757,488

The notes on pages 10 to 16 form part of these accounts.

25/3/2024

Approved by the managing trustees on and signed on their behalf by:

Rev Dr Eleanor Jackson

 Revd Dr E Jackson
 Circuit Chair

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

1 Accounting framework and accounting policies**i Accounting framework**

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

ii Public benefit entity

The Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes below.

iii Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that Manses are shown at their market value at the end of the year, on the accruals basis to show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

iv Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

v FRS102 SORP 2019

These accounts are compliant with FRS 102 and with the FRS 102 SORP 2019.

vi Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2023, the trustees believe that the Circuit is a going concern.

vii Consolidation

The Circuit oversees the work of ministers and lay workers in Churches within the Circuit, but does not have control over those Churches, ministers or lay workers except in extreme circumstances, none of which were applicable. For this reason, the financial statements of the Churches within the Circuit are not consolidated into these financial statements.

viii Ministerial oversight and pastoral care of the ten local churches in the Circuit

Income is brought into account when it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will accrue to the Circuit. No attempt is made to measure the value of services donated by volunteers. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the time of volunteers is not recognised.

ix Expenditure

This is 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.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

x 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 Grants Committee 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 and included within the Circuit Advance Fund or other relevant designated fund in these accounts.

xi VAT

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

xii Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year. The Manses are shown in the accounts at market valuation at the end of the financial year.

xiii Debtors and creditors; bank and cash

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the Circuit or prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any trade discounts, where normal credit terms apply, or amount advanced to the Circuit. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds of bank balances and deposit account balances are shown at the realisable values.

xiv Ministers' manse costs

The Circuit is required to provide accommodation for each Minister and his / her family. The Circuit bears the cost of repairs, maintenance, building insurance, Council Tax and water charges. These costs are not shown separately as benefits-in-kind for Ministers as HMRC does not seek to tax these receipts in the hands of the Ministers.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023****2 Assessment on Churches**

For the current and future years, an assessment on churches is determined annually using a procedure known as "Give and Share" whereby Churches offer contributions towards the Circuit budget depending on the total required and ability to pay.

Previously, three of the member churches (Hornchurch, South Ockendon and Brentwood) were unable to pay the assessments in full as a result of financial difficulties. Consequently, £58,373 of the total amount due remains outstanding at 31 August 2023. The unpaid assessments have been fully provided for in previous years.

Having regard to the financial difficulties caused by the pandemic, the Circuit agreed to a reduction of 20% in the level of assessment commencing with February 2021 until August 2022, while encouraging member Churches to continue to the same level of assessment if their circumstances permitted. The amounts shown below for 2021-22 therefore represent the higher of the reduced assessment due and the actual receipts. Churches in the Circuit are as follows:

Church Name	2022-23	2021-22
Romford Contribution	21,800	28,000
South Ockendon Contribution	2,000	3,670
Farmlands Contribution	8,000	7,766
Rainham Contribution	10,064	9,561
Havering Road Contribution	17,072	15,779
Gidea Park Contribution	16,800	16,013
Harold Wood Contribution	21,646	20,421
Brentwood Contribution	22,646	26,632
Hornchurch Contribution	13,500	32,888
Upminster Contribution	49,148	49,148
	<u>182,676</u>	<u>209,878</u>

3 Other income

	2022-23	2021-22
Mast and hall hire Circuit Mission Outreach Centre - Formerly Collier Row Church	36,667	24,643
Rental income Circuit Mission Outreach Centre	10,546	10,546
Upminster manse expenses reimbursed by Newham Methodist Church	5,009	2,918
Miscellaneous income	-	95
	<u>52,222</u>	<u>38,202</u>

4 Grants were made during the year as shown in the table below:

	2022-23	2021-22
Miscellaneous grants	-	2,222
Upminster repairs grants	-	5,060
	<u>-</u>	<u>7,282</u>

5 Salaries and associated costs

	2022-23	2021-22
Gross Pay	128,250	123,003
Employer's National Insurance Contribution	11,693	11,546
Employer's pension contribution to the defined benefit scheme	33,538	32,163
Lay staff Gross Pay	23,038	13,600
Lay staff Employer's National Insurance	675	394
Lay staff employer's pension contribution to the defined contribution scheme	1,283	686
Apprentice levy	761	685
Payroll and pension admin charges	480	480
Contribution to pension scheme	-	23,000
	<u>199,718</u>	<u>205,557</u>

Gross salaries paid to five ministers and two lay staff in the year.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023****5 Salaries and associated costs (Continued)****Payment to Trustees**

It is Circuit policy to offer to reimburse members of the Circuit Meeting and others involved in the administration of Circuit affairs for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties. The Chair of the Circuit undertakes the primary executive role within the Circuit. Apart from the Chair of the Circuit and Ministers, no member of the Circuit Council was in receipt of any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the Circuit, although certain travelling and administration costs were reimbursed whenever this was requested. During the year, the Circuit paid £1,338 (2022 - £1,151) to Mr T Pugsley, a trustee, for repair work carried out at various Manses and to the Collier Row premises.

No accrual is made for the Chair's entitlement to a sabbatical as her functions are undertaken by other Circuit Chair or delegated persons at minimal extra cost to the Circuit.

Pensions

Most ordained presbyters and deacons are members of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS). This is a defined benefit scheme. The Supreme Court held in 2014 that Methodist ministers (which term includes presbyters and deacons) are not employees of the Church. For simplicity, however, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions and pension contributions, the terms 'employer' and 'employee' are used as they would be in an employing body. The MMPS is in deficit but a plan for removal of the deficit is being implemented. It would be difficult to determine the liability that could fall on the London District and no attempt has been made to attempt this valuation. The lay workers are enrolled in a defined contribution scheme managed by The Pension Trust.

6 Property costs	2022-23	2021-22
Manse repairs	32,493	34,418
Insurance and utilities	20,034	15,964
Council tax	15,329	15,889
CMOP share of lost rent	10,546	10,546
	<u>78,402</u>	<u>76,817</u>

It should be noted that the Circuit chair and ministerial team are required to occupy the Circuit manses. Circuit pays for the Manse and project centre repairs on a regular basis. Any major refurbishments are discussed and approved at the Circuit meeting before the work starts. Circuit pays for Manse's insurances, utilities and council tax for all the Manses occupied by chair and trustees except for two Manses which are let out.

7 Office expenses	2022-23	2021-22
Telephone	3,631	4,557
Travel	2,595	4,310
Postage and stationery	72	888
Software	190	356
Bank charges	208	164
	<u>6,696</u>	<u>10,275</u>

8 Other expenditure	2022-23	2021-22
Preachers fees and expenses	1,077	1,419
Removal costs	3,393	6,143
Ministers' relocation allowance	600	600
Training and conference	184	177
Sundries	1,628	2,575
Other charges	3,224	0
Professional fees and survey costs	8,536	5,200
Mission Outreach Fund Activities and Resources	1,769	3,455
Loan interest	43	1,150
Provision for bad debts (unpaid assessments)	-	23,883
	<u>20,454</u>	<u>44,602</u>

	2022-23	2021-22
9 Capital levy on sale of manse and church building	<u>0</u>	<u>672,635</u>

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

10 Fees for examination or audit of the accounts	2022-23	2021-22
Auditors' fees	1,863	2,052
Other fees (e.g.: advice, accountancy services)	2,277	2,508
	<u>4,140</u>	<u>4,560</u>

11 Total Tangible Fixed Assets

	Other Fixed Assets	Land and Buildings (Other)	Land and Buildings (Manse)	Total
Cost or valuation				
Balance at 1st Sept 2022	985	2,050,000	5,400,000	7,450,985
Additions in the year	-			-
Contribution received	-			-
Depreciation	(749)			(749)
Revaluations in the year	-			-
Disposals in year	-			-
Balance at 31st August 2023	<u>236</u>	<u>2,050,000</u>	<u>5,400,000</u>	<u>7,450,236</u>

The Land and Buildings were revalued at 31 August 2022 and agreed by the Trustees. No depreciation is provided on the building because the trustees consider the current fair value of the manse buildings (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year-end) to be not less than its current value. Any depreciation would not be material. The manses have been reviewed for impairment.

Investment properties

No manse is currently deemed to be held for the long term investment purposes of the Circuit.

12 Investments

Unit trusts at market value	
Balance at 1st Sept 2022	478,209
Additions in the year	1,458,659
Disposals in year	(996,970)
Revaluations in the year	(22,939)
Balance at 31st August 2023	<u>916,959</u>

13 Debtors and prepayments

	2022-23	2021-22
Prepayments and accrued income		
Stipends paid in advance	15,612	14,436
Council tax and utilities	1,298	1,214
Rent receivable	674	725
Insurance	2,939	2,732
Church assessment due	-	4,268
Contribution to manse running costs	5,848	839
Total	<u>26,371</u>	<u>24,214</u>

14 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

The funds that support the Circuit Model Trust Fund are held by TMCP. TMCP is the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated funds. TMCP ensure that, through providing guidance and acting under their direction, the Managing Trustees comply with charity law and Methodist law and policy as determined by the Methodist Conference.

15 Central Finance Board (CFB) and cash at bank

The circuit has two current accounts at HSBC Plc, an authorised institution. The sums held on the account are immediately available. In addition, the Circuit has three deposit accounts at CFB. Interest is earned on these CFB accounts and credited monthly. This number excludes the restricted fund accounts.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023****16 Creditors and accrued expenses**

Creditors	2022-23	2021-22
Expenses reimbursement	465	439
Audit and accountancy fees	4,140	4,560
Loan repayable in less than 12 months	0	52,500
Donations payable	0	5,440
	4,605	62,939
Accruals and deferred income		
Deferred income for activity next year	65,173	72,471
Surveys due at year end	0	810
Other accrued property expenses	2,718	482
Loan interest	0	418
Total of creditors and accrued expenses	72,496	137,120

17 Grant commitments

There were no future commitments at 31 August 2023.

18 Circuit funds (Unrestricted and Restricted)

The Circuit maintains a number of separate funds. The purpose, type, movement and state as at the end of year is documented below.

The funds held constitute: General Funds for any purpose and Circuit Development Fund, the capital normally being unavailable for spending and the income from which is either Restricted or Unrestricted. Details of each material fund are disclosed in the notes below.

Project		2022-23	2021-22
General Funds - Unrestricted	For use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the objectives of the Circuit. This excludes funds which have been designated for a specific purpose	6,270,883	6,189,423
Circuit Model Trust Fund - Unrestricted	The residual balance of funds which arose from the sale of Churches previously closed and sold and the previous sale of Manses. For specific purposes but not restricted by document or deed to that purpose alone. Of this balance £740,946 was designated for the purposes of mission activity within the Circuit	916,959	1,115,957
Designated Funds - Unrestricted	Manse Fund for the maintenance of manses Other - to assist member Churches	75,110	75,110 25,000
Mission Outreach Fund - Restricted (Formerly Youth Forum/ Special Project Fund)	Circuit Mission Outreach Collier Row Mission Outreach Project	3,537 1,344,484	3,537 1,337,183
Legacies (former Aveley Church)	For use for the purposes specified in the relevant Wills	10,065	9,779
Circuit Benevolent Fund - Restricted	To help meet the exceptional needs of presbyters and deacons Circuit lay employees and their dependents within the Romford Circuit that cannot be met at a local Church or Circuit level alone, by providing a resource from which confidential payments can be made at the discretion of the Trustees.	1,499	1,499
		8,622,537	8,757,488

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023****18 cont. Transfer between funds**

	2022-23	2021-22
Property surplus transfer to general fund	2,781	2,041
Other designated fund transfer to general fund	25,000	
CMTF transfer to general fund	100,732	
Rainham manse carrying amount to CMTF	-	325,000

19 Volunteer contribution

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit, Church) within the Methodist church in GB is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. Principally this contribution is by serving on committees of the Circuit that deal with mission, manses, finance, policy, grants, training, development. We are grateful to all of them for their help and commitment.

