

THE METHODIST CHURCH
REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
(ACCRUALS BASIS)
for the year ended 31 August 2024

Birmingham Methodist Circuit

Registered Charity - Registration number

1132926

Birmingham District

05/01

Ministers

Rev Cleopas Sibanda, Rev Farai Mapamula,
Rev Mindy Bell, Rev Ping Ting Chen, Rev Molly Chitokwindo,
Rev Caroline (Caz) Hague, Rev Deborah Humphries, Rev Nicholas Jones
Rev Alison Richards, Rev Sue Shortman, Rev Karen Webber

Circuit Stewards

Marjorie Roper
Remi Olatunbosun (Property)

Circuit Treasurer

Andrew Morris

**Birmingham Methodist Circuit
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Introduction

Welcome to the Annual Report of the Birmingham Methodist Circuit. The Circuit consists of 30 Methodist and Local Ecumenical Partnership churches in the City of Birmingham and surrounding area, served by a team of ordained and lay staff.

Vision Statement and Priorities

Birmingham Methodist Circuit aspires to be a welcoming Christian family with inspiring worship, radical compassion and social justice at its heart. In this way and following in our Methodist tradition, we aim to share in the transformation of life made possible through God's love.

As members of the Birmingham Methodist Circuit, we have agreed the following five priorities for the meaningful sharing of our God given resources:

Transforming Life - We aim to live in such a way as to bring about positive change in our own lives and the lives of others, to share God's love and to learn and grow as followers of Jesus both individually and in community.

Inspiring Worship - We aim to offer worship across the Circuit which glorifies God, is inviting to all, enriches faith and inspires us to respond.

Radical Compassion - We aim to develop and practice a radical compassion which is welcoming, inclusive, safe and empowering.

Social Justice - We aim to speak out and take action against injustice in all its forms.

A Methodist Perspective - Working together with our ecumenical partners and many others, we aim to uphold the values and principles which arise from our Methodist heritage, including being sustainable, ethical, collaborative and connected to Methodists across our nations and around the world.

Full Name of Charity:	Birmingham Methodist Circuit
Registration Charity Number:	1132926
Date of registration:	23 November 2009
Main communication address:	Birmingham Methodist Circuit (Circuit Office), Selly Oak Methodist Church, Langleys Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham, B29 6HT

The members of the Birmingham Methodist Circuit Meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches.

Full membership is shown as Appendix A to this report.

Circuit Ministers and officers

Active Circuit Ministers:	Rev Alison Richards, Rev Farai Mapamula, Rev Cleopas Sibanda Rev Mindy Bell, Rev Ping Ting Chen, Rev Molly Chitokwindo, Rev Caroline(Caz) Hague, Rev Deborah Humphries, Rev Nick Jones, Rev Sue Shortman, Rev Karen Webber
Circuit Lay Workers:	Ms Arul Israel, Mrs Ermine Mitchell, Mr Ian Nannestad, Mrs Diane Webb
Circuit Stewards:	Mrs Marjorie Roper, Mr Remi Olatunbosun (Property)
Administrators:	Mrs Amanda Harris, Mrs Narinderjit Kaur, Mrs Salome Noah, Mrs Sue Saunderson, Mrs Jayne Snape, Mr Reuben Williams, Ms Mima Yedale
Circuit Treasurer:	Andrew Morris (Circuit Treasurer) acted as the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the Circuit during the year.
Auditor:	Wallace Crooke, Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors, Wallace House, 20 Birmingham Road, Walsall, WS1 2LT
Investment Bankers:	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes CAF Bank Ltd

Circuit Property

All Circuit property is held in the name of The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP).

Birmingham Methodist Circuit
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

Review of the year

The Circuit has been in existence for thirteen years. Faced with the difficulty of achieving a balanced budget, the decision was taken to use reserves to make up the shortfall. Increasing costs and declining income have led to a shortfall for the year to 31 August 2024 in the general fund of £327,617, excluding capital transactions. There was an overall surplus on unrestricted funds of £212,491. However excluding capital transactions, the overall shortfall is £425,955.

