

LINCOLNSHIRE METHODIST DISTRICT

England & Wales · Charity number 1134228

Details

Other names	LINCOLN AND GRIMSBY METHODIST DISTRICT
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2010-02-09
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	c/o Burton Road Methodist Church 175 Burton Road Lincoln LN1 3LW
Phone	01522370126
Email	PA@lincolnshiremethodist.org.uk
Website	www.lincolnshiremethodist.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: THE PROVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES. PROMOTING CHRISTIANITY THROUGH THE STAGING OF EVENTS AND ACTS OF PUBLIC WORSHIP. PROVIDING ADVOCACY, ADVICE, TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTERS AND LAY PERSONS; INFORMATION FOR CIRCUITS IN THE DISTRICT. GIVING FINANCIAL AID TO CIRCUITS AND ORGANISATIONS TO ENABLE THEM TO FURTHER THE OBJECTS OF THE METHODIST CHURCH.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Other Finance, Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL
- Lincolnshire
- North East Lincolnshire
- North Lincolnshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£504,467	£354,765	£583,605	4
2024-08-31	£342,905	£321,855	-	-
2023-08-31	£309,419	£237,780	-	-
2022-08-31	£261,317	£274,258	-	-
2021-08-31	£243,191	£226,577	-	-
2020-08-31	£211,176	£238,053	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev ANGELA JANE LONG	Chair	2019-09-14
Barry Richardson		2026-01-07
Dr Julie Doddrell		2026-01-07
Hazel Ann Jackson		2026-01-07
Joan Elisabeth Smithson		2024-07-01
Rev Neil Vickers		2024-05-02
Rev Robert Llewelyn Roberts		2026-01-07
Richard Andrew Melling		2024-02-15
SALLY-ANN ROBINSON		2017-09-16

Accounts

Objectives and Activities

Lincolnshire Methodist District (the District) exists to advance the mission of the Methodist Church throughout the majority of the geographic county of Lincolnshire and the areas of North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire (hereafter known as Lincolnshire) by providing support for the nine circuits in line with Connexional priorities. The District comprises around 100 local Methodist churches meeting in around 110 buildings grouped into nine circuits served by a ministerial team of 18 ordained ministers plus a number of part time active retired ministers, lay workers and many volunteers.

The District is led by a full time District Chair working with a personal assistant, a safeguarding officer, synod secretary and district officer. In addition, a large number of voluntary officers, including a district steward, support the work of the District.

The District Synod, which met twice during the year, sets the policy for the District, serving as a link between the Methodist Conference and the Connexional team on the one hand and the circuits and local churches on the other. It has oversight of all District matters, formulating and promoting policies, through its various officers and committees to assist the mission of the Church, to give inspiration to the leaders in the circuits and to ensure the interrelation of all aspects of the Church's life throughout the District.

The day to day work of the Synod is carried out by the District Council who are the trustees of Lincolnshire Methodist District. As a registered charity, the District takes seriously its responsibilities to the Charity Commissioners and adheres to their guidance concerning public benefit in relation to charitable objectives.

2. Achievements and Performance

The following activities took place during the year:

- New Chair of District, Rev Angela Long, was welcomed to her role at the end of August 2023 at a celebration service held at Side Door Methodist Church in Grimsby. The Secretary of Conference, Rev Dr Jonathan Hustler, was in attendance along with civic and ecumenical guests.
- Also at Side Door Church, in September, a Connexional commissioning service was held for national Youth President, Tom Hart, who is from that circuit. The President and Vice-President of Conference attended.
- Rev Long welcomed three new ministers into the District in services held in September. A further two new ministers were identified in the stationing process in the autumn of 2023 ready for arrival in the District in September 2024.
- Two representative synods, two ministerial synods and a ministers' gathering took place drawing together ministers and lay people from all the circuits to ratify decisions and vote on important issues.
- The District arranged two retreats at Launde Abbey for all the active ministers. Another regional retreat was held for probationer ministers. All ministers were supported by a process of Ministerial Development Review (MDR) arranged by the District. All ministers were part of a scheme of supervision.
- A successful training day for all involved in the Ministerial Development Review process was held in January.
- Young people from Lincoln and South Holland circuits were enabled to attend the national 3 Generate youth event in Birmingham in October.
- A children's and youth activity day for leaders was held in November at St Giles Methodist Church.