20 Connected Organisations and related parties

Connected organisations include the Methodist Connexion, the District and Churches within the Circuit, CFB and TMCP. All of these entities have their own trustees or directors and autonomous administration. Details of transactions occurring during the year were as follows:

Name of Connected Organisation	Receipts	Payments
Donor: Churches within the Romford Circuit - Assessments	182,676	
Donor/Donee: The London District (levies/grants)	25,000	85,296
Donee: Methodist Church Fund via the London District		42,158
	<u>207,676</u>	<u>127,454</u>

DECLARATIONS

Treasurer

I confirm that I have prepared the accounts from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit

Signature of Treasurer

Thomas Smith

Name

Tom E J Smith FCA CTA

Address

Romford Methodist Circuit, Trinity Methodist Church,
Angel Way, Romford RM1 1JH

Date

25/3/2024

Presentation to the Circuit Meeting for approval.

I confirm that the Accounts will be presented to the Circuit Meeting on 19 March 2024 for approval.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Rev Dr Eleanor Jackson

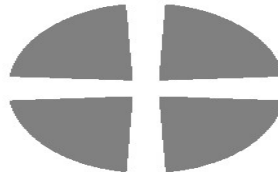
Name of the Chair of the meeting

Rev Dr E Jackson

Date

25/3/2024

Accounts



Circuit
Accruals Accounts
2021-22

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS
ACCRUALS BASIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Romford Circuit Circuit no **35/32**

Registered Charity - Registration number **1132795**

Circuit Chair	Revd D Jebb
Circuit Ministers	Revd K Bell
	Revd J Ribeiro
	Revd R Asif
	Deacon SJ Rigby
	Revd Dr E Jackson
Circuit Stewards	G Reed - Resigned 31 August 2021
	J Gowlett
	W Bansor
	R Hibbard
	T Pugsley - Appointed 1 September 2021
	T Dixon - Appointed 1 September 2021
Circuit Treasurer	T Smith

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

1 Introduction

- 1.1** The Romford Methodist Circuit serves to enable and champion the work of churches in the Greater London and Essex area. There are ten Churches in the Romford Circuit. The Aveley Church ceased to worship on 31 August 2021 and its funds have been transferred into the Circuit. Revd D Jebb was the Chair of the Circuit throughout the year. Since 1 September 2022 he has been succeeded by Revd Dr E Jackson. The Chair works together with a team of paid and voluntary officers to support and develop the life of the Circuit.

On 19 November 2009, the Circuit was entered into the Register of Charities and the Charity Number is 1132795.

The Managing Trustees of the Romford Circuit are the members of the Circuit Meeting which meets at least three times a year to consider the work of God in the Circuit and the general management of the Circuit and its business. The membership of the Meeting is governed by the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church. The officers of the Circuit who are appointed by the Circuit Meeting to act upon its behalf comprise the Superintendent Minister, the Ministerial Staff Team, the Circuit Stewards and the Circuit Financial Steward (treasurer), Circuit Property Steward and Manse Stewards.

2 Objectives and Activities

2.1 Aims and organisation

The aims of the Circuit Meeting through its officers are twofold:

- to secure and sustain the Circuit's viability and future
- to give assurance to the general public that the Circuit, which is a charity, intends to use all of the money coming into its care for the purpose of the charity.

2.2 Romford Methodist Circuit Vision

The Circuit's Mission Policy states "The Romford Circuit exists to further God's Kingdom by enabling and supporting the local Churches in their discipleship and mission; resourcing local Churches under the power of the Holy Spirit to function as effective worship, witness and welfare centres. The Circuit achieves this by holding the following values in all its dealings with individuals, communities, local and national authorities, other charities and businesses,

- Bible knowledge: Engaging with the scriptures in our daily lives
- Serving the community: Concern and help for the needs of the local community
- Diversity and Cultural relevance: Maintaining the rich diversity of the Churches and Circuit and communicating the Gospel effectively
- Empowered laity: Recognising the ministry of the whole people of God
- Safeguarding: Creating safer spaces for all including children and vulnerable adults
- Quest for a just world: Actively working for peace with justice"

Essentially it provides for the,

- ministerial oversight and pastoral care of the eleven local churches in the Circuit
- and the maintenance of seven Circuit manses

3 Review of progress and achievements

3.1 Romford Methodist Circuit Annual Report

The Romford Methodist Circuit Annual Report is prepared and presented to the Circuit meeting. It gives full detail of the activities of the Circuit and all the Churches making up the Circuit and the core central resources.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

3.2 Circuit Goals

The principal purpose of the Circuit is to act as a supporting body between Churches and the Connexion. The Circuit does not seek and, in large measure, does not attain direct contact with the public. The direct contact is by the Churches and it is these that the Circuit supports in their desire to provide benefit to the public.

The goals of the Circuit are listed below:

- To develop lay leadership - in breadth, depth, numbers and confidence
- To ensure that every minister and local preacher is engaged in an intentional review and development of their ministry (primarily through the programmes of MDR, supervision training and the Continuing Development of Local Preachers).

3.3 Plans for future years

- Ensure that any local issues emanating from the Past Cases Review are dealt with sympathetically, fully and in a timely manner.
- Ensure that all those within the Circuit that should attend the Safeguarding Leadership Module do so.
- Encourage initiatives for mission in Churches within the Circuit.

4 Financial Plans and Review

- The Circuit's financial requirements are reviewed each year in the context of the aims listed above and the local Churches are invited to make offers of a share in meeting the total cost.
- The annual budget includes a provision for the general maintenance of the manses on the basis of £4,260 allocated to each property each year, however, if large expenditure is needed within the year to maintain manses or refurbish a newly purchased manse, the work needed will be agreed and authorised on a case by case basis. Large capital requirements are generally met from funds held in the Circuit Manse Fund (Designated).
- Circuit income is drawn primarily from the assessments paid by the ten Circuit Churches. During the year assessments reduced to £209,878 (2021: £229,564).
- Rental income was received during the year from the letting of two Manses, this income is regarded as relatively short term in nature. The Rainham manse was sold during this financial year and net proceeds have been invested through the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church.
- During the year, the Circuit net proceeds of sale of the former Brentwood Methodist Church premises, which net of the Connexional Property Fund levy amounted to £820,214.
- Expenditure excluding capital levies on property sales increased to £400,221 (2021: £317,981) mainly due to the increase in the DAF levy on the value of the Circuit Model Trust Fund.
- At 31 August 2022, unrestricted reserves, excluding the property fund, stood at £1,205,490 (2021: £233,441).
- The Circuit's Funds are split in the following categories:

Unrestricted Funds

- General Fund – this fund together with other unrestricted funds represent at least six months expenditure of the Circuit's general activities and whilst this represents a significant sum, in normal circumstances it is considered important that this level of funding be maintained to meet unexpected expenditure. Having regard to the financial difficulties experienced during the Covid pandemic, the Circuit has however agreed to allow the available unrestricted funds to be reduced to cover at least three months' budgeted expenditure. The balance at the year end was £6,189,423 after adjustments for accruals, including £6,200,000 relating to the manses within the Circuit but where the title lies with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.
- Circuit Model Trust Fund – the residual balance of funds which arose from the sale of Churches previously closed and sold and the previous sale of Manses (Balance at the year end £1,115,957, of this £814,192 was designated for the purposes of mission activity within the Circuit.)

Designated Funds

- Manse Fund - funds held for maintenance and upkeep of manses used by ministers and manses not currently occupied by ministers which are let.
- Other (Church support) - funds held to enable Circuit to assist member Churches with urgent or exceptional needs.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

Restricted Funds

- Circuit Benevolent Fund – funds held to allow the Circuit to respond quickly to instances of poverty and hardship (Balance at the year end £1,499). The balance is considered adequate.
- Mission Outreach Fund (Formerly Youth Forum and Special Project Fund) – These funds are for circuit outreach work. The Collier Row Mission Outreach Project was started on 14 January 2018. The Mission Outreach Project management team included Revd D Jebb, Revd K Bell, Pamela Coles, Joan Pugsley and Jonathan Coles.

4.1 Investment Policy

The investment of surplus funds is operated through the Central Finance Board (CFB) of the Methodist Church. CFB aims to provide high quality investment service seeking above average returns for long term investors, whilst ensuring that the securities held by all its funds are in line with the ethical policy of the Methodist Church. The Circuit has its funds in a deposit account with CFB. The Restricted Funds are managed by Trustees for Methodist Purposes (TMCP). These funds are also invested with the CFB.

4.2 Reserves Policy

Our Reserves Policy relates to our unrestricted funds which are freely available for any or all of the purposes of the Circuit. It is our policy to hold at least six months expenditure in hand to enable us to meet any calls for funding requirements. In addition, it is our policy to hold a manse reserve fund sufficient to meet foreseeable major expenditure. The six month reserve policy is temporarily suspended due to the Covid pandemic as mentioned on Page 2.

5 Trustees Responsibilities

For each financial year ending 31 August, the trustees are required to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees must:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare accounts to comply with the Charities SORP;
- follow applicable accounting standards subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts;
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for ensuring that sufficient accounting records are kept which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Methodist Church - Romford Circuit and enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the law and Standing Orders of the Methodist Church.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Circuit and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

5.1 Risk Management

The Circuit has been considering the various risks facing the Circuit and the impact and the likelihood of issues happening, which will be reviewed every few years.

The headings under which the risks are being categorised include:

- Governance Risks including Trustees' Responsibilities
- Operational Risks including Resources, People and Property
- Financial Risks
- External Risks and Legal Risks

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

6 Structure, governance and management

6.1 Structure

The Romford Methodist Circuit is an unincorporated association and is governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976, the deed of Union and the Model Trust Deeds of the Methodist Church. It was registered with the Charity Commissioners on 19 November 2009.

Circuits are the coordinating charities for local groups of Churches; Circuits pay the stipends of the ministers and employ lay staff to serve the Churches in the Circuit; most decisions are made at or ratified by the Circuit meetings. The Methodist Conference meets once each year as the supreme denominational body for all Methodist Churches.

- 1 Overall regulatory authority rests with the Methodist Conference.
- 2 The Connexional office implements decisions made by Conference and is also responsible for the stationing of presbyters and deacons (collectively known as ministers) in individual Circuits within the District.
- 3 The Circuit Meeting passes regulatory control down to church councils for local implementation by the presbyter, the Church Stewards, and other officers, and this regulatory authority is then exercised by church councils as Managing Trustees of their charity.

6.2 Purpose of the Circuit

The purposes of the Romford Methodist Circuit are and deemed to have been since the date of the union the advancement of:

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

The primary purpose of this Circuit is to advance the mission of the Church in London, Essex and Thurrock by:

- 1 providing opportunities for Churches to work together and support each other
- 2 offering to Churches resource of finance, personnel and expertise.

6.3 Governance

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

Day to day management of the Circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team along with the Local Preachers meeting and the Circuit Finance and Property Committee.

6.4 Public Benefit Requirement

The trustees had due regard to the guidance published by the Charities Commission in compliance with its duties under section 4 of the Charities Act 2011.

This guidance sets out two key principles:

1. The organisation must have an identifiable benefit.
2. The benefit must be to the public or a section of the public.

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; and
- be a good neighbour to people in need and challenge injustice.

The trustees consider that for these reasons the charity meets these public benefit requirements.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

6.5 Related Parties

The Circuit is part of the London District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The following Methodist Churches are linked to the circuit:

Gidea Park, Harold Wood, Hornchurch, Romford, Upminster, Rainham, Brentwood, South Ockendon, Farmlands and Havering Road.

7 Reference and Administration Details

7.1 The full name of the Charity is Romford Methodist Circuit.

7.2 The Romford Methodist Circuit is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission in England and Wales. The organisation's Charity No is 1132795.

7.3 The address of the Circuit for correspondence changed during the year to Circuit Mission Outreach Centre, Clockhouse Lane, Romford, RM5 3QP. The name of the person to whom correspondence should be addressed was Revd D Jebb, the Circuit Chair (from 1 September 2022 Revd Dr E Jackson).

7.4 The managing trustees that served during the year were:

Revd D Jebb, Revd R Asif, Revd K Bell, Revd J Ribeiro, Deacon S Rigby

In addition there were some 45 lay managing trustees. A full list of trustees is available on the Charity Commission website.

The Circuit's Bankers are: HSBC and the Central Finance Board of the Methodist church "CFB".

7.5 Investments managed by the Circuit are held by Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes "TMCP"

7.6 Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the Circuit, specifically the leaflet 'The role of a Trustee in the Methodist Church' is given to all new Circuit meeting members as induction to their role as trustees. Trustee training was held on 28 November 2017.

7.7 Disclosure of information to auditors

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

7.8 Auditors

The auditors Clay Ratnage Strevens & Hills had been auditors to the Circuit from year ended 31 August 2016.