Faced with the reduction in available presbyters and a financial deficit, the Circuit grouped its resources of churches, lay and ordained staff, lay preachers and supernumerary ministers into five Mission and Ministry Teams, to provide more focussed mission. The teams were effective from 1 September 2019 but the Covid-19 pandemic has meant they are still not fully embedded in the life of the Circuit. From 1 September 2021 there was a reduction to four Mission and Ministry Teams.

Many churches have seen a reduction in their income, and have had to use reserves to pay their assessment and other costs. In contrast, the Circuit has seen a reduction in some of its costs, as some meetings are now held on Zoom and staff numbers have reduced.

Income trends

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment paid by the Circuit churches. Some churches were unable to increase their assessment payments in 2023/24.

Rental income is derived from the rental of three manses which are surplus to current needs.

Expenditure trends

Stipends and salaries have increased each financial year in line with conference approved increases, and to pay the Living Wage.

17% of General Fund expenditure is the Circuit contribution to the District and Connexion, of which 89% is used to fund the work of the wider Methodist Church. This contribution increased by 7% from the previous year.

The other expenditure includes substantial amounts incurred on maintaining the Circuit manses to an appropriate standard.

Plans for 2024/25

Circuit financial plans for the current year have been prepared on the basis that there are 10 ordained staff, with anticipated cost of living stipend increases and a small increase in the assessment paid to the District. Overall the total amount offered as assessment by the churches is slightly lower than for 2023/24.

Plans for 2025/26

Circuit financial plans for 2025/26 have been prepared on the basis that there will be 11 ordained staff, with anticipated cost of living stipend increases and no change in the assessment paid to the District. At the time of writing, it appears unlikely that Circuit income from the churches will remain at the 2024/25 levels as membership continues to reduce and at least one church may have ceased to meet. Circuit reserves have been boosted by sales of surplus properties and so it is considered that the Circuit remains a going concern financially despite anticipated reductions in our income.

Aims and organisation

Charity objective is to act as a Resource provider within the area around Birmingham for the Methodist Church:

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

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

The organisation and resourcing of regular public acts of worship open to members of the church and non members alike.

The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.

The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.

Taking religious assemblies in local schools.

Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services.

Provision of chaplaincy services to the local university and other institutions.

Public Benefit

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

Structure, Governance and Management

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

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

Day to day management of the circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership Team along with the Local Preachers Meeting, the Circuit Finance Committee, the Circuit Property Committee and the Circuit HR Group.

Volunteers

The Circuit is indebted to the many volunteers without whom it could not function. Lay Preachers conduct many of the Sunday services, and volunteers play prominent roles in the stewardship of Circuit finances and property, and serve as Trustees, members of the Circuit Leadership Team, and on many other committees and working groups.

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 available to all new Circuit Assembly members as induction to their role as trustees.

Birmingham Methodist Circuit
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

Related Parties

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

The following Methodist and Local Ecumenical Project Churches are linked to the Circuit: Acocks Green, Beacon, Cambridge Road, Castle Bromwich, The Church at Carrs Lane, Chinese Church, Cotteridge, Dorridge, Earlswood, Great Barr, Hall Green United Community Church, Hawkesley, Hazelwell, Longbridge, Lozells, Lyndon, Nether Whitacre, Northfield, Perry Barr, Perry Hall, Saltley, Selly Oak, Shirley, Solihull, South Yardley, St Andrews Chelmsley Wood, St Andrews Stirchley, St Michael's Hall Green, Trinity Monkspath, Water Orton.

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Finance Committee and Leadership Team with professional advice taken as required.

There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

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

Safeguarding

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

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults.
- the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable.
- the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
- We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.
- We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

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

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

Birmingham Methodist Circuit
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

Circuit Projects

The Circuit Project at St Francis Community Centre, Woodgate Valley came to an end in July 2023. The Circuit continues to support the Project at Lozells Church and Community Centre. In 2023/24 The Circuit spent £nil on the running costs of the Woodgate Valley Project (2022/23 £25,638) and £48,427 on the running costs of the Lozells project (2022/23 £19,037). The Circuit also gave £500 each to Holly Hill School and Hawkesley School, both Methodist/Anglican schools.

