

THE METHODIST CHURCH - SHERWOOD FOREST CIRCUIT

England & Wales · Charity number 1133801

Details

Other names	MANSFIELD METHODIST CIRCUIT
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2010-01-27
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	85 Windsor Road Mansfield Nottinghamshire NG18 4ED
Phone	01623 623192
Email	stuartellis.sfmc@gmail.com
Website	https://sherwoodforestmethodistcircuit.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: Mansfield Methodist Circuit encourages the provision of regular acts of worship open to members of the church and non-members alike. We provide sacred spaces (buildings) for prayer and contemplation, the teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and smaller groups.

Classification

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL
- Derbyshire
- Nottinghamshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-08-31	£252,696	£303,340	-	-
2023-08-31	£304,578	£288,218	-	-
2022-08-31	£292,766	£278,766	-	-
2021-08-31	£339,149	£326,094	-	-
2020-08-31	£283,188	£309,561	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Stuart Ellis	Chair	2021-09-01
ALAN BARRY DARLINGTON BSc, PGCE		2014-07-03
Adele Stenton		2024-09-03
BARRIE ROBERT RICHMOND		
Barbara Sutton		2018-09-01
Colin Baird		2022-06-01
DAVE KEEGAN		2016-09-01
DAVID MILSON WILMOT		
DAWN ELIZABETH VICKERS RGN,DIP		
Dr Stephen Head		2019-09-01
Elizabeth Mary Crane		2015-03-17
Enid Mary Marsh		2020-11-22
Glenn Gibson		2023-10-19
JOHN BERRINGTON		2025-03-25
Janet Ann Gibson		2023-10-19
Joyce Elizabeth Cree		
Judith Amanda Walters		2024-09-01
Judith Anne Daykin		2023-10-01
Keith Richard Bonsall		2018-12-01
MRS PAM CLARKE		
Margaret Rosemary Westby		2021-03-05
Matthew Cullen		2019-05-12
Melanie Ellis		2024-09-01
PAULINE ANN GRIFFITHS		2013-02-21
PHILIP ROY SHEAD		
Patricia Anne Taylor		2023-10-24
REV Debra Jane Keegan		2016-09-01

Name	Role	Appointed
REVEREND BOB JONES		
ROBERT FENNELL C TEXT ATI		
ROBERT VICKERS		
Rev JOHN WILLIAMS		2014-09-01
Rev LINDA WILLIAMS		2014-09-01
SIMON ANDREW CRANE		2017-09-01
STEPHEN CREE		2011-10-01
Sarah Elizabeth Bray		2023-10-19
Sylvia Ellis		2024-09-01
WENDY ANN INCE		2013-09-11

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Accounts

22/23 Sherwood Forest Circuit
Charity Registration Number: 1133801

Trustees' Report
and
Financial Statement
for the year ended
31 August 2024

Administrative Information

Circuit Ministers

Rev Stuart Ellis (Superintendent)

Rev Debbie Keegan

Deacon Dave Keegan

Children & Families Coordinator

Mrs Danni Coles

Circuit Stewards

Mr Keith Bonsall

Mr Matt Cullen

Mrs Wendy Ince

Rev Bob Jones (Circuit Treasurer)

Independent Examiner:

Mr Geof Lawton

Trustee Report

Governance & Management

The Circuit is governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976, the Deed of Union and the Model Trust Deeds of 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 the discipline of the Methodist Church, and
- b. Any charitable purpose 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 or subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church.

The Circuit is a group of local churches. Circuits combine to form 30 Districts in Great Britain. Although there is some autonomy, all Methodist organisations in Great Britain are governed by the statutes determined by the Methodist Conference and which are published in the Constitution, Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church. Conference is the supreme body within the church: it delegates much of its authority to the Methodist Council. Both Conference and Council consist of lay and ordained members.

In setting objectives and planning activities, the Circuit Meeting, held three or four times a year has given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and, in particular, to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing our objectives as set out above.

During the year, the Circuit Leadership Team (consisting of the Circuit Stewards, Ministers and Circuit Treasurer) met regularly to keep the life of the Circuit under review and to take forward the decisions of the Circuit Meeting.

Activities

Our mission is

"To equip the people of God for works of mission and service so that they can hear, tell and be the Good News of Jesus Christ"

We aim to achieve this through encouraging Christian discipleship individually and collectively through the following of the Methodist Way of Life in order to follow Our Calling:



Worship

The Church exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love

Learning and Caring

The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care



Service

The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice

Evangelism

The Church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ



Our Annual Mission Plan sets out aims and objectives under these headings for the Circuit and its member churches to aim to and is regularly reported to and evaluated by the Circuit Meeting and the Circuit Leadership Team.

Organisational Structure

1. Overall control rest with the Methodist Conference
2. The Connexional Office implements decisions made by Conference and is also responsible for the stationing of Ministers in the individual Circuits
3. Connexional decisions are passed to the Chair of the District and the appropriate Officers of the District for regional implementation
4. The Districts pass down the control to Circuit level for local implementation by the Superintendent minister, ministerial staff, Circuit stewards and others. Authority can be delegated by the Connexion and District to the Circuit Meeting for certain matters.
5. The Circuit Meeting passes down control to church councils for local implementation by the Minister, the church stewards and other officers. The church councils act as managing trustees.
6. The Circuit Superintendent chairs meetings of the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) and the Circuit Meeting, which trustees are expected to attend. Policy decisions are taken at the Circuit Meeting which is the supreme body for deciding matters at Circuit Level. Some powers are delegated by the Circuit Meeting to the CLT and other groups.
7. Churches, Circuits and Districts are able to pass matters upwards for consideration, ultimately to the Conference, for consideration and implementation where appropriate.
8. The Methodist Connexional year runs annually from 1 September to 31 August.

Charity Registration

The Sherwood Forest Methodist Circuit is registered charity whose registration number is 1133801

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty under the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Specifically:

- Many churches make their premises available to other organisations that need somewhere to meet
- Some churches have long term tenants
- Uniformed organisations (such as beavers, cubs, scouts, rainbows, brownies, guides) are affiliated to some of our churches and meet at church premises
- Other outreach activities
- Raising money for other charities

Trustees

The following Trustees (some with dual roles) were listed as current as at August 2022. Records are held of Trustees in post and attending meetings during the course of the 2021-22 Connexional Year.

Members of Circuit Meeting at 5th April 2023

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Appointed by</u>
Rev Stuart Ellis	Chair	Methodist Conference
Rev Barry Smith		Circuit
Rev Chris Briggs		District
Rev Debra Keegan		Methodist Conference
Deacon Dave Keegan		Methodist Conference
Rev Robert Jones	Interim Circuit Treasurer	Circuit
Rev Linda Williams	Worship Leaders Secretary	Methodist Conference
Rev John Williams		Methodist Conference
Mr Keith Bonsall	Property	Circuit Meeting
Mr Andrew Shewen	Connexional Giving	Circuit Meeting
Mrs Joyce Cree	Minutes Secretary	Circuit Meeting
Mrs Wendy Ince	Circuit Steward	Circuit Meeting
Mr Matt Cullen	Circuit Steward	Circuit Meeting
Mr Barrie Richmond	Local Preachers Secretary	Circuit Meeting
Mr Philip Shead	Circuit Safeguarding	Circuit Meeting
Mrs Ann Jones		MMC Nottingham Raod Church Council
Mrs Pam Clarke		MMC BBL Church Council
Mr Colin Baird		MMC BBL Church Council
Mrs Maz Allsop		MMC BBL Church Council
Mr Alan Darlington		MMC BBL Church Council
Mrs Anne Clayton		M/W Church Council
Mr Steve Cree		M/W Church Council
Mr Robert Vickers		Bilsthorpe Church Council
Mrs Michelle Shead		The Meden Church Council
Mr Neil Younger		The Meden Church Council
Mrs Anne Ayodele		The Meden Church Council
Mrs Doreen Jackson		Ollerton Church Council
Dr S Head		Ollerton Church Council
Mr Simon Crane		Blidworth Church Council
Mrs Elizabeth Crane		Blidworth Church Council
Mr Alan Mosley		Rainworth Church Council
Mrs Enid Marsh		Farnsfield Church Council

Mrs Maggie Westby		Farnsfield Church Council
Mr David Wilmot		Farnsfield Church Council
Miss Ann Griffiths		CRS Church Council
Mr John Berrington		CRS Church Council

Safeguarding

The Church of England and the Methodist Church work in partnership with other Christian Churches and other agencies in delivering safeguarding. The Circuit supports the following statement of principles agreed by the denominations:

We share a commitment to:

- The care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and all adults
- The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and all adults
- The establishment of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where victims of abuse can report or disclose abuse and where they can find support and best practice that contributes to the prevention of abuse.