- The Chair of District visited several of the five Church of England/Methodist primary schools in the District. Some of these were also supported by a volunteer schools officer.
- A well-attended and informative training day for local preachers and worship leaders was hosted by the District LPWL group in April.
- During the spring the Chair of District undertook visits to each circuit asking what were their hopes and fears. The information gathered will feed into a process of looking at how the District might want to re-shape to be effective in the coming years.
- Celebrations began in April to mark the 25th anniversary of the agricultural charity "Lincolnshire Rural Support Network" of which the ministry of agricultural chaplain, Rev Canon Alan Robson is closely linked. An event was held at Epworth Old Rectory with invitations to the church and farming community. The agricultural chaplain has been able to support many farming families going through difficult times.
- The Lincolnshire Community Healthcare Chaplaincy was pleased to launch a bespoke training course for prospective chaplains. This started in October and was completed the following February. 8 participants took part and all were recommended to be chaplains. Some have been successfully placed in GP surgeries and placements are still being sought for others. 8 other chaplains continued visiting 6 GP practices. On the hottest day of the year in July a joyful commissioning service for all the chaplains was held at Ruskington Methodist Church. The role of chaplaincy manager became a part time paid post during the year.
- The District Resourcing Mission Group met within the year to consider grant applications from churches, circuits and ecumenical groups. As well as grants for property and personnel several grants to help provide "warm spaces" were provided.
- A new places for new people pilot project was launched in the Barton, Brigg and Wolds Circuit and received the initial Connexional grant for this purpose.
- Meetings with circuit stewards and superintendent ministers took place to help share information and good practice.
- The District office relocated to Burton Road Methodist Church in May.
- In July a special District Service was held at Bailgate Methodist Church to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women in the Methodist Church.
- An independent chair was appointed to the District Safeguarding Group on a consultancy basis from July.
- 122 people were trained on the Creating Safer Spaces Advanced safeguarding course either in person or online. The DSO also supported circuits by leading a foundation course.
- The District Safeguarding Officer arranged equality, diversity and inclusion training in most of the nine circuits. Over 300 people have now completed this course.
- The District Safeguarding Officer supported many churches and individuals in a variety of case work and with the development of policy and procedure.
- The District Synod Secretary retired after many years of faithful service and a process of recruitment took place to appoint a successor who started in July.
- The Connexional Learning Network appointed a new Learning and Development Officer aligned to Lincolnshire.
- A new Care of Supernumeraries group was set up to offer pastoral care to the 50 retired ministers in the District.
- A small environmental working group was launched to help the District work towards net-zero by 2030. The first task was to write a District Environmental Policy.

2.1 Plans for future years

Rev Angela Long has visited circuits and congregations listening to hopes and fears which will help shape future policy beyond 2024. Synod received presentations from other circuits giving ideas of ways in which Districts/Circuits can be reorganised. These ideas continue to be discussed and will form the basis of proposals at the Spring Synod of 2025.

3. Financial Review

During the year the District received total income of £342,905 (2022-2023: £309,419) and spent £321,855 (2022-2023: £237,780), resulting in a surplus of £21,050 (2022-2023 surplus of £71,639) across all funds. Total reserves carried forward are £433,903 (2022-2023: £412,854) and, as a result, the unrestricted readily available reserves total £82,425 (2022-2023: £84,860) and restricted reserves total £41,852 (2022-2023: £65,209) excluding the restricted District Advance Fund.

The trustees of the District have every reason to believe that the District is a going concern, principally because Circuits continue to meet their assessments and the District has adequate reserves to cover any shortfall in anticipated income. There are no subsidiary undertakings. Trustees are very aware of the increasing pressure on circuit finances due to the cost of living crisis and diminishing church membership and recognise that the next few years could be extremely difficult for individuals, churches, circuits and the District given that District income is a by-product of local giving.

The District continues to hold one freehold property which is the Chair's Manse in Lincoln.

The District has the following principal sources of income:

- Assessments on Circuits within the District
- Distribution from the Connexional Priority Fund to the District Advance Fund
- Levies on the Circuit Model Trust Funds of Circuits within the District to the District Advance Fund
- Interest on funds invested

These sums are used to administer the District and to provide grants to circuits, churches and individuals in the District so that they may embark on or continue with projects that fulfil the mission of the District.

