



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1st September 2023 **To** 31st August 2024

Charity name: The Fens Methodist Circuit

Charity registration number: 1133790

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>The purpose of the Methodist Church is and shall be deemed to have been since the Date of the Union the advancement of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards of discipline in 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. <p>These objectives are interpreted at Circuit levels through the 'Circuit Mission Statement and Policy' document (available on request).</p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>The Circuit produces a quarterly plan to ensure that regular acts of worship take place in each of the eight Circuit Churches. These are open to all without charge.</p> <p>All the Circuit churches serve their local community through their availability for baptisms, marriages and funerals.</p> <p>The properties are variously used by community organisations. Some properties were specifically</p>

		<p>built to serve both as a worship and as a community centre. The trustees encourage all Circuit churches to use their buildings, where suitable, for the benefit of the community.</p> <p>Where appropriate, grants are made available to promote this community engagement. Examples of such are: Parent and Toddler Group, community lunches, a daily coffee bar, women's fellowship, youth groups, uniformed organisations, professional advice services. These are open to all, irrespective of Church allegiance.</p> <p>We seek to address the spiritual needs of those in residential care.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	We confirm the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>The Circuit continues the process of each church undertaking a mission and vision review.</p> <p>September 2023 continued with a settled team consisting of a Hospitality Lay Pastor to support the Titular Superintendent and Minister, in addition to a part-time Administrator and Coffee Bar Manager for Trinity Coffee Bar.</p> <p>Staffing levels have remained consistent and preparations for the Minister's stationing are being made.</p> <p>The Hospitality Lay Pastor interacted across the churches, with congregations and local communities, to encourage working towards the principles of the Social Gospel and the Methodist Church doctrine that:</p> <p>All need to be saved All can be saved All can know they are saved All can be saved to the uttermost.</p> <p>The churches have updated and will continue to monitor their Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults procedure training and DBS checks.</p>

		<p>We have three redundant buildings, one of which remains on the market (Tydd St Giles).</p> <p>An offer has been accepted for Terrington St John, and we are finalising the agreement with solicitors. St Andrews Outwell has been valued for sale; outstanding issues with the Ministry of Justice are delaying progress.</p>
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Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<p>The Circuit accounts are available for inspection. The Circuit Advance Fund is used to subsidise the Connexional assessment, to provide grants towards the cost of major repairs and to cover any shortfall in the assessments from local churches.</p> <p>On the 1st September 2023, the Fens Circuit held total cash funds of £212,685 and on the 31st August 2024, had a closing balance of £207,771</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	<p>It is necessary to hold sufficient working capital to facilitate the payment of Connexional and District assessments, business expenses and the services of a part-time Circuit Administrator and Lay Employees.</p>
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£67,882
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as an ongoing concern	Para 1.23	N/A

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976)
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Act of Parliament
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Appointed by local churches and existing trustees. Ministers are automatically trustees.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	The Fens Methodist Circuit is part of the East Anglia Methodist District. It has 8 churches that were served by the Titular Superintendent Minister and 1 Minister.
Other		Statistical returns for 1 st November 2023 showed a membership of 135. The Methodist/URC Local Ecumenical Partnership Church in March had an additional 9 URC members.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	The Fens Methodist Circuit
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1133790
Charity's principal address	The Fens Circuit Office, Trinity Methodist Church, 17 Church Terrace, Wisbech, PE13 1BL

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	David Ely	Titular Superintendent Minister		
2	Deborah Caulk	Stipendiary Minister		
3	Nicola Warden	Lay Pastor		
4	Karren Tibbs	Circuit Steward		
5	Roger Dack	Circuit Steward		
6	Susan Dack	Circuit Steward		
7	Timothy Dewdney	Circuit Steward		
8	Mary Jane Hurst	Circuit Steward		
9	Linda Vincent	Circuit Steward		
10	Sylvia Ringham			
11	Rosemary Marchant			
12	Evelyn Hamps			
13	Elaine Thornton			
14	Christine Horn			
15	Mavis Ashcroft			
16	David Thompson			
17	Joyce Dobson			

18	Anne Emmerson			
19	Roy Askew			
20	Eric Cross			
21	Christopher Coates			
22	Joy Coates		1-23/09/2023	
23	Trevor Vincent			
24	Robin Vincent			
25	Diana Burling			
26	Janice Powers			
27	David Fairbrother			
28	Gwendoline Dewdney			
29	Mary Gibbs			
30	Joy Smalley			
31	Joan Thompson			
32	Wendy Chandler			

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	N/A
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	N/A

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<i>S. Ringham</i>	
Full name(s)	SYLVIA RINGHAM	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	CIRCUIT MEETING SECRETARY	
Date	12-05-2025	