28/3/2023

Approved by the managing trustees on and signed on their behalf by:



.....
Revd Dr E Jackson

Circuit Chair

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT****TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Romford Methodist Circuit (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 August 2022 which comprise Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2021, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 3, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

To identify risks of material misstatement due to fraud ("fraud risks") we assessed events or conditions that could indicate an incentive or pressure to commit fraud or provide an opportunity to commit fraud. Our risk assessment procedures included:

- Obtaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks applicable to the charity.
- Obtained an understanding of how the charity is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks by making enquiries to the trustees.
- The susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement caused by fraud or other irregularities were assessed with the following procedures:
 - Identifying and assessing the design effectiveness of controls which trustees have in place to prevent and detect fraud
 - Understanding how those charged with governance considered the potential for override of controls and management biases
 - Identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any journal entries posted with unusual account combinations

Potential fraud risks that had been identified throughout the planning and commencement of the audit were communicated to the audit team.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Clay Ratnage Strevens & Hills

Chartered Accountants

& Statutory Auditors

Suite D, The Business Centre

Faringdon Avenue

Romford, Essex RM3 8EN

Clay Ratnage Strevens & Hills

Date:

Clay Ratnage Strevens & Hills is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Other Funds (Restricted)	Total 2021-22	Total 2020-21
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
1 Donations & Legacies		502	-	-	2,801	3,303	3,815
2 Interest and Investment Income		247	3,493	297	359	4,396	441
3 Other income	3	13,559	-	-	24,643	38,202	15,579
4 Assessment on Churches	2	209,878	-	-	-	209,878	229,564
5 Contributions from Circuit Model Trust Funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
6 Connexional Advance & Property Fund		-	-	-	-	-	-
7 Capital Receipts		-	1,327,024	-	9,761	1,336,785	-
8 Grants (including trfs from DAF)		-	-	-	30,000	30,000	-
9 Manse Rent Received		-	-	32,875	-	32,875	59,550
10 Total Income		224,186	1,330,517	33,172	67,564	1,655,439	308,949
Expenditure							
11 Grants and Donations	4	-	5,060		2,222	7,282	9,000
12 Salaries and associated costs	5	178,821	-	-	26,736	205,557	156,186
13 Property (incl Ins., C tax, utilities etc)	6	22,106	-	34,866	19,845	76,817	51,415
14 Office Expenses (Admin., tel. travel etc.)	7	9,751	-	-	524	10,275	6,843
15 District assessment		49,624	-	-	-	49,624	49,624
16 Depreciation		236	-	-	1,260	1,496	2,930
17 Other Expenditure (incl training)	8	36,259	8	4,730	3,613	44,610	38,383
18 Capital levy on sale of Manse and church building	9	-	672,635	-	-	672,635	-
19 Audit	10	4,560	-	-	-	4,560	3,600
20 Total Expenditure		301,357	677,703	39,596	54,200	1,072,856	317,981
21 Net Income/(Expenditure)		(77,171)	652,814	(6,424)	13,364	582,583	(9,032)
22 Transfers between funds	17	(322,959)	325,000	(3,791)	1,750	-	-
23 Sub Total		(400,130)	977,814	(10,215)	15,114	582,583	(9,032)
24 Gains/(losses) on sale of Manse		-	149,612	-	-	149,612	-
25 Gains/(losses) on revaluation fixed assets		1,355,096	-	-	-	1,355,096	-
26 Gains/(losses): on investment assets		-	(11,776)	-	-	(11,776)	-
27 Net investment in funds		954,966	1,115,650	(10,215)	15,114	2,075,515	(9,032)
28 Transfer of balances from Aveley Church		811,648	-	-	-	811,648	-
29 Total funds brought forward from last year		4,422,809	307	110,325	1,336,884	5,870,325	5,879,357
30 Total funds carried forward at end of year		6,189,423	1,115,957	100,110	1,351,998	8,757,488	5,870,325

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

Balance brought forward from last year

Offerings/Gifts - received for External Organisations

Offerings/Gifts - passed to External Organisations

Balance still to be paid

-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-

The notes on pages 10 to 15 form part of these accounts.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2022

Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Other Funds (Restricted)	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£

Tangible Fixed Assets

Manse and other fixed assets	11	6,200,473	-	-	1,250,512	7,450,985	5,551,772
Investment properties		-	-	-	-	-	-
Investments		-	478,209	-	-	478,209	-
Total fixed assets		6,200,473	478,209	-	1,250,512	7,929,194	5,551,772

Current Assets

Debtors and Prepayments	12	23,489	-	-	725	24,214	42,511
Central Finance Board and Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes deposits etc	13/14	70,022	642,808	69,249	101,699	883,778	327,828
Cash at Bank and in hand		2,005		30,861	24,556	57,422	40,707
Total current assets		95,516	642,808	100,110	126,980	965,414	411,046

Creditors and Accruals (due in under one year)	15	106,566	5,060		25,494	137,120	92,493
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Net current (liabilities)/assets		(11,050)	637,748	100,110	101,486	828,294	318,553
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Total assets less current liabilities		6,189,423	1,115,957	100,110	1,351,998	8,757,488	5,870,325
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Long term liabilities

Grants Payable		-	-	-	-	-	-
Other liabilities due after one year		-	-	-	-	-	-

Net assets		6,189,423	1,115,957	100,110	1,351,998	8,757,488	5,870,325
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Funds of the Circuit

General Fund (Unrestricted)		6,189,423				6,189,423	4,422,809
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			1,115,957			1,115,957	307
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)				100,110		100,110	110,325
Total Unrestricted funds						7,405,490	4,533,441
Other Funds (Restricted)					1,351,998	1,351,998	1,336,884
Total Restricted funds						1,351,998	1,336,884
Total Funds	17	6,189,423	1,115,957	100,110	1,351,998	8,757,488	5,870,325

The notes on pages 10 to 15 form part of these accounts.

28/3/2023

Approved by the managing trustees on and signed on their behalf by:


.....
Revd Dr E Jackson

Circuit Chair

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

1 Accounting framework and accounting policies**i Accounting framework**

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

ii Public benefit entity

The Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes below.

iii Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that Manses are shown at their market value at the end of the year, on the accruals basis to show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

iv Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

v FRS102 SORP 2019

These accounts are compliant with FRS 102 and with the FRS 102 SORP 2019.

vi Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2021, the trustees believe that the Circuit is a going concern.

vii Consolidation

The Circuit oversees the work of ministers and lay workers in Churches within the Circuit, but does not have control over those Churches, ministers or lay workers except in extreme circumstances, none of which were applicable. For this reason, the financial statements of the Churches within the Circuit are not consolidated into these financial statements.

viii Ministerial oversight and pastoral care of the eleven local churches in the Circuit

Income is brought into account when it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will accrue to the Circuit. No attempt is made to measure the value of services donated by volunteers. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the time of volunteers is not recognised.

ix Expenditure

This is 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.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

x 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 Grants Committee 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 and included within the Circuit Advance Fund or other relevant designated fund in these accounts.

xi VAT

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

xii Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year. The Manses are shown in the accounts at market valuation at the end of the financial year.

xiii Debtors and creditors; bank and cash

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the Circuit or prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any trade discounts, where normal credit terms apply, or amount advanced to the Circuit. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds of bank balances and deposit account balances are shown at the realisable values.

xiv Ministers' manse costs

The Circuit is required to provide accommodation for each Minister and his / her family. The Circuit bears the cost of repairs, maintenance, building insurance, Council Tax and water charges. These costs are not shown separately as benefits-in-kind for Ministers as HMRC does not seek to tax these receipts in the hands of the Ministers.

xv Cashflow statement

The Circuit has not prepared a cashflow statement, despite the income for the year exceeding £500,000, due to the one-off nature of the capital receipt.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022****2 Assessment on Churches**

Three of the member churches (Hornchurch, South Ockendon and Brentwood) were unable to pay the assessments in full as a result of financial difficulties. Consequently, £58,373 of the total amount due remains outstanding at 31 August 2022 (£44,165 at 31 August 2021). The unpaid assessments have been fully provided and have caused an additional unpaid assessments charge to the SOFA of £23,883 as shown in Note 8.

An assessment on Churches is annually determined by Circuit by reference to the number of staff in the Churches but may also take into account a Church's ability to pay. Having regard to the financial difficulties caused by the pandemic, the Circuit agreed to a reduction of 20% in the level of assessment commencing with February 2021, while encouraging member Churches to continue to the same level of assessment if their circumstances permitted. The amounts shown below therefore represent the higher of the reduced assessment due and the actual receipts. Churches in the Circuit are as follows:

Church Name	2021-22	2020-21
Romford Contribution	28,000	31,500
South Ockendon Contribution	3,670	4,129
Aveley Contribution	-	4,572
Farmlands Contribution	7,766	7,064
Rainham Contribution	9,561	9,058
Havering Road Contribution	15,779	15,365
Gidea Park Contribution	16,013	18,015
Harold Wood Contribution	20,421	20,420
Brentwood Contribution	26,632	33,292
Hornchurch Contribution	32,888	37,001
Upminster Contribution	49,148	49,148
	209,878	229,564

3 Other income

	2021-22	2020-21
Mast and hall hire Circuit Mission Outreach Centre - Formerly Collier Row Church	24,643	15,529
Rental income Circuit Mission Outreach Centre	10,546	-
Upminster manse expenses reimbursed by Newham Methodist Church	2,918	-
Miscellaneous income	95	50
	38,202	15,579

4 Grants were made during the year as shown in the table below:

	2021-22	2020-21
Miscellaneous grants	2,222	-
Upminster repairs grants	5,060	9,000
	7,282	9,000

5 Salaries and associated costs

	2021-22	2020-21
Gross Pay	123,003	108,003
Employer's National Insurance Contribution	11,546	9,248
Employer's pension contribution to the defined benefit scheme	32,163	25,527
Lay staff Gross Pay	13,600	11,258
Lay staff Employer's National Insurance	394	338
Lay staff employer's pension contribution to the defined contribution scheme	686	675
Apprentice levy	685	657
Payroll and pension admin charges	480	480
Contribution to pension scheme	23,000	-
	205,557	156,186

Gross salaries paid to five ministers and two lay staff in the year.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022****5 Salaries and associated costs (Continued)****Payment to Trustees**

It is Circuit policy to offer to reimburse members of the Circuit Meeting and others involved in the administration of Circuit affairs for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties. The Chair of the Circuit undertakes the primary executive role within the Circuit. Apart from the Chair of the Circuit and Ministers, no member of the Circuit Council was in receipt of any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the Circuit, although certain travelling and administration costs were reimbursed whenever this was requested. During the year, the Circuit paid £1,151 (2021 - £990) to Mr T Pugsley, a trustee, for repair work carried out at various Manses and to the Collier Row premises.

No accrual is made for the Chair's entitlement to a sabbatical as his functions are undertaken by other Circuit Chair or delegated persons at minimal extra cost to the Circuit.

Pensions

Most ordained presbyters and deacons are members of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS). This is a defined benefit scheme. The Supreme Court held in 2014 that Methodist ministers (which term includes presbyters and deacons) are not employees of the Church. For simplicity, however, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions and pension contributions, the terms 'employer' and 'employee' are used as they would be in an employing body. The MMPS is in deficit but a plan for removal of the deficit is being implemented. It would be difficult to determine the liability that could fall on the London District and no attempt has been made to attempt this valuation. The lay workers are enrolled in a defined contribution scheme managed by The Pension Trust.

During the year the Circuit made an exceptional contribution to the Methodist Scheme Reserve of £23,000.

6 Property costs	2021-22	2020-21
Manse repairs	34,418	25,690
Insurance and utilities	15,964	14,961
Council tax	15,889	12,133
Provision for doubtful debt recovered - rent	-	(1,369)
CMOP share of lost rent	10,546	-
	<u>76,817</u>	<u>51,415</u>

It should be noted that the Circuit chair and ministerial team are required to occupy the Circuit manses. Circuit pays for the Manse and project centre repairs on a regular basis. Any major refurbishments are discussed and approved at the Circuit meeting before the work starts. Circuit pays for Manse's insurances, utilities and council tax for all the Manses occupied by chair and trustees except for four Manses which are let out.