Methodist Ministers' Pension Fund

Trustees are aware that the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme is treated as a group defined benefit plan. The net defined benefit cost is recognised by the sponsoring entity, The Methodist Church in Great Britain, as there is no contractual agreement or stated policy for charging the net defined benefit cost to individual entities, such as the District. The District recognises a cost equal to its contributions payable for the period. Further details in respect of these pension arrangements are disclosed in the accounts of The Methodist Church in Great Britain.

3.1 Investment Policy and Performance

To comply with Methodist Standing Orders, monies for long term 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 districts. These sums are invested in unitised investments or held on deposit. The investment returns are close to tracking the movements in the FTSE100 index. The deposit income mirrors the deposit rates available elsewhere. The District Trustees' investment policy is aligned with that of the Central Finance Board (CFB) and TMCP because these organisations take into consideration the social, environmental and ethical considerations, both negatively and positively in establishing investment policy.

Short term deposits are lodged directly with the CFB and attract rates of interest comparable to the rest of the market.

There are no benchmark marks for the expected returns at TMCP and CFB. It is the District's policy to manage the cash and investment resources of the District 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 District's low appetite for risk. Due to increased interest rates during the past year the total return achieved on the funds invested with the CFB was between 4.96% and 5.4% AER with an average monthly rate of 5.22% AER for the year.

3.2 Reserves Policy

This Reserves policy relates to the funds operated by the Trustees of the Lincolnshire Methodist District (the District). A bank current account is operated for the District expenses fund, and money not immediately required is placed on deposit with the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church (CFB).

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

District Advance Fund - Trust No.16017

This Fund is held with The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes in its Trustee Interest Fund. The use of the Fund is regulated by Standing Order (SO) 963 of the Methodist Church, where its purposes are restricted to the support of personnel serving in the District or any of its circuits, for property schemes approved under SO 93 and where applicable SO 931, and for ecumenical work. The District has also decided that grants should only be given if the relevant scheme is shown to be for, or to assist, mission work and is in accordance with its vision statement.

The Fund is administered on behalf of Synod by the District Resourcing Mission Group, and derives its income from an annual levy on Circuit Model Trust Funds within the District, an annual allocation from the Connexional Priority Fund and interest on funds held awaiting distribution. Sufficient reserves are held to cover grants already awarded for payment in subsequent years in order to comply with "The Statement of Recommended Practice" relative thereto. At 31st August 2024 the balance in hand was £247,542, an excess of £79,267 over contingent liabilities for grants promised for future years of £168,275.

General (District Expenses) Fund

This Fund receives income from Circuit assessments and bank interest and is used for general expenses of the District. The aim of the Trustees is to hold sufficient readily available funds to cover at least two quarters expenditure (2024-2025: approx. £65,000) and redundancy costs. If it were necessary to make all employees redundant in 2025 payments of a minimum of approximately £7,500 would be due. The balance in hand at 31st August 2024 of £82,425 is therefore approximately £10,000 more than necessary.

DESIGNATED FUNDS

Chair's Manse Fund

This fund, held on deposit with the Central Finance Board (CFB), receives transfers from the General Fund and interest on the funds deposited and is designed to meet exceptional expenditure incurred on the Chair's manse. The balance of £3,879 as at 31st August 2023 was all spent in September 2023 whilst preparing the manse for the incoming Chair of District. Over the next five years a balance of £45,000 should be built up by designating amounts from the General fund in order to provide a replacement kitchen and other planned and routine maintenance upon the arrival of an incoming chair of District in years to come.

Relocation Fund

This fund, held on deposit with CFB, receives transfers from the General Fund and interest on the funds deposited and is designed to accumulate funds towards the future cost of relocating a new Chair of District. The cost of the next relocation of a District Chair is unknown however it is considered prudent to build up a fund of £3,000.

This fund, held on deposit with CFB was used and closed during this financial year.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

District Benevolence Fund

This fund, which receives interest on funds held on deposit with CFB, is used to support active and supernumerary ministers and widows at the discretion of the Chair of the District. There were no calls on the fund in 2023-2024. The balance is considered adequate and there are no plans to fundraise for an increase.

Youth and Children's Bursary Fund

The purpose of this fund, which receives interest on funds held on deposit with CFB, is to assist financially:-

- a) individual leaders to attend a courses or conferences which will have some direct benefit to them and to their work amongst children and young people;
- b) individual young people to attend a course, conference, or special youth event.
- c) or by the provision of other resources, new and existing work amongst children and young people within the District, where little other support is available.