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy for the Circuit is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to four months' average expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on manses and/or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full Circuit Assessment from churches. Further reserves are held to meet anticipated future shortfalls of income compared to expenditure.

The total funds held at 31 August 2024 are £6,631,709, of which £9,728 are restricted and £221,689 are designated. A detailed analysis of the funds is set out in Note 18 on page 15.

Fixed Assets £4,603,066 - unrestricted funds.

The balance of funds held after allowing for restricted funds, designated funds, commitments or the carrying amount of functional assets which the Circuit considers to represent a commitment of the reserves held, is £1,848,519 as at 31 August 2024, giving approximately 18 months cover for expenditure. This is considered sufficient.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

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 for each financial year 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 for that period. 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 (FRS102);
- 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 Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. 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.

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

	Notes to the accounts	General funds	CMTF (Unrestricted)	CMTF (Designated & Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Total 2023-24	Total 2022-23
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income								
Donations and legacies	4	245					245	1,796
Income from monetary investments		16,136	72,765		2636	451	91,988	51,948
Income from Investment Properties							0	0
Assessments on Churches		696,336					696,336	685,761
Capital Receipts		671,394	766,346				1,437,740	1,655,782
Grants Received		63,306					63,306	49,264
Other Charitable Income	5	114,165					114,165	184,102
Total Income		1,561,582	839,111	0	2,636	451	2,403,780	2,628,653
Expenditure								
Stipends, salaries, NIC & Pension costs	8	655,796					655,796	698,291
District Assessment		23,007					23,007	24,993
Methodist Church Fund (Connexion)		178,629					178,629	164,007
Administration, telephone & travel		61,644	4,656		139		66,439	45,679
Insurance, utilities, etc		40,536					40,536	40,456
Maintenance of Manses		247,174					247,174	34,505
Other Expenditure on Circuit property	10	20,251			1,076		21,327	38,099
Depreciation	13						-	-
Provisions							-	-
Other Expenditure	11	280,337	512,777		2,100		795,214	2,713,493
Grants and Donations	12	4,000	32,948	12,000		875	49,823	22,432
Contributions to District Advance Fund			113,767				113,767	43,798
Total Charitable Expenditure		1,511,374	664,148	12,000	3,315	875	2,191,712	3,825,753
Net income/(expenditure)		50,208	174,963	-12,000	-679	-424	212,068	-1,197,100
Transfers between funds		270,855	-230,855	0	-40,000		0	0
		321,063	-55,892	-12,000	-40,679	-424	212,068	-1,197,100
Other recognised gains / (losses):								
Gains/(losses) on monetary investments							-	0
Gains/(losses) on investment assets		0					-	0
Net movement in funds		321,063	-55,892	-12,000	-40,679	-424	212,068	-1,197,100
Reconciliation of funds:								
Total funds brought forward		4,658,227	1,476,895	180,672	93,696	10,152	6,419,642	7,616,742
Total funds carried forward		4,979,290	1,421,003	168,672	53,017	9,728	6,631,710	6,419,642

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 carried forward

0	0
0	223
0	223
0	0

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024

General Funds (Unrestricted)	CMTF (Unrestricted)	CMTF (Designated & Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Totals 2024	Totals 2023
£	£	£	£	£	£	£

Fixed Assets

Notes

Land & Buildings	13	4,603,066				4,603,066	4,182,671
Equipment							
Investment properties	14						
Investments							
Total fixed assets		4,603,066	0	0	0	4,603,066	4,182,671

Current Assets

Debtors	15	74,717	16,000			0	90,717	160,186
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes								
Deposits			1,405,002	168,672	51,293		1,624,967	1,682,363
Central Finance Board Deposits		418,467				8,852	427,319	320,601
Cash at Bank and in hand		46,176	0		2,800	876	49,852	248,647
Total current assets		539,360	1,421,002	168,672	54,093	9,728	2,192,855	2,411,797