Each church in the Circuit is required to appoint a safeguarding representative and the Circuit appoints a Safeguarding Officer to coordinate policies, practices and training which promotes safe practice amongst children and vulnerable adults.

Staff Responsibilities & Changes

Rev Stuart Ellis became the Superintendent Minister on 1 September 2021 and held pastoral oversight of the following churches:

- Mansfield Methodist Church, Big Barn Lane
- Mansfield Methodist Church, Nottingham Road (formerly known as Bethel)
- Blidworth Methodist Church
- Rainworth Methodist Church
- Chesterfield Road South Methodist Church*
 - o Shirebrook Methodist Church (Class of Chesterfield Road South)

Rev Debbie Keegan joined the Circuit on 1 September 2016 and held pastoral oversight over the following churches

- Ollerton Methodist Church
- Meden Vale Methodist Church
- Trinity, Mansfield Woodhouse Methodist Church
- Bilsthorpe Methodist Church
- Farnsfield Methodist Church
 - o Ompton Methodist Church (Class of Farnsfield)

Deacon Dave Keegan joined the Circuit on 1 September 2016 and is responsible for outreach and pioneer projects within the Circuit area and was particularly focused on supporting work within the Meden Vale community.

Mrs Danni Coles, joined the Circuit on 1 September 2020 and is employed as a Children and Families Coordinator supporting the outreach and pioneer work within the Circuit area. She was involved in a range of projects focused on children and families, including toddler groups, bespoke outreach and school chaplaincy.

A new project led by Rev Debbie & Deacon Dave Keegan - "The Sanctuary - Christian Spirituality & Wellbeing Centre was started, being housed at Trinity Methodist Church, Mansfield Woodhouse.

Risk Management

Through its CLT, risks faced by the Circuit have been considered and ongoing mitigation strategies discussed and enacted where possible. Where possible appropriate risks are insured – currently with the Methodist Insurance Company. The security and safety of our churches is largely for local churches to determine and to mitigate, taking advice from Circuit Officers and Insurers as appropriate.

All churches and manses are subject to quinquennial inspections and the reports on each are reviewed at a Circuit Level as well as by local trustees. Action is taken to maintain premises and reduce health and safety risks to all who have a legitimate purpose to be on those premises.

All churches have been surveyed for the presence of asbestos and reports made available to local churches for appropriate action if and when required.

We have considered the resilience of churches and the risk that they will not meet their assessments payments to cover central and staffing costs. We put together a financial plan for the Circuit and judge that there are sufficient resources to cover possible shortfalls in the foreseeable future.

The Circuit operates within a statutory framework of regulation and seeks to ensure that it follows Methodist Standing Orders. It relies on the Connexional Office to provide guidance on changes that could affect the Circuit and its churches.

Trustees' Expenses

With the exception of ministerial staff, supernumerary staff and staff employed by the Circuit, who can claim for travel and out-of-pocket expenses, members of the Circuit Meeting received neither payment or reimbursement of their expenses in connection with their role as trustees.

Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which 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 have:

- Selected suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently using the receipts and payment method
- Made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Followed applicable accounting standards
- Prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Circuit and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Circuit and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

Trustees have a right to advise the independent examiner of their concerns but none has done so. The CLT concludes, therefore, that there are no issues to be advised to the independent examiner.

Financial Review

The Circuit prepares receipts and payment accounts. They are not a consolidation of the accounts of the accounts of the churches in the Circuit. The Circuit budget is prepared by first anticipating the expenditure for the forthcoming year and then by determining how that sum will be raised.

The Circuit adopted the following policy principles for the reserves in the 2022-3 Connexional Year:

- *Churches would be expected to meet their assessment payments based on the staffing commitments agreed by the Circuit Meeting (for ministers, until 2026)*
- *Spending from reserves would not exceed £35,000 per annum and would cover staff costs over and above achievable levels of income*
- *The assumptions are that reserves will be replenished once the sale of the Bridge Street site is complete.*

Capital Assets

The proceeds of sale of the premises of any Methodist Church or manse within the Circuit is generally credited to the Circuit. There is, however, a substantial levy paid to the Connexion (the Methodist Church in GB) so not all proceeds are received by the Circuit. The sale of manses requires proceeds to be spent on new manses or capital improvements to existing manses. No capital assets were bought or sold during the year.

The Circuit received rent for the use of Forest Town Methodist Church by the Redeemed Church of God and from two unused manses within the Circuit boundaries.

Funding of the Circuit's Costs

This is achieved primarily by making an assessment on each church within the Circuit using a determinative formula agreed by the Circuit Meeting. If any church were to close, that church's assessment would not be paid to the Circuit during the remainder of that year, unless it had liquid assets to do so. The Circuit's costs, principally stipends, salaries, housing and insurance costs would continue and there may be a need to draw upon reserves to meet the shortfall in income.

Annual Costs

The Circuit believes that it should ensure that it has income and reserves sufficient to cover its current staffing of three ministers (including one deacon) and a lay employee. The CLT and Circuit Meeting ensure that spending from reserves is kept at a sustainable level.

Approvals

This report and the Financial Statements of the Circuit were approved by the Circuit Meeting held on 5 June, subject to inspection by the independent examiner. The examiner signed the Financial Statements in [June 2024] to confirm that they had completed the inspection satisfactorily.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

Stuart Ellis

.....

Rev Stuart Ellis
Superintendent Minister

.....

Rev R Jones
Circuit Treasurer

Name of Circuit

Sherwood Forest Methodist Circuit

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £
Income			
1	Donations and legacies	1,762	
2	Income from monetary investments	241	11,642
3	Income from investment properties	29,331	
4	Assessments on Churches	179,679	
5	Capital Receipts		
6	Grants received		
7	Other charitable income	29,812	
8	Total income	240,825	11,642
Expenditure			
9	Grants and donations	9,878	
10	Salaries and associated costs	152,554	
11	Property maintenance	47,856	
12	Connexional assessment & model trust levy		
13	District Assessment & Levy	59,517	8,824
14	Depreciation		
15	Office expenses		
16	Other outgoings	24,049	646
17	Total charitable expenditure	293,854	9,470
18	Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		
19	Gains/(losses) on investment properties		
20	Net income/(expenditure)	-53,029	2,172
21	Transfers between funds	30,213 -	30,000
22	Other gains/(losses)		564
23	Net movement in funds	-22,816	-27,264
24	Total funds brought forward	782,399	226,488
25	Total funds carried forward	759,583	199,224

Circuit No 22/23

d 31 August 2024

Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023-24 £
		229	1,762
			12,112
			29,331
			179,679
			0
			0
-	-	229	252,696
<hr/>			
			9,878
			152,554
			47,856
			0
			68,341
			0
			0
		16	24,711
0	0	16	303,340
<hr/>			
			0
0	0	213	-50,644
		213	0
		270	834
0	0	270	-49,810
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-	-	5,629	1,014,516
<hr/>			
-	-	5,899	964,706
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Declarations and Scrutiny

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

Signature of treasurerR H Jones..... Date: 10.02.24..