It is not considered necessary to fix a reserve, as the balance of £5,394 at 31st August 2024 is considered sufficient for the foreseeable future.

Agricultural Chaplaincy

This fund is specifically for the work of the Agricultural Chaplaincy and is held within a District CFB deposit account. The balance at 31st August 2024 was £7,788 and this will be used over the next few years alongside internal and external grants which will need to be sought to fund the annual costs of the agricultural chaplaincy.

Lincolnshire Community Healthcare Chaplaincy

Funds within this reserve held with the CFB are used to fund the work of the Lincolnshire Community Healthcare Chaplaincy. The balance on this fund on 31st August 2024 23,436. Active fundraising is now underway in order to be able to implement the plans outlined in the development plan for this chaplaincy.

Emergency Welfare Fund

This fund was created during 2020-2021 using a grant of £10,000 from the District Advance Fund. The purpose of the fund is to be able to respond quickly and flexibly, via churches, to situations of emergency need in the community. The balance at 31st August 2024 was £3,131 following return of the balance into the District Advance Fund.

Youth Activities Fund

This fund was used during the year and closed.

New Places for New People (NPNP)

This restricted fund was created following receipt of a grant of £10,000 from Connexion which was allocated to the Barton, Brigg and Wolds Circuit during 2023/2024. A small balance remains in order to keep the fund open for further deposits in the future. There is no need to set a reserve.

Summary

We have considered the District Mission Policy and have decided that we have sufficient reserves in hand. Should our reserves fall below expectations we would firstly seek to reduce expenditure and, failing that, would seek to increase income from other sources to restore the reserves to an acceptable level.

This Reserves Policy was adopted by the District Trustees on 14th January 2025.

3.3 Collaborative arrangements with connected charities

The District's main source of funding was the assessments obtained from each Circuit within the District. Assessments are determined annually by the District in consultation with circuits. Offers are made by each circuit in order to meet the financial requirements of the District. This sum amounted to £119,002 (2022-2023: £120,091).

The District also obtained from each Circuit with a reserve, known as a Circuit Model Trust Fund (CMTF), a levy based on the size of the Circuit's CMTF at the start of the Connexional year (1st September). In 2023-2024 this sum was £70,836 (2022-2023: £78,832) and was credited to the District Advance Fund. A Connexional contribution from the Connexional Advance and Priority Fund and Mission in Britain fund of £80,942 (2022-2023: £43,106) was also received into the District Advance Fund for distribution via grants.

The District holds no funds as custodian trustee. It does, however, receive each quarter from Circuits within the District the Circuits' contributions to the Methodist Church Fund (MCF). These sums are collected as agent for the MCF and are passed to the MCF later in the same quarter. Funds received by the District as agent are not recognised as income or as an asset in the financial statements because the funds are not within its control. No fee is earned in respect of this agency arrangement and the District incurs no cost through this arrangement.

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 District'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 accruals method
- made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- followed applicable accounting standards including the FRSSE
- prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis
- prepared accounts to comply with the Charities SORP 2019

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the District and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the District 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 included on the District's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

4.1 Risk

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

There has been a continual reduction in the availability of ordained ministers to serve in circuits and this, along with the reduction in the number of lay people available to serve as office holders is a cause for concern for the whole District. Several circuits are also known to be struggling financially and this could pose a risk for the District if those circuits are not able to contribute to the running costs of the District via the assessment. Other risks include reputational risks, operational risks such as failure of IT systems and risks arising from safeguarding cases.

Steps taken to mitigate against such risks include relevant training, engagement of a professional IT company, review of policies and procedures and purchase of insurance. Discussions are underway with a view to reshaping of the District and/or Circuits in order to address some of the vulnerabilities.

The risk register was reviewed in February 2023.

5. Structure, Governance and Management

The District 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 9th 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 or ratified by the half yearly circuit meeting. A district is the coordinating charity for a group of contiguous circuits and makes its decisions at the half yearly synods. The Methodist Conference meets once each year as the governing body for all Methodist churches.

1. Overall control rests with the Methodist Conference.
2. 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.
3. Connexional decisions are passed to the Chair of the District and the appropriate officers of the District for implementation.
4. The District looks to the circuits for implementation of District policy and Connexional initiatives with authority delegated to the circuit meeting for certain matters.
5. The circuit meeting looks to church councils for local implementation by the presbyter, the church stewards, and other officers, and authority is delegated to church councils as managing trustees.

