

EAST LINCOLNSHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ended 31ST AUGUST 2021

Introduction

The Trustees are pleased to present the Annual Report of the Trustees of the East Lincolnshire Methodist Circuit (hereinafter referred to as "The Circuit") for the year ended 31st August 2021. Rev Phil Greetham left the Circuit on the 31st August 2021 and Rev Sherman and Rev Miles extended their areas of responsibility. Capela – the Caravan Chaplaincy – was officially launched and began work on caravan sites once Covid restrictions were lifted.

Aims and organisation

The Governing Document of the Charity is the Deed of Union of the Methodist Church 1932 and the Methodist Church Act 1976. 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

There are 17 places of worship in the area covered by the Circuit, one of which has closed since 31st August, and they are all open to anyone who may wish to visit them without any charge. In addition there are 4 Societies which are classes of Churches in the Circuit which meet either in the Parish Church or their Village Hall. The Circuit produces a quarterly preaching plan to ensure that regular acts of worship take place at all the churches and chapels in its geographical area and that the following activities take place to further the objectives set out above:-

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 where appropriate.

Public Benefit

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Brief financial review of the year

The main source of income in this and every year is the assessments paid by the churches within the Circuit area. In the year to 31st August 2021, the assessments totalled £175,692 (2020: £171,914). In addition, the Circuit received rental income from surplus properties totalling £16,250 (2020: £14,250), grants for the Caravan Chaplaincy of £60,060 (2020: £38,000) and proceeds from the sale of surplus chapels of £46,648 (2020: £10,011).

The main expenditure relates to the stipends of ministers and the salaries of lay employees, together with related employment costs, including the provision of manses to ministers and the reimbursement of travelling and other costs, totalling £165,045 (2020: £178,062). Other costs include rebates to struggling churches totalling £1,183 (2020: £500), contributions to the District, £12,524 (2020: £6,412) and to the Methodist Church Fund to further the work of the wider Methodist Church £26,640 (2020: £26,988).

Stipends have increased annually in line with conference approved percentages and lay employees are paid, in accordance with Methodist Standing Orders, no less than the hourly rates set by the Living Wage Foundation.

At 31 August 2021 the net current, unrestricted, assets of the Circuit were £182,055 (2020: £157,682), compared with total expenditure for the year of £269,739 (2020: £264,897).

Plans for 2021/22

Circuit financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis of 2 presbyters plus the Deacon as Caravan Chaplain, with anticipated cost of living stipend and pay increases combined with an increase in the assessments paid to the District and Connexion. The Caravan Chaplaincy project is being funded from Grants from the District and Connexion, together with other donations and funds from the Circuit as necessary. The level of assessments requested from the churches in the Circuit has not been increased (with one exception) in order to aid recovery from the financial hit caused by Covid, and two struggling churches have had their assessments halved. With the reduction in costs for presbyters, it is hoped that the circuit will be able to break even initially and then to run with a small surplus in future years.

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 (comprising the presbyters and Circuit Stewards) and the Local Preachers meeting.

Trustee Training

A range of guidance is produced by Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the Circuit, including the leaflet 'The Role of a Trustee in The Methodist Church'.

Related Parties

The Circuit is part of the Lincolnshire District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference. 19 Churches are linked to the Circuit and are listed in Appendix B to this Report.

Risk Management

Major risks, both physical and financial, are identified and recorded and professional advice taken as required. There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

Income and Expenditure is monitored in total and is compared with the approved annual budget 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:

1. the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults
2. the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
3. the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
4. The Circuit 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.
5. The Circuit 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.
6. The Circuit will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
7. The Circuit will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
8. The Circuit 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.
9. In all these principles the Circuit will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice

The 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 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.

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy for the Circuit is to hold approximately one quarter's 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 the failure of churches to meet their quarterly assessment liabilities in full.

Legal and Administrative

The Circuit's financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2021 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 for Smaller Entities (FRSSE) applicable in the UK (effective from 1st January 2015) – the Charities SORP – 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.