Name and address of treasurer ...Revd. Robert Howard Jones

HEDDWCH, 9, Blakeney Drive, Mansfield. Post Code NG18 4DN

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were presented to the Circuit meeting held on: 19th February 2025

Signature of the Chair of the meeting: Revd. S W Ellis.....

Name of the Chair of the meeting: Revd, Stuart Ellis..... Date: 19.02.25
.....

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Sherwood Forest Methodist Circuit

Charity Number 1133801

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the
Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages ... to As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Circuit's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Independent Examiner’s Statement

[The Circuit’s gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of *(insert name of applicable listed body)*]. *Delete [] if not applicable.*

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 *Delete if not applicable i.e. all R&P accounts*
- the trustees’ annual report is not consistent with the accounts *Delete if not applicable i.e. all R&P 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 which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner G Lawson.....

Name of independent examiner: Mr. Geoff Lawson.....

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner:

Name of firm (where appropriate):

Address: 2, Second Avenue, Forest Town, Mansfield. Notts... Post Code: Ng19 0BG.....

Date: 16th June 2025.....

* delete or circle as appropriate

THE METHODIST CHURCH - SHERWOOD FOREST CIRCUIT

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22/23 Sherwood Forest Circuit
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Mr Neil Younger		The Meden Church Council
Mrs Anne Ayodele		The Meden Church Council
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Dr S Head		Ollerton Church Council
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Through its CLT, risks faced by the Circuit have been considered and ongoing mitigation strategies discussed and enacted where possible. Where possible appropriate risks are insured – currently with the Methodist Insurance Company. The security and safety of our churches is largely for local churches to determine and to mitigate, taking advice from Circuit Officers and Insurers as appropriate.

All churches and manses are subject to quinquennial inspections and the reports on each are reviewed at a Circuit Level as well as by local trustees. Action is taken to maintain premises and reduce health and safety risks to all who have a legitimate purpose to be on those premises.

All churches have been surveyed for the presence of asbestos and reports made available to local churches for appropriate action if and when required.

We have considered the resilience of churches and the risk that they will not meet their assessments payments to cover central and staffing costs. We put together a financial plan for the Circuit and judge that there are sufficient resources to cover possible shortfalls in the foreseeable future.

The Circuit operates within a statutory framework of regulation and seeks to ensure that it follows Methodist Standing Orders. It relies on the Connexional Office to provide guidance on changes that could affect the Circuit and its churches.

Trustees' Expenses

With the exception of ministerial staff, supernumerary staff and staff employed by the Circuit, who can claim for travel and out-of-pocket expenses, members of the Circuit Meeting received neither payment or reimbursement of their expenses in connection with their role as trustees.

Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which 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 have:

- Selected suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently using the receipts and payment method
- Made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Followed applicable accounting standards
- Prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Circuit and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Circuit and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

Trustees have a right to advise the independent examiner of their concerns but none has done so. The CLT concludes, therefore, that there are no issues to be advised to the independent examiner.

Financial Review

The Circuit prepares receipts and payment accounts. They are not a consolidation of the accounts of the accounts of the churches in the Circuit. The Circuit budget is prepared by first anticipating the expenditure for the forthcoming year and then by determining how that sum will be raised.

The Circuit adopted the following policy principles for the reserves in the 2022-3 Connexional Year:

- *Churches would be expected to meet their assessment payments based on the staffing commitments agreed by the Circuit Meeting (for ministers, until 2026)*
- *Spending from reserves would not exceed £35,000 per annum and would cover staff costs over and above achievable levels of income*
- *The assumptions are that reserves will be replenished once the sale of the Bridge Street site is complete.*

Capital Assets

The proceeds of sale of the premises of any Methodist Church or manse within the Circuit is generally credited to the Circuit. There is, however, a substantial levy paid to the Connexion (the Methodist Church in GB) so not all proceeds are received by the Circuit. The sale of manses requires proceeds to be spent on new manses or capital improvements to existing manses. No capital assets were bought or sold during the year.

The Circuit received rent for the use of Forest Town Methodist Church by the Redeemed Church of God and from two unused manses within the Circuit boundaries.

Funding of the Circuit's Costs

This is achieved primarily by making an assessment on each church within the Circuit using a determinative formula agreed by the Circuit Meeting. If any church were to close, that church's assessment would not be paid to the Circuit during the remainder of that year, unless it had liquid assets to do so. The Circuit's costs, principally stipends, salaries, housing and insurance costs would continue and there may be a need to draw upon reserves to meet the shortfall in income.

Annual Costs

The Circuit believes that it should ensure that it has income and reserves sufficient to cover its current staffing of three ministers (including one deacon) and a lay employee. The CLT and Circuit Meeting ensure that spending from reserves is kept at a sustainable level.

Approvals

This report and the Financial Statements of the Circuit were approved by the Circuit Meeting held on 5 June, subject to inspection by the independent examiner. The examiner signed the Financial Statements in [June 2024] to confirm that they had completed the inspection satisfactorily.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

Stuart Ellis

.....

Rev Stuart Ellis
Superintendent Minister

.....

Rev R Jones
Circuit Treasurer

Name of Circuit

Sherwood Forest Methodist Circuit

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £
Income			
1	Donations and legacies	1,762	
2	Income from monetary investments	241	11,642
3	Income from investment properties	29,331	
4	Assessments on Churches	179,679	
5	Capital Receipts		
6	Grants received		
7	Other charitable income	29,812	
8	Total income	240,825	11,642
Expenditure			
9	Grants and donations	9,878	
10	Salaries and associated costs	152,554	
11	Property maintenance	47,856	
12	Connexional assessment & model trust levy		
13	District Assessment & Levy	59,517	8,824
14	Depreciation		
15	Office expenses		
16	Other outgoings	24,049	646
17	Total charitable expenditure	293,854	9,470
18	Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		
19	Gains/(losses) on investment properties		
20	Net income/(expenditure)	-53,029	2,172
21	Transfers between funds	30,213 -	30,000
22	Other gains/(losses)		564
23	Net movement in funds	-22,816	-27,264
24	Total funds brought forward	782,399	226,488
25	Total funds carried forward	759,583	199,224

Circuit No 22/23

d 31 August 2024

Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023-24 £
		229	1,762
			12,112
			29,331
			179,679
			0
			0
-	-	229	252,696
<hr/>			
			9,878
			152,554
			47,856
			0
			68,341
			0
			0
		16	24,711
0	0	16	303,340
<hr/>			
			0
0	0	213	-50,644
		213	0
		270	834
0	0	270	-49,810
<hr/>			
-	-	5,629	1,014,516
<hr/>			
-	-	5,899	964,706
<hr/>			

Declarations and Scrutiny

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

Signature of treasurerR H Jones..... Date: 10.02.24..

Name and address of treasurer ...Revd. Robert Howard Jones

HEDDWCH, 9, Blakeney Drive, Mansfield. Post Code NG18 4DN

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were presented to the Circuit meeting held on: 19th February 2025

Signature of the Chair of the meeting: Revd. S W Ellis.....

Name of the Chair of the meeting: Revd, Stuart Ellis..... Date: 19.02.25
.....