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

FENS	Circuit
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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2024**

EAST ANGLIA	District	Circuit no	14/22
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1133790

If not a registered charity **Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs Gift Aid number**

(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used

Ministers:

Revd David Ely (Superintendent)	
Revd Deborah Caulk	

Circuit Stewards:

Sue Dack	
Roger Dack	
Linda Vincent	
Jane Hurst	
Tim Dewdney	
Karren Tibbs	

Treasurer:

Rachael Atkins	
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SECTION A			Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	TOTALS 2023 24	TOTALS 2022-23
a1	RECEIPTS	Note	£	£	£	£	£
a2	Assessment/Share		110,435	0	0	110,435	
a3	Capital receipts		0	0	0	0	
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		3,160	5,602	0	8,762	
a5	Grants		0	0	0	0	
a6	Other receipts		97,777	34,187	0	131,965	
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS		211,372	39,790	0	251,162 (a8)	

SECTION B			Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	TOTALS 2023 24	TOTALS 2022-23
b1	PAYMENTS						
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs		97,376	0	0	97,376	
b3	Manse Costs		36,522	0	0	36,522	
b4	Administration etc		3,683	464	0	4,146	
b5	District Assessment		25,039	0	0	25,039	
b6	Grants & donations		910	0	0	910	
b7			0	0	0	0	
b8	Other payments		66,349	25,734	0	92,082	
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS		229,878	26,197	0	256,076 (b9)	

SECTION C							
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a7-b9)	-18,506	13,592	0	-4,914	
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		-107,763	320,402	46	212,685 (c8)	
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	-126,269	333,994	46	207,771	
c4	Transfers and adjustments		0	0	0	0 (c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	-126,269	333,994	46	207,771 (c8)	

SECTION D						
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS						
(these amounts should not be included in total receipts/payments above)						
				TOTALS 2023 24	TOTALS 2022-23	
d1	Balance brought forward from last year			0		
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations			1,563		
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations			1,563		
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)			0		

SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATION REPORTING TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING

SECTION E Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Circuit Meeting

Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross receipts and payments totals of the Circuit. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold of £250,000, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the Circuit and connected Circuit Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1 Circuit Youth & Ed	0	0	0	0	340	340
e2						
e3			0			0
e4			0			0
e5			0			0
e6			0			0
e7			0			0
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	0	0	0	0	340 (e11)	340 (e12)
e9 Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	251,162	256,076	-4,914	0	212,685 (e11)	207,771 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	251,162	256,076	-4,914	0	213,025 (e11)	208,111 (y)

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward

TOTAL
RECEIPTSTOTAL
PAYMENTS

SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2024

f1	Cash in hand
f2	Bank Current Account
f3	Bank Deposit Account
f4	Central Finance Board
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
f6	Other funds
f7	SUB TOTAL
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT

01-Sep-23 OPENING BALANCES	31-Aug-24 CLOSING BALANCES
0	0
29,267	30,733
0	0
20,710	11,467
162,709	165,572
0	0
212,685	207,771 (c8)
340	340 (e12)
213,025	208,111 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

g1	Investments (include Endowments)
g2	Land and Buildings (see notes re Insurance)
g3	Other Assets
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end
g5	Other Liabilities

At 01-Sep-23	At 31-Aug-24
3,856	4,155
697,883	697,883
0	0
0	0
0	0


f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

f5 Include only CFB Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trust accounts this is inserted in line f5)

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2024 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit meeting.

Signature of treasurer	
DATE	14/10/2024


Name and address of treasurer

Rachael Atkins

20 Gosmoor Lane, Elm, Wisbech Cambs PE14 0AJ

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 will be presented to the Circuit meeting held on 16 JAN 2025.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting	
Name of the Chair of the meeting	REVD LORNA VALENTINE
DATE	16/01/2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

FENS CIRCUIT

Charity Number 1133790

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the FENS Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages attached.

As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Name of Circuit **FENS** No **14/22**


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.

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 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 which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner	
Name of independent examiner	Ian Wheeler
Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner	Retired Bank Manager

Name of firm (where appropriate) **Barclays**

Address **91-92 High St**

Kings Lynn Post Code **PE30 1BX**

Date **10th Nov 2024**

THE METHODIST CHURCH

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**TOTAL
RECEIPTS****TOTAL
PAYMENTS****SECTION F****STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2024**

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Signature of independent examiner	
Name of independent examiner	Ian Wheeler
Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner	Retired Bank Manager

Name of firm (where appropriate) **Barclays**

Address **91-92 High St**

Kings Lynn Post Code **PE30 1BX**

Date **10th Nov 2024**