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|------------------------------|---|
| Full Name of Charity: | East Lincolnshire Methodist Circuit |
| Registration Charity Number: | 1133104 |
| Date of registration | 2014 |
| Main communication address | Circuit Office, Louth Methodist Church, Nichol Hill, Louth LN11 9NQ |

The members of the Circuit meeting are the Managing Trustees, membership being made up of circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches. A full list of Trustees is shown in Appendix B to this Report

Circuit Ministers and officers

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|--------------------------|--|
| Active Circuit Ministers | Rev Mark Sherman (Superintendent Minister) Rev Philip Greetham (until 31 st August 2021) Rev Graham Miles Deacon Pamela Luxton |
| Circuit Stewards | Mrs Anne May Mrs Liz Mossop Miss Doreen Horn Mrs Lynne Whitehead-Yates Mrs Lyn Bignell Mr Neil Baxter |
| Administrator | Mrs Catherine Rolph |

During the year Catherine Rolph has overseen the day to day book-keeping and Neil Baxter, Circuit Steward with responsibility for finance, has taken on responsibility for financial management and accounting for the Circuit, with the assistance of Michael May as finance advisor.

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|----------------------|--|
| Independent examiner | Keith May Accounting Services Aura Business Centre, Heath Road, Skegness Lincs PE25 3SJ |
| Investment Bankers | Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church Trustees for Methodist Church purposes |
| Bankers | Lloyds Bank, Lumley Road, Skegness, PE25 3LP |

APPENDIX A

LIST OF TRUSTEES

Andrew Chambers

Andrew Jacklin

Ann Briggs

Ann Frith

Anne Moyes

Anne May

Lead Circuit Steward

Bryan Utteridge

Carol Gordon

Cathy Batten

Christine Foulds

David Wood

Local Preachers Secretary

Deacon Pamela Luxton

Minister

Diane Stebbings

Doreen Horn

Circuit Steward

Doreen Silvester

Ernie Simmonds

Fred Donner

Graeme Thompson

Heather Neale

Irene Unsworth

Jean Cawkwell

John Harneiss

John Silvester

Liz Mossop

Circuit Steward

Lyn Bignell

Circuit Safeguarding Officer and Circuit Steward

Lynn Whitehead-Yates

Circuit Steward

Lynda King

Margaret Harrison

Marianne Haywood

Marjorie Borman

Mark Harrison

Nancy Cartwright

Neil Baxter

Circuit Steward

Neil Poulson

Nick Adams

Patricia Brown

Patsy Pike

Peter Mace

Rev David Fidler

(CoS)

Rev Graham Miles

Minister

Rev Ivor Haythorne

Supernumerary Minister

Rev Mark Sherman

Superintendent Minister

Rev Norman Carr

Supernumerary Minister

Roger Maidens

Local Church Pastor

Stuart Jameson

Sue Baxter

Valerie Smith

APPENDIX B

LIST OF CHURCHES IN THE CIRCUIT

Alford Methodist Church
Burgh Le Marsh Methodist Church
Chapel St Leonards Methodist Church
Conisholme Methodist Church
Grainthorpe Methodist Church
Louth Methodist Church
Mablethorpe Methodist Church
Marshchapel Methodist Church
Saltfleet Methodist Church
Saltfleetby Methodist/Anglican L.E P
Skegness Methodist Church
Sutton on Sea Methodist Church
Thorpe Fendykes Methodist Church
Trusthorpe Methodist Church
Wainfleet Methodist Church
Withern Methodist Church

In addition there are 3 Societies which are Classes of other Churches and meet as indicated below:-

Fulstow (a class of Grainthorpe Methodist Church) – meets in the Parish Church
Grimoldby (a class of Louth Methodist Church) – meets in the Village Hall
Huttoft (a class of Sutton on Sea Methodist Church) – meets in the Village Hall

Approved by the Circuit Trustees at their meeting on *15th December 2021*

.....(signed)
Rev Mark Sherman
Superintendent Minister

.....(signed)
Anne May
Lead Circuit Steward

East Lincolnshire Circuit

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (~~other than that disclosed below~~*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or

the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or

the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or

the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

I ~~have~~/have not* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church at the balance sheet date.

* Please delete as appropriate

Name

Keith May ACMA CGMA

Signature

Relevant Professional qualification or body

CIMA

Address

Aura Business Centre, Heath Road, Skegness Lincs PE25 3SJ

Date

25/2/22