7 Office expenses	2021-22	2020-21
Telephone	4,557	3,826
Travel	4,310	1,748
Postage and stationery	888	530
Software	356	709
Bank charges	164	30
	<u>10,275</u>	<u>6,843</u>

8 Other expenditure	2021-22	2020-21
Preachers fees and expenses	1,419	1,077
Removal costs	6,143	5,254
Ministers' relocation allowance	600	1,200
Training and conference	177	-
Sundries	2,576	980
Levy on capital receipts and other charges	7	8
Professional fees and survey costs	5,200	6,959
Mission Outreach Fund Activities and Resources	3,455	3,076
Loan interest	1,150	-
Provision for bad debts (unpaid assessments)	23,883	19,829
	<u>44,610</u>	<u>38,383</u>

	2021-22	2020-21
9 Capital levy on sale of manse and church building	<u>672,635</u>	<u>-</u>

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

10 Fees for examination or audit of the accounts	2021-22	2020-21
Auditors' fees	2,052	1,583
Other fees (e.g.: advice, accountancy services)	2,508	2,017
	<u>4,560</u>	<u>3,600</u>

11 Total Tangible Fixed Assets

	Other Fixed Assets	Land and Buildings (Other)	Land and Buildings (Manse)	Total
Cost or valuation				
Balance at 1st Sept 2021	1,772	1,250,000	4,300,000	5,551,772
Additions in the year	709	800,000	79,505	880,214
Contribution received	-	-	(9,601)	(9,601)
Depreciation	(1,496)	-	-	(1,496)
Revaluations in the year	-	-	1,355,096	1,355,096
Disposals in year	-	-	(325,000)	(325,000)
Balance at 31st August 2022	<u>985</u>	<u>2,050,000</u>	<u>5,400,000</u>	<u>7,450,985</u>

The Land and Buildings were revalued at 31 August 2022 and agreed by the Trustees. No depreciation is provided on the building because the trustees consider the current fair value of the manse buildings (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year-end) to be not less than its current value. Any depreciation would not be material. The manses have been reviewed for impairment.

Investment properties

No manse is currently deemed to be held for the long term investment purposes of the Circuit.

12 Debtors and prepayments

	2021-22	2020-21
Prepayments and accrued income		
Stipends paid in advance	14,436	13,755
Council tax and utilities	1,214	977
Rent receivable	725	3,105
Insurance	2,732	-
Church assessment due	4,268	18,315
Building expenses - Initial	-	6,359
Contribution to manse running costs	839	-
Total	<u>24,214</u>	<u>42,511</u>

13 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

The funds that support the Circuit Model Trust Fund are held by TMCP. TMCP is the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated funds. TMCP ensure that, through providing guidance and acting under their direction, the Managing Trustees comply with charity law and Methodist law and policy as determined by the Methodist Conference.

14 Central Finance Board (CFB) and cash at bank

The circuit has two current accounts at HSBC Plc, an authorised institution. The sums held on the account are immediately available. In addition, the Circuit has three deposit accounts at CFB. Interest is earned on these CFB accounts and credited monthly. This number excludes the restricted fund accounts.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022****15 Creditors and accrued expenses**

Creditors	2021-22	2020-21
Expenses reimbursement	439	1,295
Audit and accountancy fees	4,560	3,600
Loan repayable in less than 12 months	52,500	-
Donations payable	5,440	-
	<u>62,939</u>	<u>4,895</u>
Accruals and deferred income		
Deferred income for activity next year	72,471	83,099
Surveys due at year end	810	810
Council tax	-	706
Contribution received from Newham Circuit (sharing a manse)	-	1,597
Other accrued property expenses	482	1,386
Loan interest	418	-
Total of creditors and accrued expenses	<u><u>137,120</u></u>	<u><u>92,493</u></u>

16 Grant commitments

There were no future commitments at 31 August 2022.

17 Circuit funds (Unrestricted and Restricted)

The Circuit maintains a number of separate funds. The purpose, type, movement and state as at the end of year is documented below.

The funds held constitute: General Funds for any purpose and Circuit Development Fund, the capital normally being unavailable for spending and the income from which is either Restricted or Unrestricted. Details of each material fund are disclosed in the notes below.

Project		2021-22	2020-21
General Funds - Unrestricted	For use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the objectives of the Circuit. This excludes funds which have been designated for a specific purpose	6,189,423	4,422,809
Circuit Model Trust Fund - Unrestricted	The residual balance of funds which arose from the sale of Churches previously closed and sold and the previous sale of Manses. For specific purposes but not restricted by document or deed to that purpose alone. Of this balance £814,192 was designated for the purposes of mission activity within the Circuit	1,115,957	306
Designated Funds - Unrestricted	Manse Fund for the maintenance of manses	75,110	85,325
	Other - to assist member Churches	25,000	25,000
Mission Outreach Fund - Restricted (Formerly Youth Forum/ Special Project Fund)	Circuit Mission Outreach	3,537	3,537
	Collier Row Mission Outreach Project	1,346,962	1,331,999
Circuit Benevolent Fund - Restricted	To help meet the exceptional needs of presbyters and deacons Circuit lay employees and their dependents within the Romford Circuit that cannot be met at a local Church or Circuit level alone, by providing a resource from which confidential payments can be made at the discretion of the Trustees.	1,499	1,349
		<u>8,757,488</u>	<u>5,870,325</u>

17 Transfer between funds

	2021-22	2020-21
Property surplus transfer to general fund	2,041	11,317
Rainham manse carrying amount to CMTF	<u>325,000</u>	<u>-</u>

18 Volunteer contribution

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit, Church) within the Methodist church in GB is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. Principally this contribution is by serving on committees of the Circuit that deal with mission, manses, finance, policy, grants, training, development. We are grateful to all of them for their help and commitment.

DECLARATIONS**Treasurer**

I confirm that I have prepared the accounts from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit

Signature of Treasurer



Name

Tom E J Smith FCA CTA

Address

Romford Methodist Circuit, Trinity Methodist Church,
Angel Way, Romford RM1 1JH

Date

24/3/2023

Presentation to the Circuit Meeting for approval.

I confirm that the Accounts will be presented to the Circuit Meeting on 23 March 2023 for approval.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting



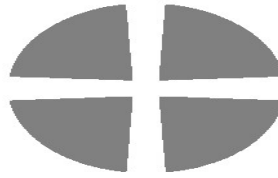
Name of the Chair of the meeting

Rev Dr E Jackson

Date

28/3/2023

Accounts



**Circuit
Accruals Accounts
2020-21**

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS
ACCRUALS BASIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

Romford Circuit Circuit no **35/32**

Registered Charity - Registration number **1132795**

Circuit Chair	Revd D Jebb
Circuit Ministers	Revd J C Vinyard
	Revd K Bell
	Revd J Ribeiro
	Revd A Fummey (From September 2020 to August 2021)
Circuit Stewards	J Pugsley (To 31 December 2020)
	G Reed
	J Gowlett
	W Bansor
	R Hibbard (From September 2020)
Circuit Treasurer	T Smith

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1 Introduction

- 1.1** The Romford Methodist Circuit serves to enable and champion the work of churches in the Greater London and Essex area. There are eleven Churches in the Romford Circuit, including the Aveley Church which ceased 31 August 2021 and its funds transferred into the Circuit in the new financial year. The Chair - Revd D Jebb works together with a team of paid and voluntary officers to support and develop the life of the Circuit.

On 19 November 2009, the Circuit was entered into the Register of Charities and the Charity Number is 1132795.

The Managing Trustees of the Romford Circuit are the members of the Circuit Meeting which meets at least three times a year to consider the work of God in the Circuit and the general management of the Circuit and its business. The membership of the Meeting is governed by the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church. The officers of the Circuit who are appointed by the Circuit Meeting to act upon its behalf comprise the Superintendent Minister, the Ministerial Staff Team, the Circuit Stewards and the Circuit Financial Steward (treasurer), Circuit Property Steward and Manse Stewards.

2 Objectives and Activities

2.1 Aims and organisation

The aims of the Circuit Meeting through its officers are twofold:

- to secure and sustain the Circuit's viability and future
- to give assurance to the general public that the Circuit, which is a charity, intends to use all of the money coming into its care for the purpose of the charity.

2.2 Romford Methodist Circuit Vision

The Circuit's Mission Policy states "The Romford Circuit exists to further God's Kingdom by enabling and supporting the local Churches in their discipleship and mission; resourcing local Churches under the power of the Holy Spirit to function as effective worship, witness and welfare centres. The Circuit achieves this by holding the following values in all its dealings with individuals, communities, local and national authorities, other charities and businesses,

- Bible knowledge: Engaging with the scriptures in our daily lives
- Serving the community: Concern and help for the needs of the local community
- Diversity and Cultural relevance: Maintaining the rich diversity of the Churches and Circuit and communicating the Gospel effectively
- Empowered laity: Recognising the ministry of the whole people of God
- Safeguarding: Creating safer spaces for all including children and vulnerable adults
- Quest for a just world: Actively working for peace with justice"

Essentially it provides for the,

- ministerial oversight and pastoral care of the eleven local churches in the Circuit
- and the maintenance of eight Circuit manses

3 Review of progress and achievements

3.1 Romford Methodist Circuit Annual Report

The Romford Methodist Circuit Annual Report is prepared and presented to the Circuit meeting. It gives full detail of the activities of the Circuit and all the Churches making up the Circuit and the core central resources.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

3.2 Circuit Goals

The principal purpose of the Circuit is to act as a supporting body between Churches and the Connexion. The Circuit does not seek and, in large measure, does not attain direct contact with the public. The direct contact is by the Churches and it is these that the Circuit supports in their desire to provide benefit to the public.

The goals of the Circuit are listed below:

- To develop lay leadership - in breadth, depth, numbers and confidence
- To ensure that every minister and local preacher is engaged in an intentional review and development of their ministry (primarily through the programmes of MDR, supervision training and the Continuing Development of Local Preachers).

3.3 Plans for future years

- Ensure that any local issues emanating from the Past Cases Review are dealt with sympathetically, fully and in a timely manner.
- Ensure that all those within the Circuit that should attend the Safeguarding Leadership Module do so.
- Encourage initiatives for mission in Churches within the Circuit.

4 Financial Plans and Review

- The Circuit's financial requirements are reviewed each year in the context of the aims listed above and the local Churches are invited to make offers of a share in meeting the total cost.
- The annual budget includes a provision for the general maintenance of the manses on the basis of £3,675 allocated to each property each year, however, if large expenditure is needed within the year to maintain manses or refurbish a newly purchased manse the work needed will be agreed and authorised on a case by case basis. Large capital requirements are generally met from funds held in the Circuit Manse Fund (Designated).
- Circuit income is drawn primarily from the assessments paid by the eleven Circuit Churches. During the year assessments reduced to £229,564 (2020: £243,932).
- Rental income was received during the year from the letting of four Manses, this income is regarded as relatively short term in nature. The Rainham manse ceased rental during this financial year and will be sold in the next year.
- Expenditure increased to £317,981 (2020: £315,066) mainly due to a provision for unpaid assessment.
- At 31 August 2021, unrestricted reserves, excluding the property fund, stood at £233,441 (2020: £244,103).
- The Circuit's Funds are split in the following categories:

Unrestricted Funds

- General Fund – this fund together with other unrestricted funds represent at least six months expenditure of the Circuit's general activities and whilst this represents a significant sum, in normal circumstances it is considered important that this level of funding be maintained to meet unexpected expenditure. Having regard to the financial difficulties experienced during the Covid pandemic, the Circuit has however agreed to allow the available unrestricted funds to be reduced to cover at least three months' budgeted expenditure. The balance at the year end was £4,533,441 after adjustments for accruals, including £4,300,000 relating to the manses within the Circuit but where the title lies with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.
- Circuit Model Trust Fund – the residual balance of funds which arose from the sale of Churches previously closed and sold and the previous sale of Manses (Balance at the year end £307).

Designated Funds

- Manse Fund - funds held for maintenance and upkeep of manses used by ministers and manses not currently occupied by ministers which are let.
- Other (Church support) - funds held to enable Circuit to assist member Churches with urgent or exceptional needs.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

Restricted Funds

- Circuit Benevolent Fund – funds held to allow the Circuit to respond quickly to instances of poverty and hardship (Balance at the year end £1,349). The balance is considered adequate.
- Mission Outreach Fund (Formerly Youth Forum and Special Project Fund) – These funds are for circuit outreach work. The Collier Row Mission Outreach Project was started on 14 January 2018. The Mission Outreach Project management team included Revd D Jebb, Revd K Bell, Pamela Coles, Joan Pugsley and Jonathan Coles.