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Sherwood Forest Methodist Circuit

Charity Number 1133801

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the
Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages ... to As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Circuit's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner’s Statement

[The Circuit’s gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of *(insert name of applicable listed body)*]. *Delete [] if not applicable.*

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 *Delete if not applicable i.e. all R&P accounts*
- the trustees’ annual report is not consistent with the accounts *Delete if not applicable i.e. all R&P 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 which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner G Lawson.....

Name of independent examiner: Mr. Geoff Lawson.....

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner:

Name of firm (where appropriate):

Address: 2, Second Avenue, Forest Town, Mansfield. Notts... Post Code: Ng19 0BG.....

Date: 16th June 2025.....

* delete or circle as appropriate

THE METHODIST CHURCH - SHERWOOD FOREST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1133801

Accounts

22/23 Sherwood Forest Circuit

Charity Registration Number: 1133801

Trustees' Report

and

Financial Statement

for the year ended

31 August 2022

Administrative Information

Circuit Ministers

Rev Stuart Ellis (Superintendent)

Rev Debbie Keegan

Deacon Dave Keegan

Children & Families Coordinator

Mrs Danni Coles

Circuit Stewards

Mr Keith Bonsall

Mr Matt Cullen

Mrs Wendy Ince

Mr Eric Thompson (Died January 2022)

Rev Bob Jones (Auditor acting as Interim Treasurer)

Independent Examiner:

Rev R Jones FCMA CGMA

“HEDDWCH”

9 Blakeney Drive

Mansfield

NG18 4DN

Trustee Report

Governance & Management

The Circuit is governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976, the Deed of Union and the Model Trust Deeds of 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 the discipline of the Methodist Church, and
- b. Any charitable purpose 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 or subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church.

The Circuit is a group of local churches. Circuits combine to form 30 Districts in Great Britain. Although there is some autonomy, all Methodist organisations in Great Britain are governed by the statutes determined by the Methodist Conference and which are published in the Constitution, Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church. Conference is the supreme body within the church: it delegates much of its authority to the Methodist Council. Both Conference and Council consist of lay and ordained members.

In setting objectives and planning activities, the Circuit Meeting, held three or four times a year has given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and, in particular, to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing our objectives as set out above.

During the year, the Circuit Leadership Team (consisting of the Circuit Stewards, Ministers and Circuit Treasurer) met regularly to keep the life of the Circuit under review and to take forward the decisions of the Circuit Meeting.

Activities

Our mission is

"To equip the people of God for works of mission and service so that they can hear, tell and be the Good News of Jesus Christ"

We aim to achieve this through encouraging Christian discipleship individually and collectively through the following of the Methodist Way of Life in order to follow Our Calling:



Worship

The Church exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love

Learning and Caring

The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care



Service

The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice

Evangelism

The Church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ



Our Annual Mission Plan sets out aims and objectives under these headings for the Circuit and its member churches to aim to and is regularly reported to and evaluated by the Circuit Meeting and the Circuit Leadership Team.

In accordance with the Conference decision to allow same sex marriage, churches began discussion on whether to allow their buildings (where appropriate) to be registered for such. It is the objective for all Circuit churches to have completed their decision making in the 2022/3 Connexional Year.

Organisational Structure

1. Overall control rest with the Methodist Conference
2. The Connexional Office implements decisions made by Conference and is also responsible for the stationing of Ministers in the individual Circuits
3. Connexional decisions are passed to the Chair of the District and the appropriate Officers of the District for regional implementation
4. The Districts pass down the control to Circuit level for local implementation by the Superintendent minister, ministerial staff, Circuit stewards and others. Authority can be delegated by the Connexion and District to the Circuit Meeting for certain matters.
5. The Circuit Meeting passes down control to church councils for local implementation by the Minister, the church stewards and other officers. The church councils act as managing trustees.
6. The Circuit Superintendent chairs meetings of the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) and the Circuit Meeting, which trustees are expected to attend. Policy decision are taken at the Circuit Meeting which is the supreme body for deciding matters at Circuit Level. Some powers are delegated by the Circuit Meeting to the CLT and other groups.
7. Churches, Circuits and Districts are able to pass matters upwards for consideration, ultimately to the Conference, for consideration and implementation where appropriate.
8. The Methodist Connexional year runs annually from 1 September to 31 August.

Charity Registration

The Sherwood Forest Methodist Circuit is registered charity whose registration number is 1133801

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty under the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Specifically:

- Many churches make their premises available to other organisations that need somewhere to meet
- Some churches have long term tenants
- Uniformed organisations (such as beavers, cubs, scouts, rainbows, brownies, guides) are affiliated to some of our churches and meet at church premises
- Other outreach activities
- Raising money for other charities

Trustees

The following Trustees (some with dual roles) were listed as current as at August 2022. Records are held of Trustees in post and attending meetings during the course of the 2021-22 Connexional Year.

Members of Circuit Meeting at 5th April 2022

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Appointed by</u>
Rev Stuart Ellis	Chair	Methodist Conference
Rev Barry Smith		Circuit
Rev Chris Briggs		District
Rev Debra Keegan		Methodist Conference
Deacon Dave Keegan		Methodist Conference
Rev Robert Jones	Interim Circuit Treasurer	Circuit
Rev Linda Williams		Methodist Conference
Rev John Williams		Methodist Conference
Mr Keith Bonsall	Property	Circuit Meeting
Mr Gordon Slack	Property	Circuit Meeting
Mr Andrew Shewen	Connexional Giving	Circuit Meeting
Mrs Joyce Cree	Minutes Secretary	Circuit Meeting
Mrs Wendy Ince	Circuit Steward	Circuit Meeting
Mr Matt Cullen	Circuit Steward	Circuit Meeting
Mr Barrie Richmond	LP&WL Secretary	Circuit Meeting
Mr Philip Shead	Safeguarding	Circuit Meeting
Mrs Ann Jones		MMC Bethel Church Council
Mrs Pam Clarke		MMB BBL Church Council
Mr Colin Baird		MMC BBL Church Council
Mrs Maz Allsop		MMC BBL Church Council
Mr Alan Darlington		MMC BBL Church Council
Mr Robert Fennell		Shirebrook Church Council
Mrs Hazel Fennell		Shirebrook Church Council
Mrs Anne Clayton		M/W Church Council
Mr Steve Cree		M/W Church Council
Rev Arthur Spencer		M/W Church Council
Mr Robert Vickers		Bilsthorpe Church Council
Mrs Michelle Shead		The Meden Church Council
Mr Neil Younger		The Meden Church Council
Mrs Anne Ayodele		The Meden Church Council
Mrs Doreen Jackson		Ollerton Church Council
Mrs Lynne Matthews		Ollerton Church Council

Mrs Angela Prinold		Ompton Church Council
Mrs Lynda Bowser		Ompton Church Council
Mr Simon Crane		Blidworth Church Council
Mrs Elizabeth Crane		Blidworth Church Council
Mr Alan Mosley		Rainworth Church Council
Mrs Enid Marsh		Farnsfield Church Council
Mrs Maggie Westby		Farnsfield Church Council
Mr David Wilmot		Farnsfield Church Council
Miss Ann Griffiths		CRS Church Council
Mr John Berrington		CRS Church Council

Safeguarding

The Church of England and the Methodist Church work in partnership with other Christian Churches and other agencies in delivering safeguarding. The Circuit supports the following statement of principles agreed by the denominations:

We share a commitment to:

- The care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and all adults
- The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and all adults
- The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where victims of abuse can report or disclose abuse and where they can find support and best practice that contributes to the prevention of abuse.

Each church in the Circuit is required to appoint a safeguarding representative and the Circuit appoints a Safeguarding Officer to coordinate policies, practices and training which promotes safe practice amongst children and vulnerable adults.