5.2 Purpose of the District

The District is an expression, over a wider geographical area than any circuit, of the Connexional character of the church.

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

- the Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church, and
- any charitable purposes for the time being of any Connexional, district, circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church, and
- any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church, and
- any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary of the Methodist Church.

The primary purpose of this District is to advance the mission of the church in Lincolnshire:

- By providing support for circuits in matters of mission, administration or ministry
- By offering to circuits resources of finance (grants), personnel and expertise
- By facilitating District-wide initiatives (such as chaplaincies), events, worship and training opportunities.

5.3 Governance

The District operates within a statutory framework of regulation and seeks to ensure that it follows Methodist standing orders. It relies on the Connexional Office at 25 Tavistock Place, London, WC1H 9SF to provide guidance on changes that could affect the District.

The members of the district policy committee (known in this District as District Council) are appointed as trustees annually by a vote of the synod for a continuous term not normally exceeding six years. The Chair of District is ex-officio Chair of the District Council. Nominations to fill vacant positions are brought to synod for approval. Trustees may be either ministers or lay people attending churches in the area covered by the District.

There were six trustee meetings (District Council), held either by Zoom or in person in 2023-2024. The group's remit includes the oversight of the work of the District Resourcing Mission Group, finance, property, safeguarding, authorisations to preside at communion, chaplaincy projects, sabbaticals, manses, lay employment, district youth and children's work and appointments. It also links with the Eastern Region of the Methodist Church Learning Network; one of the Learning Network's officers attends meetings of the District Council.

5.4 Responsibility of the District Council

The responsibility of the District Council is:

1. to formulate and promote policies which will advance the mission of the Church in the circuits and local churches and, in particular, to supervise the use of resources of personnel, property and finance and to assist local churches and circuits having exceptional problems
2. to encourage inter-circuit and ecumenical co-operation
3. to act in an executive capacity in matters remitted to the council by the synod
4. to keep within its purview all District concerns not dealt with elsewhere
5. 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 to carry out its other responsibilities with any such development in mind
6. to be aware that the stipend of the Chair of the District is set by the Methodist Conference with all expenses met by the District
7. constantly to be aware of the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission

6. Reference and Administrative Details

6.1 Name of the Charity

Lincolnshire Methodist District

6.2 Charity Registration Number

1134228, Registered in England and Wales

6.3 Principal Office

Methodist District Office
c/o Burton Road Methodist Church
175 Burton Road
Lincoln LN1 3LW

6.4 Chair of the District

Rev Angela J Long

6.5 Secretary of the Synod (Representative)

Mrs Sue Brumpton until 31.7.24 followed by Mrs Joan Smithson from 1.7.24

6.6 Secretary of the Synod (Presbyteral)

Rev Susan Chambers

6.7 District Treasurer

Vacancy

6.8 Chair's PA and District Officer

Mrs Alison Godfrey

6.9 Independent Examiner

Keith May Accountancy Services Ltd

6.10 Bookkeepers:

Forrester Boyd, Grimsby

6.11 Names of Trustees

The following served as trustees throughout part or all of the year 2023-2024 or were trustees at the time of this report being approved:

Rev Angela Long (Chair)

Mr Paul Boucher

Mrs Sue Brumpton (resigned 31.7.24)

Mr Richard Melling (appointed 15.2.24)

Mrs Sally-Ann Robinson

Rev Luke Smith

Mrs Joan Smithson (appointed 1.7.24)

Rev Neil Vickers (appointed 2.5.24)

6.11 Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
9 Bonhill Street
London
EC2A 4PE

6.12 Investment Managers and Custodian Trustees

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

Approvals

The Trustees' Report and the Financial Statements were approved by the District Council on 14 January 2025 and will be reported to the Synod on 5th April 2025.