4.1 Investment Policy

The investment of surplus funds is operated through the Central Finance Board (CFB) of the Methodist Church. CFB aims to provide high quality investment service seeking above average returns for long term investors, whilst ensuring that the securities held by all its funds are in line with the ethical policy of the Methodist Church. The Circuit has its funds in a deposit account with CFB. The Restricted Funds are managed by Trustees for Methodist Purposes (TMCP). These funds are also invested with the CFB.

4.2 Reserves Policy

Our Reserves Policy relates to our unrestricted funds which are freely available for any or all of the purposes of the Circuit. It is our policy to hold at least six months expenditure in hand to enable us to meet any calls for funding requirements. In addition, it is our policy to hold a manse reserve fund sufficient to meet foreseeable major expenditure. The six month reserve policy is temporarily suspended due to the Covid pandemic as mentioned on Page 2.

5 Trustees Responsibilities

For each financial year ending 31 August, the trustees are required to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees must:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare accounts to comply with the Charities SORP;
- follow applicable accounting standards subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts;
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for ensuring that sufficient accounting records are kept which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Methodist Church - Romford Circuit and enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the law and Standing Orders of the Methodist Church.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Circuit and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

5.1 Risk Management

The Circuit has been considering the various risks facing the Circuit and the impact and the likelihood of issues happening, which will be reviewed every few years.

The headings under which the risks are being categorised include:

- Governance Risks including Trustees' Responsibilities
- Operational Risks including Resources, People and Property
- Financial Risks
- External Risks and Legal Risks

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

6 Structure, governance and management

6.1 Structure

The Romford Methodist Circuit is an unincorporated association and is governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976, the deed of Union and the Model Trust Deeds of the Methodist Church. It was registered with the Charity Commissioners on 19 November 2009.

Circuits are the coordinating charities for local groups of Churches; Circuits pay the stipends of the ministers and employ lay staff to serve the Churches in the Circuit; most decisions are made at or ratified by the Circuit meetings. The Methodist Conference meets once each year as the supreme denominational body for all Methodist Churches.

- 1 Overall regulatory authority rests with the Methodist Conference.
- 2 The Connexional office implements decisions made by Conference and is also responsible for the stationing of presbyters and deacons (collectively known as ministers) in individual Circuits within the District.
- 3 The Circuit Meeting passes regulatory control down to church councils for local implementation by the presbyter, the Church Stewards, and other officers, and this regulatory authority is then exercised by church councils as Managing Trustees of their charity.

6.2 Purpose of the Circuit

The purposes of the Romford Methodist Circuit are and deemed to have been since the date of the union the advancement of:

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

The primary purpose of this Circuit is to advance the mission of the Church in London, Essex and Thurrock by:

- 1 providing opportunities for Churches to work together and support each other
- 2 offering to Churches resource of finance, personnel and expertise.

6.3 Governance

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

Day to day management of the Circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team along with the Local Preachers meeting and the Circuit Finance and Property Committee.

6.4 Public Benefit Requirement

The trustees had due regard to the guidance published by the Charities Commission in compliance with its duties under section 4 of the Charities Act 2011.

This guidance sets out two key principles:

1. The organisation must have an identifiable benefit.
2. The benefit must be to the public or a section of the public.

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; and
- be a good neighbour to people in need and challenge injustice.

The trustees consider that for these reasons the charity meets these public benefit requirements.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

6.5 Related Parties

The Circuit is part of the London District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The following Methodist Churches are linked to the circuit:

Gidea Park, Harold Wood, Hornchurch, Romford, Upminster, Rainham, Brentwood, South Ockendon, Aveley (to 31 August 2021), Farmlands and Havering Road.

7 Reference and Administration Details

7.1 The full name of the Charity is Romford Methodist Circuit.

7.2 The Romford Methodist Circuit is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission in England and Wales. The organisation's Charity No is 1132795.

7.3 The address of the Circuit for correspondence is Angel Way, Romford, RM1 1JH. The name of the person to whom correspondence should be addressed is Revd D Jebb, the Circuit Chair.

7.4 The managing trustees that served during the year were:

Revd D Jebb, Revd J C Vinyard, Revd K Bell, Revd J Ribeiro, Revd A Fummey

In addition there were some 51 lay managing trustees. A full list of trustees is available on the Charity Commission website.

The Circuit's Bankers are: HSBC and the Central Finance Board of the Methodist church "CFB".

7.5 Investments managed by the Circuit are held by Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes "TMCP"

7.6 Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the Circuit, specifically the leaflet 'The role of a Trustee in the Methodist Church' is given to all new Circuit meeting members as induction to their role as trustees. Trustee training was held on 28 November 2017.

7.7 Disclosure of information to auditors

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

7.8 Auditors

The auditors Clay Ratnage Strevens & Hills had been auditors to the Circuit from year ended 31 August 2016.

4/5/2022

Approved by the managing trustees on and signed on their behalf by:

Rev. David Jebb

.....

Revd D Jebb

Circuit Superintendent

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT****TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Romford Methodist Circuit (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 August 2021 which comprise Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2021, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 3, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

To identify risks of material misstatement due to fraud ("fraud risks") we assessed events or conditions that could indicate an incentive or pressure to commit fraud or provide an opportunity to commit fraud. Our risk assessment procedures included:

- Obtaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks applicable to the charity.
- Obtained an understanding of how the charity is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks by making enquiries to the trustees.
- The susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement caused by fraud or other irregularities were assessed with the following procedures:
 - Identifying and assessing the design effectiveness of controls which trustees have in place to prevent and detect fraud
 - Understanding how those charged with governance considered the potential for override of controls and management biases
 - Identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any journal entries posted with unusual account combinations

Potential fraud risks that had been identified throughout the planning and commencement of the audit were communicated to the audit team.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Clay Ratnage Strevens & Hills

Chartered Accountants

& Statutory Auditors

Suite D, The Business Centre

Faringdon Avenue

Romford, Essex RM3 8EN

Clay Ratnage Strevens & Hills

Date: 26/5/2022

Clay Ratnage Strevens & Hills is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Other Funds (Restricted)	Total 2020-21	Total 2019-20
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
1 Donations & Legacies		-	-	-	3,815	3,815	6,192
2 Interest and Investment Income		194	1	145	101	441	2,197
3 Other income	3	50	-	-	15,529	15,579	18,840
4 Assessment on Churches	2	229,564	-	-	-	229,564	243,932
5 Contributions from Circuit Model Trust Funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
6 Connexional Advance & Property Fund		-	-	-	-	-	-
7 Capital Receipts		-	-	-	-	-	-
8 Grants (including trfs from DAF)		-	-	-	-	-	-
9 Manse Rent Received		-	-	59,550	-	59,550	66,900
10 Total Income		229,808	1	59,695	19,445	308,949	338,061
Expenditure							
11 Grants and Donations	4	-	-	9,000	-	9,000	400
12 Salaries and associated costs	5	156,186	-	-	-	156,186	161,441
13 Property (incl Ins., C tax, utilities etc)	6	14,164	-	28,219	9,032	51,415	58,111
14 Office Expenses (Admin., tel. travel etc.)	7	6,164	-	-	679	6,843	12,543
15 District assessment		49,624	-	-	-	49,624	49,784
16 Depreciation		-	-	-	2,930	2,930	2,417
17 Other Expenditure (incl training)	8	26,242	8	6,959	5,174	38,383	26,905
18 Audit	9	3,600	-	-	-	3,600	3,465
19 Manse loan interest		-	-	-	-	-	-
20 Capital Expended		-	-	-	-	-	-
21 Total Expenditure		255,980	8	44,178	17,815	317,981	315,066
22 Net Income/(Expenditure)		(26,172)	(7)	15,517	1,630	(9,032)	22,995
23 Transfers between funds	17	11,317	-	(11,317)	-	-	-
24 Sub Total		(14,855)	(7)	4,200	1,630	(9,032)	22,995
25 Gains/(losses) on revaluation fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-	-
26 Gains/(losses): on investment assets		-	-	-	-	-	-
27 Net investment in funds		(14,855)	(7)	4,200	1,630	(9,032)	22,995
28 Restatement of opening comparative figures		-	-	-	-	-	-
29 Total funds brought forward from last year		4,437,664	314	106,125	1,335,254	5,879,357	5,856,362
30 Total funds carried forward at end of year		4,422,809	307	110,325	1,336,884	5,870,325	5,879,357

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

Balance brought forward from last year

Offerings/Gifts - received for External Organisations

Offerings/Gifts - passed to External Organisations

Balance still to be paid

-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-

The notes on pages 10 to 15 form part of these accounts.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2021

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Other Funds (Restricted)	Total 2021	Total 2020
		£	£	£	£	£	£

Tangible Fixed Assets

Manse and other fixed assets	10	4,300,000	-	-	1,251,772	5,551,772	5,553,163
Investment properties		-	-	-	-	-	-
Investments		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total fixed assets		4,300,000	-	-	1,251,772	5,551,772	5,553,163

Current Assets

Debtors and Prepayments	11	39,406	-	2,782	323	42,511	20,569
Central Finance Board and Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes deposits etc	12/13	119,395	-	105,269	103,164	327,828	345,094
Cash at Bank and in hand		25,117	307	3,658	11,625	40,707	29,358
Total current assets		183,918	307	111,709	115,112	411,046	395,021

Creditors and Accruals (due in under one year)	14	61,109	-	1,384	30,000	92,493	68,827
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Net current (liabilities)/assets		122,809	307	110,325	85,112	318,553	326,194
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Total assets less current liabilities		4,422,809	307	110,325	1,336,884	5,870,325	5,879,357
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Long term liabilities

Grants Payable		-	-	-	-	-	-
Other liabilities due after one year		-	-	-	-	-	-

Net assets		4,422,809	307	110,325	1,336,884	5,870,325	5,879,357
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Funds of the Circuit

General Fund (Unrestricted)		4,422,809				4,422,809	4,437,664
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			307			307	314
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)				110,325		110,325	106,125
Total Unrestricted funds						4,533,441	4,544,103
Other Funds (Restricted)					1,336,884	1,336,884	1,335,254
Total Restricted funds						1,336,884	1,335,254
Total Funds	16	4,422,809	307	110,325	1,336,884	5,870,325	5,879,357

The notes on pages 10 to 15 form part of these accounts.

4/5/2022

Approved by the managing trustees on and signed on their behalf by:

Rev. David Jebb

.....
Revd D Jebb

Circuit Superintendent

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

1 Accounting framework and accounting policies**i Accounting framework**

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

ii Public benefit entity

The Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes below.

iii Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that Manses are shown at their market value at the end of the year, on the accruals basis to show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

iv Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

v FRS102 SORP 2019

These accounts are compliant with FRS 102 and with the FRS 102 SORP 2019.

vi Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2021, the trustees believe that the Circuit is a going concern.

vii Consolidation

The Circuit oversees the work of ministers and lay workers in Churches within the Circuit, but does not have control over those Churches, ministers or lay workers except in extreme circumstances, none of which were applicable. For this reason, the financial statements of the Churches within the Circuit are not consolidated into these financial statements.

viii Ministerial oversight and pastoral care of the eleven local churches in the Circuit

Income is brought into account when it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will accrue to the Circuit. No attempt is made to measure the value of services donated by volunteers. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the time of volunteers is not recognised.

ix Expenditure

This is 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.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

x 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 Grants Committee 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 and included within the Circuit Advance Fund or other relevant designated fund in these accounts.

xi VAT

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

xii Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year. The Manses are shown in the accounts at market valuation at the end of the financial year.

xiii Debtors and creditors; bank and cash

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the Circuit or prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any trade discounts, where normal credit terms apply, or amount advanced to the Circuit. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds of bank balances and deposit account balances are shown at the realisable values.

xiv Ministers' manse costs

The Circuit is required to provide accommodation for each Minister and his / her family. The Circuit bears the cost of repairs, maintenance, building insurance, Council Tax and water charges. These costs are not shown separately as benefits-in-kind for Ministers as HMRC does not seek to tax these receipts in the hands of the Ministers.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021****2 Assessment on Churches**

Four of the member churches (Aveley, Hornchurch, South Ockendon and Havering Road) were unable to pay the assessments in full as a result of financial difficulties. Consequently, £44,165 of the total amount due for the year remains outstanding at 31 August 2021 (£14,662 at 31 August 2020).