Current Liabilities

Creditors and Accruals (due in under 1 yr)	16	163,136			1,076	0	164,212	174,826
Total Current Liabilities		163,136	0	0	1,076	0	164,212	174,826
Net current assets/(liabilities)		376,224	1,421,002	168,672	53,017	9,728	2,028,643	2,236,971
Total assets less current liabilities	18	4,979,290	1,421,002	168,672	53,017	9,728	6,631,709	6,419,642

Long term liabilities (due after more than 1 year)

0 0

Net assets		4,979,290	1,421,002	168,672	53,017	9,728	6,631,709	6,419,642
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Funds of the Circuit

General Fund (Unrestricted)	19	4,979,290					4,979,290	4,658,227
Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)	19		1,421,002				1,421,003	1,476,895
Model Trust Fund (Designated & Unrestricted)	19			168,672			168,672	180,672
Designated funds	19				53,017		53,017	93,696
Restricted funds	19					9,728	9,728	10,152
Total Funds		4,979,290	1,421,002	168,672	53,017	9,728	6,631,710	6,419,642

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Circuit Meeting on 22 March 2025.
Signed on behalf of the Circuit Meeting


Andrew Morris - Circuit Treasurer

Cash flow statement for the year ended 31 August 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Statement of cash flows		
Cash from operating activities		
Net cash used in operating activities	601,329	-767,603
Cash flows from investing activities		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	91,988	51,948
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment	654,265	1,048,700
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	403,266	0
Net cash provided by investing activities	1,149,519	1,100,648
Cash flows from financing activities		0
Net cash used in financing activities	0	0
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	-149,473	333,045
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	2,251,611	1,918,566
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	2,102,138	2,251,611
	2024	2023
	£	£
Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities		
Net income for the reporting period (as per statement of financial activities)	212,068	-1,197,100
Adjustments for:		
Loss/(Profit) on the sale of fixed assets	422,394	-94,986
Asset transferred to Birmingham District	0	452,922
Gains on investments	0	0
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	-91,988	-51,948
(increase)/decrease in debtors	69,469	149,027
increase/(decrease) in creditors	-10,614	-25,518
Net cash used in operating activities	601,329	-767,603
	2024	2023
	£	£
Analysis of cash and cash equivalent		
Cash in hand	477,171	569,248
Short term deposit (less than 3 months)	1,624,967	1,682,363
Total cash and cash equivalents	2,102,138	2,251,611

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of Preparation

Birmingham Methodist Circuit is a Charity registered in England. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 2 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities can be found within the Trustees' Annual Report located on pages 2 to 5.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102), the Charities Act 2011, and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £.

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

2. Funds

The funds held constitute: General Funds held for any purpose of the Circuit which are unrestricted. The Circuit Model Trust Fund has wide purposes defined in Standing Orders and is categorised as unrestricted, but part of the fund has been designated for specific purposes and is shown separately. Designated Funds which are unrestricted but set aside for specific purposes. Restricted Funds which are held for a narrower purpose. Details of each material fund are disclosed in Note 18 to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

3. Accounting policies**Income Recognition**

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

Resources Expended

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.

Grants

Grants made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment. When the grant is recurrent over more than one year the balance payable in future years is treated as a provision for future commitments in the Balance Sheet against the appropriate fund, the provision being released in future years as instalments are paid in accordance with the originally agreed terms.

VAT

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

Revaluation of functional property assets

The Circuit carries its functional property assets at deemed cost, with any impairment being recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities. The Circuit has used insurance value as at 1 September 2015 as its independent valuation at the date of transition. Some of the key assumptions used to determine the deemed cost of the assets are based on the valuer's knowledge and experience of the market and values of similar properties, which could be deemed subjective.

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Circuit

The manses are shown in the accounts at 2015 deemed values or subsequent cost. No depreciation is provided on these assets because the Trustees consider the current residual fair values to be not less than their current value. Any depreciation would not be material. The assets have been reviewed for impairment. Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000.

