

Nottingham North Circuit of the Methodist  
Church

Trustees Annual Report

Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020

## 1. Objectives and Activities

Our Calling as the Nottingham North Circuit of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out our discipleship in worship and mission, doing this through Evangelism, Worship, Service, Learning and Caring.

## 2. Achievements and performance

The circuit has engaged with churches and local communities to provide a wider mission to society and to develop whole life discipleship by

- Supporting radical hospitality
- Encouraging passionate worship
- Resourcing intentional faith development
- Supporting, encouraging and resourcing risk taking mission and service
- Engaging in and supporting extravagant generosity
- Responding to the challenges of the Covid 19 pandemic, working within and following government guidelines from March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020 to August 31<sup>st</sup> 2020.

### 2.1. Plans for future years

In light of Covid 19 we will carry forward plans already in place, making adjustments in line with government restrictions and guidelines.

Nottingham East Methodist Circuit Charity (1134229) will officially and formally merge with Nottingham North Methodist Circuit Charity (1134223) to become Nottingham North East Methodist Circuit Charity (1134223) on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2020

#### **Evangelism** – *to make more followers of Christ*

Over the next 5 years we will encourage our churches to increase the number of disciples (church members) with the number of new members outweighing natural loss in churches through varying styles of evangelism, pioneer ministry, Fresh Expressions and Church Planting.

In 2020 – 2021 we will

- Engage with the Nottingham and Derby District to provide Mission shaped Introduction and Mission Shaped Ministry Courses in our churches
- Engage and promote resources which grow confidence in the Gospel and an ability to share faith
- Organise missions within the circuit and identify evangelists of all ages to take part
- Promote the National Weekend of Invitation and encourage an invitational mindset

#### **Worship** – *to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love*

We will resource diverse styles and opportunities for passionate worship.

In 2020 – 2021 we will

- Organise Circuit worship and bible events
- Promote youth led worship around the circuit
- Identify new local preachers and worship leaders in the circuit

#### **Service** – *To be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice*

To be outward looking in our communities, serving needs and to seek justice wherever we are able

In 2020 – 2021 we will

- Promote outreach work in our communities and to encourage Chaplaincy in different sectors

**Learning and caring** – *to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care*

We will resource churches to nurture an attitude of intentional faith development across the circuit

In 2020 – 2021 we will

- Encourage our people to attend whole life discipleship courses
- Resource creative ways of developing spirituality and engaging with the bible

### **3 Financial Review**

#### **3.1 Investment policy and performance**

To comply with Methodist Standing Orders, moneys for long time investment are lodged with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP). TMCP acts as custodian trustee for all real estate held by Districts and for all large (over 20k) bequests and for the proceeds of sale of any property formerly owned by the District. These sums are invested in unitized investments or held on deposit. The investment returns are close to tracking the movements in the FTSE 100 index. The deposit income mirrors the deposit rates available elsewhere. The Nottingham North Circuit Trustees' investment policy is aligned with that of the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church (CFB) and TMCP because these organisations take into consideration the social, environmental and ethical considerations, both negatively and positively, that make investments suitable for the Methodist Church.

Short term deposits are lodged directly with the Central Finance Board (CFB) and attract good rates of interest.

There are no benchmarks for the expected returns or appreciation on investments at TMCP and CFB. It is the Circuit's policy to manage the cash and investment resources of the Circuit so that a rate of return on investment – both by way of dividend and capital appreciation – is obtained at least as good as market rate considering the Circuit's low appetite for risk.

### 3.2 Reserves level and policy

The reserves 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 was £567765

Which can be split

Unrestricted Funds

General £60263

Model Trust Fund £507502

Restricted Funds £0

Total funds £567765

The Trustees have agreed to keep the general funds to a level representing 6 months expenditure.

All monies are invested with the CFB or TMCP with a certain amount kept in the current account for week by week expenses

### 3.3 Collaborative arrangements with connected charities

The circuit's main source of funding is the assessments obtained from each church within the circuit, based on a formula which included the churches' ability to pay. This amounted to £157457

#### **4. Trustees' responsibilities**

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

1. Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently using the accruals method;
2. Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
3. Follow applicable accounting standards;
4. Prepare accounts to comply with the Charities SORP.

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

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information (if any) included on the Circuit's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom, governing and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In addition to the above, the Trustees are responsible for ensuring the Health and Safety policy is implemented.

Training in the responsibilities of trustees is offered to all new trustees soon after their appointment.

#### **4.1 Risk**

The Circuit is largely risk averse, but especially in making grants to churches embarking on new and imaginative initiatives. The Circuit is prepared to underwrite considered risks.

### **5 Structure, governance and management**

The Circuit is an unincorporated association and is governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976, the Deed of Union and the Model Trust Deeds of the Methodist Church and was registered with the Charity Commissioners on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

#### **5.1 Structure**

Circuits are the coordinating charities for local groups of Churches; Circuits pay the stipends of the ministers and employ lay staff to serve the Churches in the Circuit; most decisions are made at and ratified by the periodic Circuit Meeting. A District is the coordinating charity for a group of contiguous Circuits and makes its decisions at half yearly Synods. The Methodist Conference meets once each year as the supreme denominational body for all Methodist Churches.