An assessment on Churches is annually determined by Circuit by reference to the number of staff in the Churches but may also take into account a Church's ability to pay. Having regard to the financial difficulties caused by the pandemic, the Circuit agreed to a reduction of 20% in the level of assessment commencing with February 2021, while encouraging member Churches to continue to the same level of assessment if their circumstances permitted. The amounts shown below therefore represent the higher of the reduced assessment due and the actual receipts. Churches in the Circuit are as follows:

Church Name	2020-21	2019-20
Romford Contribution	31,500	35,000
South Ockendon Contribution	4,129	4,588
Aveley Contribution	4,572	5,080
Farmlands Contribution	7,064	7,064
Rainham Contribution	9,058	10,064
Havering Road Contribution	15,365	17,072
Gidea Park Contribution	18,015	20,016
Harold Wood Contribution	20,420	21,496
Brentwood Contribution	33,292	33,292
Hornchurch Contribution	37,001	41,112
Upminster Contribution	49,148	49,148
	<u>229,564</u>	<u>243,932</u>

3 Other income

The Circuit received donations towards the cost of prayer handbooks from Churches in the Circuit. This year included rent received of £15,529 (2020 £18,770) in respect of the Circuit Mission Outreach Centre (formerly Collier Row Methodist Church) and donations received via the Mission Outreach project of £50 (2020 £70).

4 Grants were made during the year as shown in the table below:

	2020-21	2019-20
Upminster Grant towards replacement of flat roof	9,000	-
Grant - Rev J Ribeiro grant from benevolent fund re doctorate	-	400
	<u>9,000</u>	<u>400</u>

5 Salaries and associated costs

	2020-21	2019-20
Gross Pay	108,003	106,195
Employer's National Insurance Contribution	9,248	8,610
Employer's pension contribution to the defined benefit scheme	25,527	27,386
Lay staff Gross Pay	11,258	16,666
Lay staff Employer's National Insurance	338	505
Lay staff employer's pension contribution to the defined contribution scheme	675	1,000
Apprentice levy	657	599
Payroll and pension admin charges	480	480
	<u>156,186</u>	<u>161,441</u>

Gross salaries paid to five ministers and one lay staff in the year.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021****5 Salaries and associated costs (Continued)****Payment to Trustees**

It is Circuit policy to offer to reimburse members of the Circuit Meeting and others involved in the administration of Circuit affairs for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties. The Chair of the Circuit undertakes the primary executive role within the Circuit. Apart from the Chair of the Circuit and Ministers, no member of the Circuit Council was in receipt of any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the Circuit, although certain travelling and administration costs were reimbursed whenever this was requested. During the year, the Circuit paid £990 (2020 - £450) to Mr T Pugsley, a trustee, for repair work carried out at various Manses and to the Collier Row premises.

No accrual is made for the Chair's entitlement to a sabbatical as his functions are undertaken by other Circuit Chair or delegated persons at minimal extra cost to the Circuit.

Pensions

Most ordained presbyters and deacons are members of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS). This is a defined benefit scheme. The Supreme Court held in 2014 that Methodist ministers (which term includes presbyters and deacons) are not employees of the Church. For simplicity, however, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions and pension contributions, the terms 'employer' and 'employee' are used as they would be in an employing body. The MMPS is in deficit but a plan for removal of the deficit is being implemented. It would be difficult to determine the liability that could fall on the London District and no attempt has been made to attempt this valuation. The lay workers are enrolled in a defined contribution scheme managed by The Pension Trust.

6 Property costs	2020-21	2019-20
Manse repairs	25,690	32,653
Insurance and utilities	14,961	13,452
Council tax	12,133	10,953
Provision for doubtful debt - rent	(1,369)	1,369
Cost reimbursement	-	(316)
	<u>51,415</u>	<u>58,111</u>

It should be noted that the Circuit chair and ministerial team are required to occupy the Circuit manses. Circuit pays for the Manse and project centre repairs on a regular basis. Any major refurbishments are discussed and approved at the Circuit meeting before the work starts. Circuit pays for Manse's insurances, utilities and council tax for all the Manses occupied by chair and trustees except for four Manses which are let out.

7 Office expenses	2020-21	2019-20
Telephone	3,826	4,872
Travel	1,748	5,616
Postage and stationery	530	1,249
Software	709	776
Other	30	30
	<u>6,843</u>	<u>12,543</u>

8 Other expenditure	2020-21	2019-20
Preachers fees and expenses	1,077	917
Removal costs	5,254	-
Ministers' relocation allowance	1,200	-
Training and conference	-	1,227
Sundries	980	645
Levy on capital receipts and other charges	8	9
Professional fees and survey costs	6,959	8,020
Mission Outreach Fund Activities and Resources	3,076	1,425
Provision for bad debts (unpaid assesment)	19,829	14,662
	<u>38,383</u>	<u>26,905</u>

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

9 Fees for examination or audit of the accounts	2020-21	2019-20
Auditors' fees	1,583	1,522
Other fees (e.g.: advice, accountancy services)	2,017	1,943
	<u>3,600</u>	<u>3,465</u>

10 Total Tangible Fixed Assets

	Other Fixed Assets	Land and Buildings (Other)	Land and Buildings (Manse)	Total
Cost or valuation				
Balance at 1st Sept 2020	3,163	1,250,000	4,300,000	5,553,163
Additions in the year	1,539	-	-	1,539
Depreciation	2,930	-	-	2,930
Revaluations in the year	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31st August 2021	<u>1,772</u>	<u>1,250,000</u>	<u>4,300,000</u>	<u>5,551,772</u>

The Land and Buildings (Manse) valuation at 31 August 2021 are not materially different to the valuation at 31 August 2016 and agreed by the Trustees. No depreciation is provided on the building because the trustees consider the current fair value of the manse buildings (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year-end) to be not less than its current value. Any depreciation would not be material. The manses have been reviewed for impairment.

Investment properties

No manse is currently deemed to be held for the long term investment purposes of the Circuit.

11 Debtors and prepayments

	2020-21	2019-20
Prepayments and accrued income		
Stipends paid in advance	13,755	10,701
Council tax and utilities	977	938
Rent receivable	3,105	308
Church assesment due	18,315	8,622
Building expenses - Initial	6,359	-
Total	<u>42,511</u>	<u>20,569</u>

12 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

The funds that support the Circuit Model Trust Fund are held by TMCP. TMCP is the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated funds. TMCP ensure that, through providing guidance and acting under their direction, the Managing Trustees comply with charity law and Methodist law and policy as determined by the Methodist Conference.

13 Central Finance Board (CFB) and cash at bank

The circuit has two current accounts at HSBC Plc, an authorised institution. The sums held on the account are immediately available. In addition, the Circuit has three deposit accounts at CFB. Interest is earned on these CFB accounts and credited monthly. This number excludes the restricted fund accounts.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021****14 Creditors and accrued expenses**

Creditors	2020-21	2019-20
Expenses reimbursement	1,295	2,165
Audit and accountancy fees	3,600	3,465
	<u>4,895</u>	<u>5,630</u>
Accruals and deferred income		
Deferred income for activity next year	83,099	60,983
Surveys due at year end	810	1,890
Council tax	706	-
Contribution received from Newham Circuit (sharing a manse)	1,597	-
Other accrued property expenses	1,386	324
Total of creditors and accrued expenses	<u>92,493</u>	<u>68,827</u>

15 Grant commitments

There were no future commitments at 31 August 2021.

16 Circuit funds (Unrestricted and Restricted)

The Circuit maintains a number of separate funds. The purpose, type, movement and state as at the end of year is documented below.

The funds held constitute: General Funds for any purpose and Circuit Development Fund, the capital normally being unavailable for spending and the income from which is either Restricted or Unrestricted. Details of each material fund are disclosed in the notes below.

Project		2020-21	2019-20
General Funds - Unrestricted	For use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the objectives of the Circuit. This excludes funds which have been designated for a specific purpose	4,422,809	4,437,664
Circuit Model Trust Fund - Unrestricted	The residual balance of funds which arose from the sale of Churches previously closed and sold and the previous sale of Manses. For specific purposes but not restricted by document or deed to that purpose alone	306	314
Designated Funds - Unrestricted	Manse Fund for the maintenance of manses	85,325	106,125
	Other - to assist member Churches	25,000	-
Mission Outreach Fund - Restricted	Circuit Mission Outreach	3,537	3,570
(Formerly Youth Forum/ Special Project Fund)	Collier Row Mission Outreach Project	1,331,999	1,330,335
Circuit Benevolent Fund - Restricted	To help meet the exceptional needs of presbyters and deacons Circuit lay employees and their dependents within the Romford Circuit that cannot be met at a local Church or Circuit level alone, by providing a resource from which confidential payments can be made at the discretion of the Trustees.	1,349	1,349
		<u>5,870,325</u>	<u>5,879,357</u>

17 Transfer between funds

	2020-21	2019-20
Property surplus transfer to general fund	11,317	15,348
Budgeted contribution from general fund to mission outreach (restricted)	-	1,700

18 Volunteer contribution

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit, Church) within the Methodist church in GB is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. Principally this contribution is by serving on committees of the Circuit that deal with mission, manses, finance, policy, grants, training, development. We are grateful to all of them for their help and commitment.

DECLARATIONS

Treasurer

I confirm that I have prepared the accounts from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit

Signature of Treasurer

Thomas Smith

Name

Tom E J Smith FCA CTA

Address

Romford Methodist Circuit, Trinity Methodist Church,
Angel Way, Romford RM1 1JH

Date

20/4/2022

Presentation to the Circuit Meeting for approval.

I confirm that the Accounts have been presented to the Circuit Meeting on 13 April 2022 and were approved.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

J. Zihle

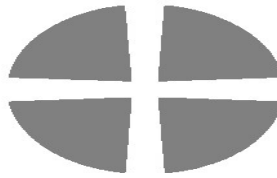
Name of the Chair of the meeting

Rev'd Dr Jongikaya Zihle

Date

26/5/2022

Accounts



**Circuit
Accruals Accounts
2019-20**

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS
ACCRUALS BASIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

Romford Circuit Circuit no **35/32**

Registered Charity - Registration number **1132795**

Circuit Chair	Revd D Jebb
Circuit Ministers	Revd J C Vinyard
	Revd K Bell
	Revd J Ribeiro
	Revd J B Chambers
Circuit Stewards	J Pugsley
	D Swanton
	G Reed
	T Banks
	J Gowlett (From September 2019)
	W Bansor (From 21 January 2020)
Circuit Treasurer	T Smith

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1 Introduction

1.1

The Romford Methodist Circuit serves to enable and champion the work of churches in the Greater London and Essex area. There are eleven Churches in the Romford Circuit. The Chair - Revd D Jebb works together with a team of paid and voluntary officers to support and develop the life of the Circuit.

On 19 November 2009, the Circuit was entered into the Register of Charities and the Charity Number is 1132795.

The Managing Trustees of the Romford Circuit are the members of the Circuit Meeting which meets at least three times a year to consider the work of God in the Circuit and the general management of the Circuit and its business. The membership of the Meeting is governed by the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church. The officers of the Circuit who are appointed by the Circuit Meeting to act upon its behalf comprise the Superintendent Minister, the Ministerial Staff Team, the Circuit Stewards and the Circuit Financial Steward (treasurer), Circuit Property Steward and Manse Stewards.

2 Objectives and Activities

2.1 Aims and organisation

The aims of the Circuit Meeting through its officers are twofold:

- to secure and sustain the Circuit's viability and future
- to give assurance to the general public that the Circuit, which is a charity, intends to use all of the money coming into its care for the purpose of the charity.