Investment Properties

Investment properties for which fair value can be measured reliably without undue cost or effort are measured at fair value at each reporting date with changes in fair value recognised in 'net gains / (losses) on investments' in the SoFA. The Circuit does not hold any investment properties.

Debtors and Creditors

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

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

4. Donations and legacies	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Designated (Unrestricted)	Restricted	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations	245				245	1,796
Legacies					0	0
Total	245	-	-	-	245	1,796

5. Other charitable income	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Designated (Unrestricted)	Restricted	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Payroll recharges	51,517				51,517	86,459
Benevolent Fund				0	0	2,395
Sundry income	924				924	591
Transfer from closed churches	13,521				13,521	15,876
Inner City Fund				0	0	5,660
City Centre Fund recharges	0				0	42,152
Manse Rental	48,203				48,203	30,969
Total	114,165	0	0	0	114,165	184,102

6. Payment to Trustees

Payments made to trustees for additional services provided to the Circuit by agreement with the Circuit Meeting

2024	2023
£ -	£ -

Number of trustees who were paid expenses

5	4
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Nature of the expenses:	Travel Expenses, Postage & Printing, Catering
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Total amount paid	£ 698	£ 681
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7. Fees for audit of the accounts

Independent auditors' fees for reporting on the accounts

2024	2023
£ 4,596	£ 4,600

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

8. Paid employees

2024 2023

Staff Costs paid during the year were:

Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind

£ 518,098 552,283

Employer's National Insurance costs

£ 44,914 46,569

Pension costs

£ 90,081 96,623

Apprenticeship Levy

£ 2,703 2,816

Total staff costs

£ 655,796 698,291

Average number of staff employed during the year were:

22 25

There are no employees who received total emoluments (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 (£70,000).

2024 2023

The Circuit contributes to two pension schemes:

Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme (defined benefit)

£ 78,246 83,181

Lay Employees' Pension Scheme (defined contribution)

£ 11,835 13,442

£ 90,081 96,623

Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme

Most ordained presbyters and deacons are members of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme ("MMPS"). This is a defined benefit pension scheme. The Supreme Court held in 2014 that the 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 Connexion accounts for the MMPS and shows the figures in the annual Methodist Church in Great Britain accounts. The MMPS is in deficit but a plan for removal of the deficit has been proposed and is being implemented. Details of the deficit on this scheme can be found in the Annual Report and Accounts of The Methodist Church at www.methodist.org.uk

Methodist Conference 2021 asked Districts, Circuits and churches to consider making voluntary donations of 15% of their free reserves to a Pension Reserve Fund to cover future deficits in the MMPS. Birmingham Circuit took the decision not to contribute to this Fund on a voluntary basis. It has now been determined that the voluntary contributions which were made are no longer required, and they have been returned to the donors with interest.

£5,170 was prepaid in respect of the Minister's Pension Scheme at 31 August 2024 (£6,872 at 31 August 2023).

Lay Employees' Pension Scheme

There is an employer debt on withdrawal from this scheme which was estimated at £20,217 at 30 September 2020.

9. Leasing Commitments

Committed to be paid:

2024 2023

Expiring Within 1 Year

£ 955 955

Between 2 & 5 Years

£ 478 1,433

After 5 Years

£ - -

£ 1,433 2,388

During the year £1,017 (2023: £2,009) was expensed through the SoFA in relation to operating leases.

2022/23 included costs of terminating the lease at Carrs Lane.

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

10. Other Expenditure on Circuit property

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£
Quinquennial Inspections (Property and Electrical)	13,800	7,913
Management and other fees	6,451	8,439
	<u>20,251</u>	<u>16,352</u>
Lozells Methodist Church - Inner City Fund - Model Trust Fund	-	3,845
Lozells Methodist Church - Inner City Fund	-	3,192
Villa Road Legal Costs - Inner City Fund	1,076	-
Perry Barr Methodist Church - Inner City Fund - Model trust Fund	-	14,710
	<u>21,327</u>	<u>38,099</u>