Staff Responsibilities & Changes

Rev Stuart Ellis became the Superintendent Minister on 1 September 2021 and held pastoral oversight of the following churches:

- Mansfield Methodist Church, Big Barn Lane
- Mansfield Methodist Church, Nottingham Road (formerly known as Bethel)
- (Blidworth Methodist Church)*
- (Rainworth Methodist Church)*
- (Farnsfield Methodist Church)*
- (Chesterfield Road Methodist Church)*
- (Forest Town Methodist Church)*

Rev Debbie Keegan joined the Circuit on 1 September 2016 and held pastoral oversight over the following churches

- Ollerton Methodist Church
- Meden Vale Methodist Church
- Trinity, Mansfield Woodhouse Methodist Church
- Bilsthorpe Methodist Church
- Ompton Methodist Church
- Shirebrook Methodist Church

*These churches had pastoral oversight delegated to remunerated supernumerary ministers for part or all of the Connexional Year.

Forest Town Methodist Church, closed as a society with its building now tenanted to another Christian denomination.

Deacon Dave Keegan joined the Circuit on 1 September 2016 and is responsible for outreach and pioneer projects within the Circuit area and was particularly focused on supporting work within the Meden Vale community.

Mrs Danni Coles, joined the Circuit on 1 September 2020 and is employed as a Children and Families Coordinator supporting the outreach and pioneer work within the Circuit area. She was involved in a range of projects focused on children and families, including toddler groups, bespoke outreach and school chaplaincy.

Risk Management

Through its CLT, risks faced by the Circuit have been considered and ongoing mitigation strategies discussed and enacted where possible. Where possible appropriate risks are insured – currently with the Methodist Insurance Company. The security and safety of our churches is largely for local churches to determine and to mitigate, taking advice from Circuit Officers and Insurers as appropriate.

All churches and manses are subject to quinquennial inspections and the reports on each are reviewed at a Circuit Level as well as by local trustees. Action is taken to maintain premises and reduce health and safety risks to all who have a legitimate purpose to be on those premises.

All churches have been surveyed for the presence of asbestos and reports made available to local churches for appropriate action if and when required.

During the course of the year advice regarding actions to be taken with regards to the covid pandemic continued to be issued to ensure that churches operated safely in accordance with Public Health information.

We have considered the resilience of churches and the risk that they will not meet their assessments payments to cover central and staffing costs. We put together a financial plan for the Circuit and judge that there are sufficient resources to cover possible shortfalls in the foreseeable future.

The Circuit operates within a statutory framework of regulation and seeks to ensure that it follows Methodist Standing Orders. It relies on the Connexional Office to provide guidance on changes that could affect the Circuit and its churches.

Trustees' Expenses

With the exception of ministerial staff, supernumerary staff and staff employed by the Circuit, who can claim for travel and out-of-pocket expenses, members of the Circuit Meeting received neither payment or reimbursement of their expenses in connection with their role as trustees.

Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which 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 have:

- Selected suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently using the receipts and payment method
- Made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Followed applicable accounting standards
- Prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Circuit and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Circuit and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

Trustees have a right to advise the independent examiner of their concerns but none has done so. The CLT concludes, therefore, that there are no issues to be advised to the independent examiner.

Financial Review

The Circuit prepares receipts and payment accounts. They are not a consolidation of the accounts of the accounts of the churches in the Circuit. The Circuit budget is prepared by first anticipating the expenditure for the forthcoming year and then then determining how that sum will be raised.

The Circuit adopted the following policy principles for the reserves in the 2021-2 Connexional Year:

- *Churches would be expected to meet their assessment payments based on the staffing commitments agreed by the Circuit Meeting (for ministers, until 2026)*
- *Spending from reserves would not exceed £35,000 per annum and would cover staff costs over and above achievable levels of income*
- *The assumptions are that reserves will be replenished once the sale of the Bridge Street site is complete.*

Capital Assets

The proceeds of sale of the premises of any Methodist Church or manse within the Circuit is generally credited to the Circuit. There is, however, a substantial levy paid to the Connexion (the Methodist Church in GB) so not all proceeds are received by the Circuit. The sale of manses requires proceeds to be spent on new manses or capital improvements to existing manses. No capital assets were bought or sold during the year.

The Circuit received rent for the use of Forest Town Methodist Church by the Redeemed Church of God and from two unused manses within the Circuit boundaries.

Funding of the Circuit's Costs

This is achieved primarily by making an assessment on each church within the Circuit using a determinative formula agreed by the Circuit Meeting. If any church were to close, that church's assessment would not be paid to the Circuit during the remainder of that year, unless it had liquid assets to do so. The Circuit's costs, principally stipends, salaries, housing and insurance costs would continue and there may be a need to draw upon reserves to meet the shortfall in income.

Annual Costs

The Circuit believes that it should ensure that it has income and reserves sufficient to cover its current staffing of three ministers (including one deacon) and a lay employee. The CLT and Circuit Meeting ensure that spending from reserves is kept at a sustainable level.

Approvals

This report and the Financial Statements of the Circuit were approved by the Circuit Meeting held on 23 February 2023, subject to inspection by the independent examiner. The examiner signed the Financial Statements in December 2022 to confirm that they had completed the inspection satisfactorily.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

.....
Rev Stuart Ellis
Superintendent Minister

.....
Rev R Jones
Circuit Treasurer

Name of Circuit: Sherwood Forest Methodist Circuit No22/23

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/~~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 R H Jones

Name of independent examiner Revd. Robert Howard Jones

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner F.C.M.A. ; C.G.M.A.

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 'HEDDWCH' 9, Blakeney drive, Mansfield Nottinghamshire

..... Post Code NG18 4DN.....

Date December 2022.....

THE METHODIST CHURCH - SHERWOOD FOREST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1133801

Accounts

22/23 Sherwood Forest Circuit
Charity Registration Number: 1133801

Trustees' Report
and
Financial Statement
for the year ended
31 August 2021

Administrative Information

Circuit Ministers

Rev Richard Tanner (Superintendent)
Rev Debbie Keegan
Deacon Dave Keegan

Children & Families Coordinator

Mrs Danni Coles

Circuit Stewards

Mr Keith Bonsall
Mr Matt Cullen
Mrs Wendy Ince

Mr Eric Thompson (Treasurer)

Independent Examiner:

Rev R Jones FCMA CGMA

“HEDDWCH”
9 Blakeney Drive
Mansfield
NG18 4DN

Trustee Report

Governance & Management

The Circuit is governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976, the Deed of Union and the Model Trust Deeds of 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 the discipline of the Methodist Church, and
- b. Any charitable purpose 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 or subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church.

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In setting objectives and planning activities, the Circuit Meeting, held three or four times a year has given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and, in particular, to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing our objectives as set out above.

During the year, the Circuit Leadership Team (consisting of the Circuit Stewards, Ministers and Circuit Treasurer) met regularly to keep the life of the Circuit under review and to take forward the decisions of the Circuit Meeting.

Activities

Our mission is

“To equip the people of God for works of mission and service so that they can hear, tell and be the Good News of Jesus Christ”

We aim to achieve this through encouraging Christian discipleship individually and collectively through the following of the Methodist Way of Life in order to follow Our Calling:



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The Church exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love

Learning and Caring

The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care



Service

The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice

Evangelism

The Church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ



Our Annual Mission Plan sets out aims and objectives under these headings for the Circuit and its member churches to aim to and is regularly reported to and evaluated by the Circuit Meeting and the Circuit Leadership Team.