Overall regulatory authority rests with the Methodist Conference.

The Connexional Office implements decisions made by Conference and is also responsible for the stationing of presbyters and deacons (collectively known as ministers) in individual Circuits within the District.

Connexional decisions are passed to the Chair of District and the appropriate officers of the District for implementation.

The District passes control down to Circuit level for local implementation by the Superintendent Minister, ministerial staff and Circuit Stewards, and authority is delegated to the Circuit Meeting for certain matters.

The Circuit Meeting passes regulatory control down to Church Councils for local implementation by the presbyter, the Church Stewards, and other officers, and this regulatory authority is then exercised by Church Councils as Managing Trustees of their charity.





## **5.2 Purpose of the Circuit**

The Circuit is a local grouping of churches.

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

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

The primary purpose of the Circuit is to advance the mission of the Churches in its geographical area:

1. to provide ministry and administrative resources to local churches.
2. offering to Churches, resources of finance, property, personnel and safeguarding expertise.

## **5.3 Governance**

The Circuit operates within a statutory framework of regulation and seeks to ensure that it follows Methodist Standing Orders. It relies on the District and the Connexional Office at 25 Marylebone Road London NW1 5JR to provide guidance on changes that could affect the Circuit.

The Circuit Meeting is the principle body responsible for the affairs of the Circuit and the development of circuit policy.

Membership of the Circuit Meeting is set out in the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church, (standing orders).

#### **5.4 Responsibility of the Circuit Meeting**

- a. to formulate and promote policies which will advance our policy of discipleship and mission, through evangelism, worship, service, learning and caring;
- b. to supervise the use of resources of personnel, finance and property and to assist local Churches having exceptional problems;
- c. to encourage inter- Church and Ecumenical co-operation;
- d. to assess the contribution to be made by each local church towards the general expenditure of the Circuit, including the circuit contribution to the Methodist Church Fund;
- e. to keep within its purview all Circuit concerns not dealt with elsewhere;
- f. to contribute and respond, as the case may be, to the development of Connexional policies as reflected in the work of the Conference and the Methodist Council, and the District, and to carry out its other responsibilities with any such development in mind;
- g. to be constantly aware of the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

The Circuit Meeting is charged to undertake these policies with the practices of radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission and service, and extravagant generosity within the Circuit.

#### **Key Working Practices**

It will ensure that:

- Appropriate staff have been and will be appointed to resource and implement the Circuit Policy.
- Safeguarding policies and practices permeate all areas of Circuit life.
- Equality, diversity and inclusion informs our practice.
- Finance and resources are in place to enable the vision of the Policy.
- Circuits and churches are enabled to develop their own Mission Plans by 2020.

## **6. Reference and Administrative Details**

### **6.1 Name of the Charity**

Nottingham North Circuit of the Methodist Church

### **6.2 Charity registration number**

1134223

### **6.3 Principal Office**

n/a

### **6.4 Chair of Circuit Meeting**

Rev Andrew Charlesworth

### **6.5 Secretary of Circuit Meeting**

Mr Graham Daft

### **6.6 Circuit Treasurer**

Mr David Gorton

## **6.8 Names of Trustees**

The following served as trustees throughout part or all of the year, or were trustees at the date of the report

Rev Andrew Charlesworth  
Rev Sue Edwards  
Rev Barbara Neill  
Rev Lawrence Sharp  
Rev David Wheatley  
Gillian Bakewell  
David Blount  
Jennifer Breaks  
Derrick Brewster  
Anne Brewster  
Doreen Carruthers  
Steve Corah  
Rebecca Cornell  
Graham Daft  
Jill Daft  
Christopher Easton  
Pauline Fisher  
Joan French  
David Gorton  
Joan Hallam  
Lynda Johnson  
Anthony Derek Marshall  
Ian Pickering  
Shirley Pickett  
Audrey Seaman  
Gill Slack  
Patricia Stansby  
Peter Stokes  
Valerie Stone  
Gillian Surgay  
Elizabeth Walker  
Janet Wilson

## **6.9 Managing Trustees**

The Managing Trustees for the circuit are all members of the circuit meeting

## **6.10 Bank**

HSBC Arnold

## **6.11 Investment Managers**

Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church  
9 Bonhill Street  
London  
ERC2A 4PE

### **6.12 Custodian Trustees**

Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes  
Central Buildings,  
Oldham Street  
Manchester  
M1 1JQ

### **6.13 Independent Examiner**

John O'Brien, employee of Community Accounting Plus  
Units 1&2 North West,  
41 Talbot Street  
Nottingham  
NG1 5GL

### **Approvals**

Signed on behalf of the Circuit Meeting by:

Trustee

Print

Date

Trustee

Print

Date

## THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Nottingham North	Circuit
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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 AUGUST 2020**

Nottingham and Derby District	<b>District</b>	<b>Circuit no</b>	22 01
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**Registered Charity - Charity Registration number**

1134227

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 to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242 )

Ministers:

Revd Andrew Charlseworth
Revd Susan Edwards (left April 2020)

Circuit Stewards:

Mr D Blount
Mr S Corah
Mr D Gorton
Mr I Pickering
Mrs L Johnson
Mrs V Stone

Treasurer:

Mr D Gorton
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