11. Other Expenditure

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£
Children and Youth	7,730	4,001
Subscriptions (CIGB, BCT, Citizens)	8,313	8,871
Training	-250	4,510
Audit Fee	4,596	4,600
Woodgate Valley	0	2,880
Philippians Fund	4,504	281
Meeting Expenses	1,147	1,373
Consultancy	2,100	0
Miscellaneous	728	475
	<u>28,868</u>	<u>26,991</u>
Connexional (CPF) Levies on Sold Properties	110,731	512,097
Capital Payment for Manses	655,615	1,501,622
City Centre Fund	-	672,783
	<u>795,214</u>	<u>2,713,493</u>

12. Grants & Donations

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£
Holly Hill School	2,000	2,000
Hawkesley School	2,000	2,000
	<u>4,000</u>	<u>4,000</u>
Perry Hall Replacement Windows (2023 Car Park)	5,359	1,282
Lozells staffing costs	12,000	12,000
Setting up Holly Hill Church	875	-
Coleshill Outreach Worker	-	1,950
Roof replacement- Water Orton	25,000	-
Benevolent Fund	-	3,200
Grant for Roller Shutter- Hall Green	564	-
Grant for Header/Pipework- Hall Green	2,024	-
	<u>49,823</u>	<u>22,432</u>

13. Tangible Fixed Assets

The Circuit held 13 manse at 31 August 2024. One manse was sold and one was purchased in the year. The Circuit property is held in the name of the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

Cost or valuation

	Residential Land £	Other Land £	Manse £	Other buildings £	Other fixed assets including motor vehicles £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Payments on account and assets under construction £	Total £
Balance brought forward			3,992,671	190,000				4,182,671
Additions			403,266	372,000				775,266
Revaluations (+/-)								
Disposals (-)			231,871	123,000				354,871
Transfers* (+/-)								
Balance carried forward			4,164,066	439,000				4,603,066

Accumulated depreciation

	SL or RB	SL or RB	SL or RB	SL or RB	SL or RB	SL or RB	SL or RB

Balance brought forward							
Depreciation charge for year (-)							
Revaluations (+/-)							
Disposals (-)							
Transfers* (+/-)							
Balance carried forward							

Net book value

Brought forward	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carried forward	-	-	4,164,066	439,000	-	-	-	4,603,066

14. Investments

The funds that support the Circuit Model Trust Fund and the Manse Fund are held by TMCP in Trustees Interest Funds on which interest is credited to the accounts each month. These are regarded as medium and long term investments. TMCP is the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds.

Trust property is held for and on behalf of local Managing Trustees who are responsible for the day to day management of trust property. TMCP ensure that, through providing guidance and acting under their direction, the Managing Trustees comply with charity law and Methodist law and polity as determined by the Methodist Conference.

No investment property was held during the year.

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

15. Analysis of debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accrued income (includes outstanding assessment payments)	26,151	91,789
Other debtors	40,850	44,397
Loans	23,716	24,000
Total Debtors	90,717	160,186

Analysis of Loans

Due within one year	8,000	8,000
Due within two to five years	15,716	16,000
Due after five years		
	23,716	24,000

16. Analysis of current liabilities and long term creditors

Prepaid Assessments	133,097	133,837
Other Creditors	31,115	40,989
Total Current Liabilities	164,212	174,826

17. Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

At 31 August 2024 capital commitments amounted to:

At 31 August 2024 contingent liabilities amounted to:

18 Analysis of Net Assets between funds

	General Funds (Unrestricted)	CMTF (Unrestricted)	CMTF (Designated & Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Totals 2024	Totals 2023
Fixed assets	4,603,066					4,603,066	4,182,671
Current assets	539,360	1,421,002	168,672	54,093	9,728	2,192,855	2,411,797
Current liabilities	-163,136			-1,076		-164,212	-174,826
	4,979,290	1,421,002	168,672	53,017	9,728	6,631,709	6,419,642