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2. The Connexional Office implements decisions made by Conference and is also responsible for the stationing of Ministers in the individual Circuits
3. Connexional decisions are passed to the Chair of the District and the appropriate Officers of the District for regional implementation
4. The Districts pass down the control to Circuit level for local implementation by the Superintendent minister, ministerial staff, Circuit stewards and others. Authority can be delegated by the Connexion and District to the Circuit Meeting for certain matters.
5. The Circuit Meeting passes down control to church councils for local implementation by the Minister, the church stewards and other officers. The church councils act as managing trustees.
6. The Circuit Superintendent chairs meetings of the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) and the Circuit Meeting, which trustees are expected to attend. Policy decision are taken at the Circuit Meeting which is the supreme body for deciding matters at Circuit Level. Some powers are delegated by the Circuit Meeting to the CLT and other groups.
7. Churches, Circuits and Districts are able to pass matters upwards for consideration, ultimately to the Conference, for consideration and implementation where appropriate.
8. The Methodist Connexional year runs annually from 1 September to 31 August.

Charity Registration

The Sherwood Forest Methodist Circuit is registered charity whose registration number is 1133801

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty under the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Specifically:

- Many churches make their premises available to other organisations that need somewhere to meet

- Some churches have long term tenants
- Uniformed organisations (such as beavers, cubs, scouts, rainbows, brownies, guides) are affiliated to some of our churches and meet at church premises
- Other outreach activities
- Raising money for other charities

Trustees

The following Trustees (some with dual roles) were listed as current as at April 2021. Records are held of Trustees in post and attending meetings during the course of the 2020-21 Connexional Year.

Members of Circuit Meeting at 5th April 2021

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Appointed by</u>
Rev Richard Tanner	Chair	Methodist Conference
Mrs Enid Marsh		Farnsfield Church Council
Rev Barry Smith		Circuit
Mrs Susan Billings		Forest Town Church Council
Mr Keith Bonsall	Manse Property Steward	Circuit Meeting
Mrs Lynda Bowser		Ompton Church Council
Rev Chris Briggs		District
Mr Andrew Shewen	Connexional Giving	Circuit Meeting
Mrs Pam Clarke		Mansfield Methodist Church Council
Mrs Anne Clayton		Mansfield Woodhouse Church Council
Mrs Joyce Cree	Minutes Secretary	Circuit Meeting
Mr Stephen Cree		Mansfield Woodhouse Church Council
Mrs Elizabeth Crane		Blidworth Church Council
Mr Robert Fennell		Shirebrook Church Council
Rev Debra Keegan		Methodist Conference
Mr Simon Crane		Tr'r Blidworth Church Council
Miss Ann Griffiths		Tr Chesterfield Road Sth Church Council
Deacon Dave Keegan		Methodist Conference
Mrs Marilyn House		Forest Town Church Council
Mr Simon Hurrell		Mansfield Methodist Church Council
Mrs Wendy Ince	Circuit Steward	Circuit Meeting
Mr Gordon Slack	Property	Circuit Meeting
Rev Robert Jones		Bethel Church Council

Mrs Lynne Matthews		Ollerton Church Council
Mrs Ann Jones		Bethel Church Council
Mr Alan Mosley		Rainworth Church Council
Rev Linda Williams		Methodist Conference
Mrs Jane Perry		Forest Town Church Council
Mrs Angela Prinold		Ompton Church Council
Mr Philip Shead	Safeguarding	Circuit Meeting
Mrs Michelle Shead		Meden Vale Church Council
Mr Neil Younger		Meden Vale Church Council
Rev Arthur Spencer		Tr Mansfield Woodhouse Church Council
Mr Barrie Richmond	LP Secretary	Circuit Meeting
Mr Eric Thompson	Circuit Treasurer	Circuit Meeting
Mrs Anne Ayodele		Meden Vale Church Council
Mr John Berrington		Chesterfield Rd South Church Council
Rev John Williams		Methodist Conference
Mr David Wilmot		Farnsfield Church Council
Mrs Margaret Westby		Farnsfield Church Council
Mr Robert Vickers		Bilsthorpe Church Council
Mr George Daniel		Mansfield Methodist Church Council
Mrs Doreen Jackson		Ollerton Church Council
Mrs Hazel Fennell		Shirebrook Church Council
Mr Matthew Cullen	Circuit Steward	Circuit Meeting

Safeguarding

The Church of England and the Methodist Church work in partnership with other Christian Churches and other agencies in delivering safeguarding. The Circuit supports the following statement of principles agreed by the denominations:

We share a commitment to:

- The care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and all adults
- The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and all adults
- The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where victims of abuse can report or disclose abuse and where they can find support and best practice that contributes to the prevention of abuse.

Each church in the Circuit is required to appoint a safeguarding representative and the Circuit appoints a Safeguarding Officer to coordinate policies, practices and training which promotes safe practice amongst children and vulnerable adults.

Staff Responsibilities & Changes

Rev Richard was the Superintendent Minister and finished his term of office on 31 August 2021 and held pastoral oversight of the following churches:

- Bridge Street Methodist Church
- Big Barn Lane Methodist Church
- Bethel Methodist Church
- (Blidworth Methodist Church)*
- (Rainworth Methodist Church)*
- (Farnsfield Methodist Church)*
- (Chesterfield Road Methodist Church)
- (Forest Town Methodist Church)*

Rev Debbie Keegan joined the Circuit on 1 September 2016 and held pastoral oversight over the following churches

- Ollerton Methodist Church
- Meden Vale Methodist Church
- Trinity, Mansfield Woodhouse Methodist Church
- Bilsthorpe Methodist Church
- Ompton Methodist Church

- Shirebrook Methodist Church

*These churches had pastoral oversight delegated to remunerated supernumerary ministers for all of the Connexional Year.

Deacon Dave Keegan joined the Circuit on 1 September 2016 and is responsible for outreach and pioneer projects within the Circuit area and was particularly focused on supporting work within the Meden Vale community.

Mrs Danni Coles, joined the Circuit staff in 1 September 2020 and is employed as a Children and Families Coordinator supporting the outreach and pioneer work within the Circuit area. She was involved in a range of projects focused on children and families, including toddler groups, bespoke outreach and school chaplaincy.

Risk Management

Through its CLT, risks faced by the Circuit have been considered and ongoing mitigation strategies discussed and enacted where possible. Where possible appropriate risks are insured – currently with the Methodist Insurance Company. The security and safety of our churches is largely for local churches to determine and to mitigate, taking advice from Circuit Officers and Insurers as appropriate.

All churches and manses are subject to quinquennial inspections and the reports on each are reviewed at a Circuit Level as well as by local trustees. Action is taken to maintain premises and reduce health and safety risks to all who have a legitimate purpose to be on those premises.

All churches have been surveyed for the presence of asbestos and reports made available to local churches for appropriate action if and when required.

During the course of the year advice regarding actions to be taken with regards to the covid pandemic continued to be issued to ensure that churches operated safely in accordance with Public Health information. Churches were shut during lockdown periods and online alternative arrangements were made when necessary.

We have considered the resilience of churches and the risk that they will not meet their assessments payments to cover central and staffing costs. We put together a financial plan for the Circuit and judge that there are sufficient resources to cover possible shortfalls in the foreseeable future.

The Circuit operates within a statutory framework of regulation and seeks to ensure that it follows Methodist Standing Orders. It relies on the Connexional Office to provide guidance on changes that could affect the Circuit and its churches.

Trustees' Expenses

With the exception of ministerial staff, supernumerary staff and staff employed by the Circuit, who can claim for travel and out-of-pocket expenses, members of the Circuit Meeting received neither payment or reimbursement of their expenses in connection with their role as trustees.

Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which 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 have:

- Selected suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently using the receipts and payment method
- Made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Followed applicable accounting standards
- Prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Circuit and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Circuit and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

Trustees have a right to advise the independent examiner of their concerns but none has done so. The CLT concludes, therefore, that there are no issues to be advised to the independent examiner.