2.2 Romford Methodist Circuit Vision

The Circuit's Mission Policy states "The Romford Circuit exists to further God's Kingdom by enabling and supporting the local Churches in their discipleship and mission; resourcing local Churches under the power of the Holy Spirit to function as effective worship, witness and welfare centres. The Circuit achieves this by holding the following values in all its dealings with individuals, communities, local and national authorities, other charities and businesses,

- Bible knowledge: Engaging with the scriptures in our daily lives
- Serving the community: Concern and help for the needs of the local community
- Diversity and Cultural relevance: Maintaining the rich diversity of the Churches and Circuit and communicating the Gospel effectively
- Empowered laity: Recognising the ministry of the whole people of God
- Safeguarding: Creating safer spaces for all including children and vulnerable adults
- Quest for a just world: Actively working for peace with justice

We shall review the implementation and the wording of this statement annually"

Essentially it provides for the,

- ministerial oversight and pastoral care of the eleven local churches in the Circuit
- the support of a ministry team of three and a half presbyteral ministers, and three supernumerary ministers.
- and the maintenance of eight Circuit manses

3 Review of progress and achievements

3.1 Romford Methodist Circuit Annual Report

The Romford Methodist Circuit Annual Report is prepared and presented to the Circuit meeting. It gives full detail of the activities of the Circuit and all the Churches making up the Circuit and the core central resources.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

3.2 Circuit Goals

The principal purpose of the Circuit is to act as a supporting body between Churches and the Connexion. The Circuit does not seek and, in large measure, does not attain direct contact with the public. The direct contact is by the Churches and it is these that the Circuit supports in their desire to provide benefit to the public.

The goals of the Circuit are listed below:

- To develop lay leadership - in breadth, depth, numbers and confidence
- To ensure that every minister and local preacher is engaged in an intentional review and development of their ministry (primarily through the programmes of MDR, supervision training and the Continuing Development of Local Preachers).

3.3 Plans for future years

- Ensure that any local issues emanating from the Past Cases Review are dealt with sympathetically, fully and in a timely manner.
- Ensure that all those within the Circuit that should attend the Safeguarding Leadership Module do so.
- Encourage initiatives for mission in Churches within the Circuit.

4 Financial Plans and Review

- The Circuit's financial requirements are reviewed each year in the context of the aims listed above and the local Churches are invited to make offers of a share in meeting the total cost.
- The annual budget includes a provision for the general maintenance of the manses on the basis of £3,360 allocated to each property each year, however, if large expenditure is needed within the year to maintain manses or refurbish a newly purchased manse the work needed will be agreed and authorised on a case by case basis. Large capital requirements are generally met from funds held in the Circuit Manse Fund (Designated).
- Circuit income is drawn primarily from the assessments paid by the eleven Circuit Churches. During the year assessments remained at £243,932 (2019: £243,932).
- Rental income was received during the year from the letting of four Manses, this income is regarded as relatively short term in nature.
- Expenditure increased to £315,066 (2019: £306,335) mainly due to a provision for unpaid assessment of £14,662.
- At 31 August 2020, unrestricted reserves, excluding the property fund, stood at £244,103 (2019: £219,910).
- The Circuit's Funds are split into a number of designated categories:

Unrestricted Funds

- General Fund – this fund together with other unrestricted funds represent at least six months expenditure of the Circuit's general activities and whilst this represents a significant sum, it is considered important that this level of funding be maintained to meet unexpected expenditure. The balance at the year end was £4,544,103 after adjustments for accruals, including £4,300,000 relating to the manses within the Circuit but where the title lies with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.
- Circuit Model Trust Fund – the residual balance of funds which arose from the sale of Churches previously closed and sold and the previous sale of Manses (Balance at the year end £314).

Designated Funds

- Manse Fund - funds held for maintenance and upkeep of manses used by ministers and manses not currently occupied by ministers which are let.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Restricted Funds

- Circuit Benevolent Fund – funds held to allow the Circuit to respond quickly to instances of poverty and hardship (Balance at the year end £1,349). The balance is considered adequate.
- Mission Outreach Fund (Formerly Youth Forum and Special Project Fund) – These funds are for circuit outreach work. The Collier Row Mission Outreach Project was started on 14 January 2018. The Mission Outreach Project management team included Revd D Jebb, Revd K Bell, Pamela Coles, Joan Pugsley and Jonathan Coles.

4.1 Investment Policy

The investment of surplus funds is operated through the Central Finance Board (CFB) of the Methodist Church. CFB aims to provide high quality investment service seeking above average returns for long term investors, whilst ensuring that the securities held by all its funds are in line with the ethical policy of the Methodist Church. The Circuit has its funds in a deposit account with CFB. The Restricted Funds are managed by Trustees for Methodist Purposes (TMCP). These funds are also invested with the CFB.

4.2 Reserves Policy

Our Reserves Policy relates to our unrestricted funds which are freely available for any or all of the purposes of the Circuit. It is our policy to hold at least six months expenditure in hand to enable us to meet any calls for funding requirements. In addition, it is our policy to hold a manse reserve fund sufficient to meet foreseeable major expenditure.

5 Trustees Responsibilities

For each financial year ending 31 August, the trustees are required to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees must:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare accounts to comply with the Charities SORP;
- follow applicable accounting standards subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts;
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for ensuring that sufficient accounting records are kept which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Methodist Church - Romford Circuit and enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the law and Standing Orders of the Methodist Church.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Circuit and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

5.1 Risk Management

The Circuit has been considering the various risks facing the Circuit and the impact and the likelihood of issues happening, which will be reviewed every few years.

The headings under which the risks are being categorised include:

- Governance Risks including Trustees' Responsibilities
- Operational Risks including Resources, People and Property
- Financial Risks
- External Risks and Legal Risks

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

6 Structure, governance and management

6.1 Structure

The Romford Methodist Circuit is an unincorporated association and is governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976, the deed of Union and the Model Trust Deeds of the Methodist Church. It was registered with the Charity Commissioners on 19 November 2009.

Circuits are the coordinating charities for local groups of Churches; Circuits pay the stipends of the ministers and employ lay staff to serve the Churches in the Circuit; most decisions are made at or ratified by the Circuit meetings. The Methodist Conference meets once each year as the supreme denominational body for all Methodist Churches.

- 1 Overall regulatory authority rests with the Methodist Conference.
- 2 The Connexional office implements decisions made by Conference and is also responsible for the stationing of presbyters and deacons (collectively known as ministers) in individual Circuits within the District.
- 3 The Circuit Meeting passes regulatory control down to church councils for local implementation by the presbyter, the Church Stewards, and other officers, and this regulatory authority is then exercised by church councils as Managing Trustees of their charity.

6.2 Purpose of the Circuit

The purposes of the Romford Methodist Circuit are and deemed to have been since the date of the union the advancement of:

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

The primary purpose of this Circuit is to advance the mission of the Church in London, Essex and Thurrock by:

- 1 providing opportunities for Churches to work together and support each other
- 2 offering to Churches resource of finance, personnel and expertise.

6.3 Governance

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

Day to day management of the Circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team along with the Local Preachers meeting and the Circuit Finance and Property Committee.

6.4 Public Benefit Requirement

The trustees had due regard to the guidance published by the Charities Commission in compliance with its duties under section 4 of the Charities Act 2011.

This guidance sets out two key principles:

1. The organisation must have an identifiable benefit.
2. The benefit must be to the public or a section of the public.

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; and
- be a good neighbour to people in need and challenge injustice.

The trustees consider that for these reasons the charity meets these public benefit requirements.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

6.5 Related Parties

The Circuit is part of the London District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The following Methodist Churches are linked to the circuit:

Gidea Park, Harold Wood, Hornchurch, Romford, Upminster, Rainham, Brentwood, South Ockendon, Aveley, Farmlands and Havering Road.

7 Reference and Administration Details

7.1 The full name of the Charity is Romford Methodist Circuit.

7.2 The Romford Methodist Circuit is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission in England and Wales. The organisation's Charity No is 1132795.

7.3 The address of the Circuit for correspondence is Angel Way, Romford, RM1 1JH. The name of the person to whom correspondence should be addressed is Revd D Jebb, the Circuit Chair.

7.4 The managing trustees that served during the year were:

Revd D Jebb, Revd J C Vinyard, Revd K Bell, Revd J Ribeiro, Revd J B Chambers.

In addition there were some 56 lay managing trustees.

The Circuit's Bankers are: HSBC and the Central Finance Board of the Methodist church "CFB".

7.5 Investments managed by the Circuit are held by Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes "TMCP"

7.6 Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the Circuit, specifically the leaflet 'The role of a Trustee in the Methodist Church' is given to all new Circuit meeting members as induction to their role as trustees. Trustee training was held on 28 November 2017.

7.7 Disclosure of information to auditors

In so far as the trustees are aware:

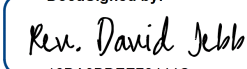
- there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

7.8 Auditors

The auditors Clay Ratnage Strevens & Hills had been auditors to the Circuit from year ended 31 August 2016.

5/5/2021

Approved by the managing trustees on and signed on their behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

.....16DA0BDDEE78444G.....
Revd D Jebb
Circuit Superintendent

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT****TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT****Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Romford Methodist Circuit (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 August 2020 which comprise Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2020, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 3, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Clay Ratnage Strevens & Hills
Chartered Accountants
& Statutory Auditors

Suite D, The Business Centre
Faringdon Avenue
Romford
Essex RM3 8EN

DocuSigned by:

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Date: 5/5/2021

Clay Ratnage Strevens & Hills is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

	Note	General Fund	Circuit Model	Designated	Other Funds	Endowment	2019-20	Total
		(Unrestricted)	Trust Fund	Funds	(Restricted)	Funds		2018-19
		(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)
Income								
1 Donations & Legacies		6,100	-		92	-	6,192	1,014
2 Interest and Investment Income		1,704	3		490	-	2,197	1,831
3 Other income	3	70	-		18,770	-	18,840	23,194
4 Assessment on Churches	2	243,932	-	-	-	-	243,932	243,932
5 Contributions from Circuit Model Trust Funds		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6 Connexional Advance & Property Fund		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7 Capital Receipts		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8 Grants (including trfs from DAF)	4		-	-	-	-	-	-
9 Manse Rent Received		-	-	66,900	-	-	66,900	58,410
10 Total Income		251,806	3	66,900	19,352	-	338,061	328,381
Expenditure								
11 Grants and Donations		-	-	-	400	-	400	-
12 Salaries and associated costs	5	155,374	-		6,067	-	161,441	153,995
13 Property (incl Ins., C tax, utilities etc)	6	14,602	-	33,357	10,152	-	58,111	66,090
14 Office Expenses (Admin., tel. travel etc.)	7	11,058	-	-	1,485	-	12,543	13,860
15 District assessment		49,784	-	-		-	49,784	51,866
16 Depreciation		-	-		2,417	-	2,417	1,670
17 Other Expenditure (incl training)	8	17,451	9	7,716	1,729	-	26,905	15,554
18 Audit	9	3,465	-	-	-	-	3,465	3,300
19 Manse loan interest		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 Capital Expended		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21 Total Expenditure		251,734	9	41,073	22,250	-	315,066	306,335
22 Net Income/(Expenditure)		72	(6)	25,827	(2,898)	-	22,995	22,046
23 Transfers between funds	17	13,648		(15,348)	1,700	-	-	-
24 Sub Total		13,720	(6)	10,479	(1,198)	-	22,995	22,046
25 Gains/(losses) on revaluation fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
26 Gains/(losses): on investment assets		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
27 Net investment in funds		13,720	(6)	10,479	(1,198)	-	22,995	22,046
28 Restatement of opening comparative figures		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
29 Total funds brought forward from last year		4,423,944	320	95,646	1,336,452	-	5,856,362	5,834,316
30 Total funds carried forward at end of year		4,437,664	314	106,125	1,335,254	-	5,879,357	5,856,362

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

Balance brought forward from last year	-	-
Offerings/Gifts - received for External Organisations	-	-
Offerings/Gifts - passed to External Organisations	-	-
Balance still to be paid	-	-

The notes on pages 10 to 16 form part of these accounts.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2020

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Other Funds (Restricted)	Endowment Funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets								
Manse and other fixed assets	10	4,300,000	-	-	1,253,163	-	5,553,163	5,553,340
Investment properties		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Investments		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total fixed assets		4,300,000	-	-	1,253,163	-	5,553,163	5,553,340
Current Assets								
Debtors and Prepayments	11	20,261	-	-	308	-	20,569	13,367
Central Finance Board and Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes deposits etc	12/13	166,906	-	105,125	73,063	-	345,094	317,361
Cash at Bank and in hand		18,609	314	1,715	8,720	-	29,358	44,058
Total current assets		205,776	314	106,840	82,091	-	395,021	374,786
Creditors and Accruals (due in under one year)	14	68,113	-	714	-	-	68,827	71,764
Net current (liabilities)/assets		137,663	314	106,126	82,091	-	326,194	303,022
Total assets less current liabilities		4,437,663	314	106,126	1,335,254	-	5,879,357	5,856,362
Long term liabilities								
Loans to the Circuit		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants Payable		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other liabilities due after one year		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net assets		4,437,663	314	106,126	1,335,254	-	5,879,357	5,856,362
Funds of the Circuit								
General Fund (Unrestricted)		4,437,664					4,437,664	4,423,944
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			314				314	320
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)				106,125			106,125	95,646
Total Unrestricted funds							4,544,103	4,519,910
Other Funds (Restricted)					1,335,254		1,335,254	1,336,452
Endowment Funds (Restricted)						-	-	-
Total Restricted funds							1,335,254	1,336,452
Total Funds	16	4,437,664	314	106,125	1,335,254	-	5,879,357	5,856,362

The notes on pages 10 to 16 form part of these accounts.