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

19. Detailed analysis of individual fund movements

Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted Fund Name	Opening	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gain/(losses)	Closing Balance	Purpose of the fund
General	4,658,227	1,561,582	1,511,374	270,855		4,979,290	The general purposes of the Circuit
Model Trust Fund	1,476,895	839,111	664,149	-230,855		1,421,002	Support for the mission of the Circuit
Designated - Model Trust Fund	180,672		12,000			168,672	Supporting work within Birmingham Inner City
Designated - Inner City	4,900		3,176			1,724	Supporting work within Birmingham Inner City
Designated - Property	40,000			-40,000			Major repairs to manse
Designated - Trinity Monkspath	48,796	2,636	139			51,293	The general purposes of the Circuit
Totals	6,409,490	2,403,329	2,190,838			6,621,981	

Restricted Funds

Restricted Fund Name	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gain/(losses)	Closing Balance	Purpose of the fund
Benevolent Fund	876					876	Support for individuals in specific need
Holly Hill School	9,276	451	875			8,852	Supporting a Methodist/Anglican school
Totals	10,152	451	875			9,728	

The reasons for the transfers between funds were as follows:

To provide working capital for the Circuit and to adjust for the sale of fixed assets.

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

20. Related party transactions

This year

Name of related party	Relationship	Description of transaction	Income from related party during the year	Payments to related party during the year	Loans to related party during the year	Amounts owed by related party as on 31-Aug-2024
			£	£	£	£
Methodist Church Fund	Methodist Governing Body	Contribution to Connexional costs		178,629		
Birmingham Methodist District	Methodist Governing Body	Contribution to District costs		23,007		
Total			0	201,636	0	0

Last year

Name of related party	Relationship	Description of transaction	Income from related party during the year	Payments to related party during the year	Loans to related party during the year	Amounts owed by related party as on 31-Aug-2023
			£	£	£	£
Methodist Church Fund	Methodist Governing Body	Contribution to Connexional costs		164,007		
Birmingham Methodist District	Methodist Governing Body	Contribution to District costs		24,993		
Total			0	189,000	0	0

**Birmingham Methodist Circuit
DECLARATIONS**

Treasurer

I confirm that these accrual based accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit Meeting.

Signature of Treasurer



Date



Name of Treasurer

Andrew Morris

Address


11 Rodman Close, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 3PE

Presentation to the Circuit Meeting for approval.

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were presented to the Circuit Meeting at its meeting on and were approved.



Signature of the Chair of the meeting



Name of the Chair of the meeting

Rev Farai Mapamula

Date



**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF
BIRMINGHAM METHODIST CIRCUIT**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Birmingham Methodist Circuit (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 August 2024 on pages six to sixteen, which comprise of the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, cash flow statement and the 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 ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for 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 Auditors' 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 in the Trustees' Annual Report, but does not include the financial statements and our Report of the Auditors 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 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.

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF
BIRMINGHAM METHODIST CIRCUIT (continued)**

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 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient and proper accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; 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 on page 5, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the 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 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 a Report of the Auditors 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.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below:

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities including fraud. The objectives of our audit are to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding compliance with laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, to perform audit procedures to help identify instances of non-compliance with other laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements, and to respond appropriately to identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations identified during the audit.

In relation to fraud, the objectives of our audit are to identify and assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud, to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud through designing and implementing appropriate responses and to respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, it is the primary responsibility of trustees, with the oversight of those charged with governance, to ensure that the entity's operations are conducted in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations and for the prevention and detection of fraud.

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF
BIRMINGHAM METHODIST CIRCUIT (continued)**

Based on our understanding of the charity, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to the Charities Act 2011, and we considered the extent to which noncompliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to the posting of inappropriate journal entries and management bias in key accounting judgements and estimates. In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud, the audit engagement team:

- obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in and how the charity is complying with the legal and regulatory framework;
- inquired management and trustees, about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, including any known actual, suspected or alleged instances of fraud;
- discussed matters about non-compliance with laws and regulations and how fraud might occur including assessment of how and where the financial statements may be susceptible to fraud;
- reviewed minutes of meetings of the Board of Trustees to identify significant or unusual transactions and known or suspected instances of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations
- reviewed accounting estimates for bias and evaluating whether circumstances producing any bias, represent a risk of material misstatement due to fraud; and

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 Report of the Independent Auditors.