Financial Review

The Circuit prepares receipts and payment accounts. They are not a consolidation of the accounts of the churches in the Circuit. The Circuit budget is prepared by first anticipating the expenditure

for the forthcoming year and then then determining how that sum will be raised.

The Circuit adopted the following policy principles for the reserves in the 2020-1 Connexional Year:

- *Churches would be expected to meet their assessment payments based on the existing staffing commitments agreed by the Circuit Meeting*
- *Spending from reserves would not exceed £60,000 per annum and would cover staff costs over and above achievable levels of income*
- *The assumptions are that reserves will be replenished once the sale of the church sites that had closed.*

Capital Assets

The proceeds of sale of the premises of any Methodist Church or manse within the Circuit is generally credited to the Circuit. There is, however, a substantial levy paid to the Connexion (the Methodist Church in GB) so not all proceeds are received by the Circuit. The sale of manses requires proceeds to be spent on new manses or capital improvements to existing manses. No capital assets were bought or sold during the year.

The Circuit received rent for the use of Forest Town Methodist Church by the Redeemed Church of God and from two unused manses within the Circuit boundaries.

Funding of the Circuit's Costs

This is achieved primarily by making an assessment on each church within the Circuit using a determinative formula agreed by the Circuit Meeting. If any church were to close, that church's assessment would not be paid to the Circuit during the remainder of that year, unless it had liquid assets to do so. The Circuit's costs, principally stipends, salaries, housing and insurance costs would continue and there may be a need to draw upon reserves to meet the shortfall in income.

Annual Costs

The Circuit believes that it should ensure that it has income and reserves sufficient to cover its current staffing of three ministers (including one deacon) and a lay employee. The CLT and Circuit Meeting ensure that spending from reserves is kept at a sustainable level.

Approvals

This report and the Financial Statements of the Circuit were approved by the Circuit Meeting held on 22 February 2022, subject to inspection by the independent examiner. The examiner signed the Financial Statements in November 2021 to confirm that they had completed the inspection satisfactorily.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

.....

.....
Rev Stuart Ellis
Superintendent Minister

.....
Rev R Jones
Circuit Treasurer

Name of Circuit: Sherwood Forest Methodist Circuit No22/23

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/~~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 R H Jones

Name of independent examiner Revd. Robert Howard Jones

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner F.C.M.A. ; C.G.M.A.

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 'HEDDWCH' 9, Blakeney drive, Mansfield Nottinghamshire

..... Post Code NG18 4DN.....

Date November 2021.....

* delete or circle as appropriate

THE METHODIST CHURCH - SHERWOOD FOREST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1133801

Accounts

Trustees Annual Report for the year 1st September 2019 to 31st August 2020

Charity Name: - Mansfield Methodist Circuit

Registered Charity Number: - 1133801

Principal Address: - Birchling House, 85 Windsor Road, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire NG18 4ED

Names of the **Charity Trustees** who manage the charity:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Appointed by</u>
Rev Richard Tanner	Chair		Methodist Conference
Mrs Margaret Allwood		To May 2020	Farnsfield Church Council
Mrs Jean Ball	Network Treasurer		Circuit Meeting
Mrs Susan Billings			Forest Town Church Council
Mr Keith Bonsall	Manse Property Steward		Circuit Meeting
Mrs Lynda Bowser			Ompton Church Council
Mrs Barbara Sutton			Rainworth Church Council
Mr Andrew Shewen	Connexional Giving		Circuit Meeting
Mrs Pam Clarke			Big Barn Lane Church Council
Mrs Anne Clayton			Mansfield Woodhouse Church Council
Mrs Joyce Cree	Minutes Secretary		Circuit Meeting
Mr Stephen Cree			Mansfield Woodhouse Church Council
Mrs Samantha Glasswell		To June 2020	Bridge Str Church Council
Mrs Elizabeth Crane			Blidworth Church Council
Mr Alan Darlington	Champion for Children & Young People		Circuit Meeting
Miss Celia Farnsworth			Edwinstowe Church Council
Mr Robert Fennell			Shirebrook Church Council
Rev Debra Keegan			Methodist Conference
Mr Simon Crane			Blidworth Church Council
Miss Ann Griffiths			Chesterfield Road South Church Council
Deacon Dave Keegan			Methodist Conference
Mrs Marilyn House			Forest Town Church Council
Mrs Marian Jeffcoat		To 19.04.2020	Edwinstowe Church Council
Mr Simon Hurrell			Big Barn Lane Church Council
Mrs Wendy Ince	Circuit Steward		Circuit Meeting
Mr Gordon Slack	Property		Circuit Meeting
Rev Robert Jones			Bethel Church Council
Mrs Lynne Matthews			Ollerton Church Council
Mrs Ann Jones			Bethel Church Council
Mr Alan Mosley			Rainworth Church Council
Rev Linda Williams			Methodist Conference
Mrs Jane Perry			Forest Town Church Council
Mrs Charlotte Folkes		To 31.08.2020	Big Barn Lane Church Council
Mrs Angela Prinold			Ompton Church Council
Mrs Molly Pollitt	Circuit Steward	To 12.02.20	Circuit Meeting
Mrs Michelle Shead			Meden Vale Church Council
Mr Neil Younger			Meden Vale Church Council
Rev Arthur Spencer			Mansfield Woodhouse Church Council
Mr Barrie Richmond			Blidworth Church Council
Mr Eric Thompson	Circuit Treasurer		Circuit Meeting
Mrs Irene Shawcroft		To 19.04.2020	Edwinstowe Church Council
Mr Derek Richardson			Chesterfield Rd South Church Council
Rev John Yarren		To 31.08.2020	Methodist Conference

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Appointed by</u>
Mr Edwin Tattersall		To Nov 2020	Warsop Church Council
Rev John Williams			Methodist Conference
Mr David Wilmot			Farnsfield Church Council
Mr Alan Tighe			Farnsfield Church Council
Mr Robert Vickers			Bilsthorpe Church Council
Mr George Daniel			BBL
Dr Stephen Head		From 01.09.2019	Ollerton
Mrs Doreen Jackson		From 18.08.2019	Ollerton
Mrs Hazel Fennell			Shirebrook
Mr Matthew Cullen		From 12.05.2019	Bridge St
Mr Clifford Tyers		From 12.05.2019	Bridge St

Structure, Governance & Management

Type of Governing Document: - Act of Parliament

How Charity Constituted: - Trust

Trustee Selection: - Appointed by - Methodist Conference, Circuit Meeting, Church Council, Ex Officio

Custodian Trustees: - Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

Governance: - The governing documents of the Trust are The Methodist Deed of Union 1932 & the Methodist Church Act 1976

Objectives & Activities:- A summary of the objectives of the Charity as set out in the governing document – the Methodist Church Act 1976 (clause 4) ‘The advancement of Religion and any charitable purpose of the Methodist Church or organisation’.

Circuit Mission Statement:- The Mansfield Methodist Circuit is a group of linked churches centred on Jesus Christ. Through worship and service we aim to present the Good News of Jesus Christ in relevant ways as we respond to the needs of the world and those around us.

Adopted at the Circuit Meeting of the Mansfield Methodist Circuit on 17 June 2004.

Summary of main activities undertaken for public benefit in relation to these objectives: – included in this section is the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commissioners on public benefit.

Mansfield Circuit encourages its group of linked churches to:

- Provide regular public acts of worship open to members & non-members alike
- Our churches provide sacred spaces (buildings) for prayer & contemplation
- Teach Christianity through sermons, courses and smaller groups
- Undertake pastoral work including visiting the sick & bereaved
- Take religious assemblies in local schools
- Promotes Christianity through staging events and services
- Encourage the young people’s groups, senior citizen’s lunch clubs, women’s and men’s meetings using our buildings with our Christian ethos.
- Promote the whole mission of the church (and aiding social cohesion) through activities for older people, parents & toddlers and other specific needs groups.
- Support other charities in the UK and overseas both financially and with prayer

The trustees have due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commissioners when exercising any powers or duties to which guidance is relevant.