5/5/2021

Approved by the managing trustees on and signed on their behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

Rev. David Jebb

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Revd D Jebb

Circuit Superintendent

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

1 Accounting framework and accounting policies**i Accounting framework**

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 the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective from 1 January 2015) – (the Charities SORP (FRS 102) as amended by Update Bulletin 1) – in replacement for the SORP's 2005 version specified in its related 2008 Regulations and in accordance with the “true and fair override” provision contained therein.

ii Public benefit entity

The Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes below.

iii Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that Manses are shown at their market value at the end of the year, on the accruals basis to show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

iv Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

v FRS102 SORP 2015

These accounts are compliant with FRS 102 and with the FRS 102 SORP2015.

vi Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2019, the trustees believe that the Circuit is a going concern.

vii Consolidation

The Circuit oversees the work of ministers and lay workers in Churches within the Circuit, but does not have control over those Churches, ministers or lay workers except in extreme circumstances, none of which were applicable. For this reason, the financial statements of the Churches within the Circuit are not consolidated into these financial statements.

viii ministerial oversight and pastoral care of the eleven local churches in the Circuit

Income is brought into account when it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will accrue to the Circuit. No attempt is made to measure the value of services donated by volunteers. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the time of volunteers is not recognised.

ix Expenditure

This is 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.

x 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 Grants Committee 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 and included within the Circuit Advance Fund or other relevant designated fund in these accounts.

xi VAT

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

xii Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year. The Manses are shown in the accounts at market valuation at the end of the financial year.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

xiii Debtors and creditors; bank and cash

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the Circuit or prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any trade discounts, where normal credit terms apply, or amount advanced to the Circuit. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds of bank balances and deposit account balances are shown at the realisable values.

xiv Ministers' manse costs

The Circuit is required to provide accommodation for each Minister and his / her family. The Circuit bears the cost of repairs, maintenance, building insurance, Council Tax and water charges. These costs are not shown separately as benefits-in-kind for Ministers as HMRC does not seek to tax these receipts in the hands of the Ministers.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020****2 Assessment on Churches**

Three of the member churches (Aveley, Hornchurch and South Ockendon) were unable to pay the assessments in full as a result of financial difficulties. Consequently, £14,662 of the total amount due for the year remains outstanding at 31 August 2020.

An assessment on Churches is annually determined by Circuit by reference to the number of staff in the Churches but may also take into account a Church's ability to pay. Churches in the Circuit are as follows:

Church Name	2019-20	2018-19
Trinity Contribution	35,000	35,000
South Ockendon Contribution	4,588	4,588
Aveley Contribution	5,080	5,080
Farmlands Contribution	7,064	7,064
Rainham Contribution	10,064	10,064
Havering Road Contribution	17,072	17,072
Gidea Park Contribution	20,016	20,016
Harold Wood Contribution	21,496	21,496
Brentwood Contribution	33,292	33,292
Hornchurch Contribution	41,112	41,112
Upminster Contribution	49,148	49,148
	<u>243,932</u>	<u>243,932</u>

3 Other income

The Circuit received donations towards the cost of prayer handbooks from Churches in the Circuit. This year included rent received of £18,770 (2019 £22,818) in respect of the Circuit Mission Outreach Centre (formerly Collier Row Methodist Church) and donations received via the Mission Outreach project of £70 (2019 £376).

4 Grants

Grants were made during the year as shown in the table below:

	2019-20	2018-19
Grant - Rev J Ribeiro grant from benevolent fund re doctorate	400	-
	<u>400</u>	<u>-</u>

5 Salaries and associated costs

	2019-20	2018-19
Gross Pay	106,195	101,443
Employer's National Insurance Contribution	8,610	8,811
Employer's pension contribution to the defined benefit scheme	27,386	26,614
Lay staff Gross Pay	16,666	15,525
Lay staff employer's national insurance	505	435
Lay staff employer's pension contribution to the defined contribution scheme	1,000	124
Apprentice levy	599	63
Payroll and pension admin charges	480	980
	<u>161,441</u>	<u>153,995</u>

Gross salaries paid to five ministers and two lay staff in the year.

Payment to Trustees

It is Circuit policy to offer to reimburse members of the Circuit Meeting and others involved in the administration of Circuit affairs for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties. The Chair of the Circuit undertakes the primary executive role within the Circuit. Apart from the Chair of the Circuit and Ministers, no member of the Circuit Council was in receipt of any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the Circuit, although certain travelling and administration costs were reimbursed whenever this was requested. None of the trustees is an employee of the Circuit. During the year, the Circuit paid £450 (2019 - £6,235) to Mr T Pugsley, a trustee, for repair work carried out at various Manses and to the Collier Row premises.

No accrual is made for the Chair's entitlement to a sabbatical as his functions are undertaken by other Circuit Chair or delegated persons at minimal extra cost to the Circuit.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020****5 Salaries and associated costs (Continued)****Pensions**

Most ordained presbyters and deacons are members of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS). This is a defined benefit scheme. The Supreme Court held in 2014 that Methodist ministers (which term includes presbyters and deacons) are not employees of the Church. For simplicity, however, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions and pension contributions, the terms 'employer' and 'employee' are used as they would be in an employing body. The MMPS is in deficit but a plan for removal of the deficit is being implemented. It would be difficult to determine the liability that could fall on the London District and no attempt has been made to attempt this valuation.. The lay workers are enrolled in a defined contribution scheme managed by The Pension Trust.

6 Property costs	2019-20	2018-19
Manse repairs	32,653	40,990
Insurance and utilities	13,452	13,802
Council tax	10,953	11,298
Provision for doubtful debt - rent	1,369	-
Cost reimbursement	-316	-
	<u>58,111</u>	<u>66,090</u>

It should be noted that the Circuit chair and ministerial team are required to occupy the Circuit manses. Circuit pays for the Manse and project centre repairs on a regular basis. Any major refurbishments are discussed and approved at the Circuit meeting before the work starts. Circuit pays for Manse's insurances, utilities and council tax for all the Manses occupied by chair and trustees except for four Manses which are let out.

7 Office expenses	2019-20	2018-19
Telephone	4,872	3,770
Travel	5,616	9,086
Postage and stationery	1,249	974
Software	776	-
Other	30	30
	<u>12,543</u>	<u>13,860</u>

8 Other expenditure	2019-20	2018-19
Preachers Fees and Expenses	917	3,095
Training and conference	1,227	
Sundries	645	597
Levy on capital receipts and other charges	9	9
Professional Fees and Survey Costs	8,020	9,921
Mission Outreach Fund Activities and Resources	1,425	1,932
Provision for bad debts (unpaid assesment)	14,662 -	
	<u>26,905</u>	<u>15,554</u>

9 Fees for examination or audit of the accounts	2019-20	2018-19
Auditors' fees	1,522	1,450
Other fees (e.g.: advice, accountancy services)	1,943	1,850
	<u>3,465</u>	<u>3,300</u>

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020****10 Total Tangible Fixed Assets**

	Other Fixed Asset	Land and Buildings (Other)	Land and Buildings (Manse)	Total
Cost or valuation				
Balance at 1st Sept 2019	3,340	1,250,000	4,300,000	5,553,340
Additions in the year	2,240	-	-	2,240
Depreciation	2,417			2,417
Revaluations in the year	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31st August 2020	3,163	1,250,000	4,300,000	5,553,163

The Land and Buildings (Manse) valuation at 31 August 2020 are not materially different to the valuation at 31 August 2016 and agreed by the Trustees. No depreciation is provided on the building because the trustees consider the current fair value of the manse buildings (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year-end) to be not less than its current value. Any depreciation would not be material. The manse have been reviewed for impairment.

Investment properties

No manse is currently deemed to be held for the long term investment purposes of the Circuit.

11 Debtors and prepayments

	2019-20	2018-19
Prepayments and accrued income		
Stipends paid in advance	10,701	11,774
Council tax and utilities	938	899
Rent receivable	308	694
Church assessment due	8,622	-
Total	20,569	13,367

12 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

The funds that support the Circuit Model Trust Fund are held by TMCP. TMCP is the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated funds. TMCP ensure that, through providing guidance and acting under their direction, the Managing Trustees comply with charity law and Methodist law and policy as determined by the Methodist Conference.

13 Central Finance Board (CFB) and cash at bank

The circuit has two current accounts at HSBC Plc, an authorised institution. The sums held on the account are immediately available. In addition, the Circuit has three deposit accounts at CFB. Interest is earned on these CFB accounts and credited monthly. This number excludes the restricted fund accounts.

ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

14 Creditors and accrued expenses**Creditors**

Expenses reimbursement

Audit and accountancy fees

2019-20**2018-19**

2,165

948

3,465

3,300

5,630

4,248

Accruals and deferred income

Deferred income for activity next year

Surveys due at year end

Other accrued property expenses

60,983

62,116

1,890

5,400

324

0

Total of creditors and accrued expenses

68,827

71,764

15 Grant commitments

There were no future commitments at 31 August 2020

16 Circuit funds (Unrestricted and Restricted)

The Circuit maintains a number of separate funds. The purpose, type, movement and state as at the end of year is documented below.

The funds held constitute: General Funds for any purpose and Circuit Development Fund, the capital normally being unavailable for spending and the income from which is either Restricted or Unrestricted. Details of each material fund are disclosed in the notes below.

Project

General Funds - Unrestricted

For use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the objectives of the Circuit. This excludes funds which have been designated for a specific purpose.

4,437,664

4,423,944

Circuit Model Trust Fund - Unrestricted

The residual balance of funds which arose from the sale of Churches previously closed and sold and the previous sale of Manses. For specific purposes but not restricted by document or deed to that purpose alone

314

320

Designated Funds - Unrestricted

Manse Fund for the maintenance of manses

106,125

95,646

Mission Outreach Fund - Restricted

Circuit Mission Outreach

3,570

3,875

(Formerly Youth Forum/Special Project Fund)

Collier Row Mission Outreach Project

1,330,335

1,330,903

Circuit Benevolent Fund - Restricted

To help meet the exceptional needs of presbyters and deacons
Circuit lay employees and their dependents within the Romford Circuit that cannot be met at a local Church or Circuit level alone, by providing a resource from which confidential payments can be made at the discretion of the Trustees.

1,349

1,674

5,879,357

5,856,362

17 Transfer between funds**2019-20****2018-19**

Mission Outreach Project salary costs 2018 recharged to restricted fund

-

5,347

Property surplus transfer to general fund

15,348

15,326

Budgeted contribution from general fund to mission outreach (restricted)

1,700

2,500

18 Volunteer contribution

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit, Church) within the Methodist church in GB is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. Principally this contribution is by serving on committees of the Circuit that deal with mission, manses, finance, policy, grants, training, development. We are grateful to all of them for their help and commitment.

DECLARATIONS

Treasurer

I confirm that I have prepared the accounts from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit

Signature of Treasurer

DocuSigned by:
Thomas Smith
7F2C89C565E4433...

Name

Tom E J Smith FCA CTA

Address

Romford Methodist Circuit, Trinity Methodist Church,
Angel Way, Romford RM1 1JH

Date

4/15/2021

Presentation to the Circuit Meeting for approval.

I confirm that the Accounts have been presented to the Circuit Meeting on and were approved.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

DocuSigned by:
Rev. David Jebb
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Name of the Chair of the meeting

Revd David Jebb

Date

5/5/2021