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 a Report of the Auditors 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.



Wallace Crooke
Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors
Wallace House
20 Birmingham Road
Walsall
West Midlands
WS1 2LT

Date: 22/03/2025

Wallace Crooke is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Birmingham Methodist Circuit

CIRCUIT ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP

PRESBYTERS

Rev Farai Mapamula
 Rev Cleopas Sibanda
 Rev Quophie Anochie Ababio
 Rev Ping Ting Chen
 Rev Molly Chitokwindo
 Rev Caroline Hague
 Rev Karen Webber

DEACON

Angie Allport

PROBATIONER PRESBYTER

Julie Clark

MINISTERS IN OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Rev Mindy Bell

CLERGY IN LEP's

SUPERNUMERARY MINISTERS

Rev Alison Geary
 Rev Donald Sampson
 Rev Caroline Homan
 Rev Barbara Calvert

LAYWORKERS

Ermine Mitchell
 Diane Webb
 Salome Noah

CIRCUIT STEWARDS

Marjorie Roper
 Remi Olatunbosun (Property)
 Sarah Tolley
 Richard Kirby
 Moses Dakunivosa
 Angel Chiu

CIRCUIT TREASURER

Andrew Morris

Safeguarding Convenor

Sue Ford

Queens Foundation

Rev Gary Hall

CA Minute Taker

Valerie Edden

Circuit Local Preachers & Worship Leaders Representatives

Fiona Beadle
 Keith Dennis
 Danny Dorsett
 Annette Sampson
 Gareth Davis
 Helen Woodall

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Kath Collman

CIRCUIT CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES

Acocks Green

Mark Firmstone
 Alan Bennett
 Helen Powick
 Pages 21-25

Beacon

Judith Wingate
Jeremy Parker
Sheila Maggs

Cambridge Road

Anne Lockyer
Barbara Howarth
Nicola Sharman

Castle Bromwich

Sue Mitchell
Gareth Davies
Mark Ashmore

The Church at Carrs Lane

Peter Woodall

Chinese Church

Angel Chiu
Cynthia Law
Rhoda Tong
Sissy Wong

Cotteridge

John Cliff
Mike Meadows
Dorothy Audley

Dorridge

Lynne Wilson
Phil Salmon
Lis Helliar
Helen Munday

Earlswood

Paul Spence
Pat Fowler
Jenny Cockcroft

Great Barr

Roger O'Hare

Hall Green United Community Church

Brian Dickens
Val Dickens
Blair Kessler

Hawkesley

Clive Sweet

Hazelwell

Janet Thomas
Peter Thomas

Longbridge

Bright Obeng
Philip Osborn
Lenroy Ryner

Lozells

Ellalyn Blake
Caroline Nana-Tchounga

Lyndon

Janet Rudge
Lorraine Sibson
John Evans

Nether Whitacre

Carol Morgan
Jane Taylor
Helen Howell

Northfield

Colin Capell
Boaz Beoluf Jangan
Laura Enonchong

Perry Barr

Pansie McKenzie
Neilson Williams

Perry Hall

Daphne Gray
Vivette Haylette
Sarah Tolley

Saltley

Lorna Neale
Sylvina Payne
Ralf Neale

Selly Oak

Richard Kirby
Brian Noake
Karen Ashton

Shirley

Lois Beaumont
Bill Russell
Pat Lowe

Solihull

Caroline Hinchliffe
Jenni Kitson
Yan Yeung
Christine Burr
Ian Hancock
Alan Faulkner

South Yardley

Liz Lyons
Joe Glasford

St Andrew's Chelmsley Wood

St Andrews Stirchley

Margaret Murphy
Sue Ford

St Michaels

Ian Crockford

Trinity Monkspath

Clive Prentice
Ann Prentice

Water Orton

Gill Day
Mike Cox
Roger Boulton