Achievement & Performance: - during year 2015/16 we have continued to develop Re-Shaping for Mission within the Circuit to ensure all our churches maintain a focus on mission. We have continued to move forward in Mission and Worship with emphasis on the “Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations” as adopted by the Notts and Derby District:-

- Radical hospitality
- Passionate worship
- Intentional faith development
- Risk taking mission service
- Extravagant generosity

The Circuit Leadership Team aims to meet monthly to discuss the mission and ministry of the circuit.

All our churches have provided regular acts of worship led by our Ministers, Local Preachers or Worship Leaders.

The Lay Employees within our Circuit are effectively managed and encouraged to undertake work within the church & its community especially in local schools.

As well as being used for worship our buildings are well used by other church and community groups. The church in Ollerton continues to host the Foodbank for 2 sessions a week. Mansfield Woodhouse church is continuing with its’ links to the wider Christian community there to promote and support the Sherwood Forest Foodbank. The Soup Kitchen at Bridge St Church operates two nights per week. Bilsthorpe operates a Community Cafés.

Financial Review: - The Accounts for the year ending 31st August 2020 are published separately. They are prepared on the Methodist Church Standard Form of Accounts on an accruals basis. They have been independently examined and no matters have been brought to the attention of the Circuit Meeting by this examination.

The Circuit Reserves Policy accompanies this report and shows none of the Circuit Funds to be in deficit. The Circuit Meeting has granted funds to local churches from the Circuit Model Trust Fund as listed:-

- The Children & Youth Worker at Trinity, Mansfield Woodhouse - £1146
- The Children & Young People Worker at Chesterfield Rd South - £4385
- The Children & Young People Worker at Clipstone, Rainworth & Big Barn Lane - £2431
- The Family Worker at Bridge Street - £2185

Agreed by the Trustees of Mansfield Methodist Circuit at their Circuit Meeting held on 23/02/2021.

Signed: Chairman - *RJTanner* Rev Richard Tanner

Signed: Secretary – *JECree* Mrs Joyce Cree

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2019

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2018-19
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
1	Donations and legacies	6,736			1,528		8,264
2	Income from monetary investments	140	1,515			103	1,758
3	Income from investment properties	12,486					12,486
4	Assessments on Churches	199,202					199,202
5	Capital Receipts						0
6	Grants received						0
7	Other charitable income	65,397					65,397
8	Total income	283,961	1,515	-	1,528	103	287,107
Expenditure							
9	Grants and donations	10,397					10,397
10	Salaries and associated costs	192,721					192,721
11	Property maintenance	14,136					14,136
12	Connexional assessment & model trust levy						0
13	District Assessment & Levy	60,135					60,135
14	Depreciation						0
15	Office expenses						0
16	Other outgoings	33,653	7,056			12	40,721
17	Total charitable expenditure	311,042	7,056	0	0	12	318,110
18	Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		86			199	285
19	Gains/(losses) on investment properties						
20	Net income/(expenditure)	-27,081	-5,455	0	1,528	290	-30,718
21	Transfers between funds	20,091	-	20,000			91
22	Other gains/(losses)						0
23	Net movement in funds	-6,990	-25,455	0	1,528	199	-30,718
24	Total funds brought forward	1,047,647	183,784		9,410	6,061	1,246,902
25	Total funds carried forward	1,040,657	158,329	-	10,938	6,260	1,216,184

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2020

Notes to the accounts	Circuit Model Trust		Designated Funds (unrestricted)		Restricted Funds		Endowment Funds		Total 2019-20	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income										
1 Donations and legacies	6,613				3,283					9,896
2 Income from monetary investments	120	1,332					73			1,525
3 Income from investment properties	8,659									8,659
4 Assessments on Churches	213,258									213,258
5 Capital Receipts										0
6 Grants received										0
7 Other charitable income	49,850									49,850
8 Total income	278,500	1,332	-	-	3,283	-	73	-	-	283,188
Expenditure										
9 Grants and donations	4,640									4,640
10 Salaries and associated costs	196,621									196,621
11 Property maintenance	18,932									18,932
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy										0
13 District Assessment & Levy	59,984									59,984
14 Depreciation										0
15 Office expenses										0
16 Other outgoings	28,932	440					12			29,384
17 Total charitable expenditure	309,109	440	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	309,561
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments										0
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties										0
20 Net income/(expenditure)	-30,609	892	0	0	3,283	0	62	0	0	-26,373
21 Transfers between funds	20,062	20,000								62
22 Other gains/(losses)										0
23 Net movement in funds	-10,547	-19,108	0	0	3,283	0	62	0	0	-26,311
24 Total funds brought forward	1,047,709	152,912			10,938		6,197			1,217,756
25 Total funds carried forward	1,037,162	133,804	-	-	14,221	-	6,259	-	-	1,191,445

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2020

Notes to the Accounts	GN					Totals 2018/19 £
	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	
Fixed Assets						
Circuit Mances & Equipment	955,000					955,000
Investment properties						0
Investments						0
Total fixed assets	955,000	0	0	0	0	955,000
Current Assets						
Debtors						0
Loans by the Circuit						0
Investments with TMCP		133,804		6,259		140,063
Central Finance Board Deposits	15,279					15,279
Cash at Bank and in hand	66,882			14,221		81,103
Total current assets	82,161	133,804	0	14,221	6,259	236,445
Current liabilities						
Creditors (due in under 1 year)						0
Grants payable within 2018-19						0
Total current liabilities	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net current assets/liabilities	82,161	133,804	0	14,221	6,259	236,445
Total assets less current liabilities	1,037,161	133,804	0	14,221	6,259	1,191,445
Long term liabilities						
(due after more than one year)						0
Grants payable after 2018-19						0
Loans to the Circuit						0
Not assets	1,037,161	133,804	0	14,221	6,259	1,191,445
Funds of the Circuit						
General Fund (Unrestricted)	1,037,161					1,037,161
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)		133,804				133,804
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)						0
Total Unrestricted Funds						1,170,965
Restricted Funds				14,221		14,221
Endowment Funds					6,259	6,259
Total Funds	1,037,161	133,804	0	14,221	6,259	1,191,445

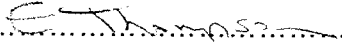
Signed

Circuit Treasurer

Name of Circuit: Sherwood Forest..... No: 22/23.

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-based accounts for the year to 31 August 2020 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 17.9.20

Name and address of treasurer: Eric Thompson

15 Delamere Close, Mansfield, Notts. Post Code: NG18 4DJ

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 were presented to the Circuit meeting held on 23.2.21

Signature of the Chair of the meeting: 

Name of the Chair of the meeting: Rev Richard Tanner Date: 23.2.21

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Sherwood Forest Circuit

Charity Number: 1133801

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Sherwood Forest Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2020 set out on pages 1 to 3. As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Circuit's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Independent Examiner's Statement

[The Circuit's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of (*insert name of applicable listed body*)]. *Delete [] if not applicable.*

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 *Delete if not applicable ie all R&P accounts*
- the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts *Delete if not applicable ie all R&P 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 which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner

Name of independent examiner: Revd. Robert Howard Jones

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner: F.C. M. A. : C. G.M. A.
.....

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 'HEDDWCH' 9, Blakeney Drive, Mansfield, Notts. Post Code NG18 4DN

Date: 21st January 2021

* delete or circle as appropriate