Signed on behalf of the District Council, as authorised



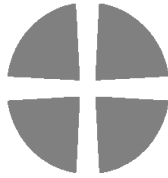
Rev Angela Long
District Chair

Date: 19/3/25



Mrs Sally-Ann Robinson
Trustee

Date: 5.4.2025



District
Accruals Accounts
2023-24

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS
ACCRUALS BASIS
for the year ended 31 August 2024

LINCOLNSHIRE	District	District no	17
Registered Charity - Registration number			1134228

District Chair

Rev Angela Long, Chair of District

Synod Secretary

Mrs Joan Smithson

Treasurer

--

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

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	District Advance Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Total 2023-24
		£	£	£	£	£
Income from						
1 Donations and legacies					1,248	1,248
2 Connexional Advance & Priority Fund			80,942			80,942
3 Income from investments		4,369	13,548	122	2,764	20,803
Income from charitable activities						
4 Assessments on circuits	2	119,002				119,002
5 From Circuit Model Trust Funds			70,836			70,836
6 Contribution to the cost of the Chair	3	47,866				47,866
7 Other charitable activities		2,208				2,208
8 Income from other trading activities						0
9 Other income						0
Total income		173,445	165,326	122	4,012	342,905
Expenditure						
9 Grants and donations	5	2,622	93,259			95,881
10 Salaries and associated costs	6	95,331			5,429	100,760
11 Cost of the Chair	3	53,375				53,375
12 Property Maintenance	7	29,760				29,760
13 Office expenses	8	8,359	474			8,833
14 Synods, committees and retreats	9	8,862				8,862
15 Training		492			4,165	4,657
16 Professional fees		5,804				5,804
17 Other outgoings	10				13,924	13,924
Total expenditure		204,605	93,733	0	23,518	321,855
Net income/(expenditure) before gains and losses on investments						
		-31,160	71,593	122	-19,506	21,050
18 Net gains/(losses) on investments						0
Net income/(expenditure)		-31,160	71,593	122	-19,506	21,050
19 Transfers between funds		35,065	-24,750	-6,463	-3,851	1
20 Other gains/(losses)						0
Net movement in funds		3,905	46,843	-6,341	-23,357	21,050
Total funds brought forward		306,716	32,423	8,505	65,209	412,854
Total funds carried forward		310,621	79,267	2,164	41,852	433,903

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	District Advance Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Total 2022-23
		£	£	£	£	£
Income from						
1 Donations and legacies		19			300	319
2 Connexional Advance & Property Fund			43,106			43,106
3 Income from investments		2,817	6,706	263	1,562	11,348
Income from charitable activities						
4 Assessments on circuits	2	120,091				120,091
5 From Circuit Model Trust Funds			78,832			78,832
6 Contribution to the cost of the Chair	3	45,724				45,724
7 Other charitable activities					10,000	10,000
8 Income from other trading activities						0
9 Other income						0
Total income		168,650	128,644	263	11,862	309,419
Expenditure						
9 Grants and donations	5	2,089	51,289			53,378
10 Salaries and associated costs	6	69,353				69,353
11 Cost of the Chair	3	49,025				49,025
12 Property Maintenance	7	16,797				16,797
13 Office expenses	8	23,874	419			24,293
14 Synods, committees, Conference	9	14,538				14,538
15 Training		1,091			1,425	2,516
16 Professional fees		4,212				4,212
17 Other outgoings	10				3,668	3,668
Total expenditure		180,979	51,708	0	5,093	237,780
Net income/(expenditure) before gains and losses on investments						
		-12,329	76,936	263	6,769	71,639
18 Net gains/(losses) on investments						0
Net income/(expenditure)		-12,329	76,936	263	6,769	71,639
19 Transfers between funds		31,432	-53,000	4,299	17,269	0
20 Other gains/(losses)						0
Net movement in funds		19,103	23,936	4,562	24,038	71,639
Total funds brought forward		287,613	8,487	3,943	41,171	341,215
Total funds carried forward		306,716	32,423	8,505	65,209	412,854

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024

Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	District Advance Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Total
	£	£	£	£	£

Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets	11	230,360				230,360
Investment properties						0
Investments						0
Total fixed assets		230,360	0	0	0	230,360

Current Assets

Debtors	12	14,018				14,018
Loans by the District						0
Trustee Investment Fund with TMCP	13		247,542			247,542
Central Finance Board Deposits	14	67,254		2,164	41,852	111,269
Cash at Bank and in hand	14	3,499				3,499
Total current assets		84,771	247,542	2,164	41,852	376,328

Current liabilities

Creditors (due in under 1 year)	15	4,511				4,511
Grants payable in 2024-25			152,275			152,275
Total current liabilities		4,511	152,275	0	0	156,786
Net current assets/liabilities		80,260	95,267	2,164	41,852	219,543

Total assets less current liabilities		310,621	95,267	2,164	41,852	449,903
--	--	----------------	---------------	--------------	---------------	----------------

Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)						
Grants payable in 2025-26 and beyond			16,000			16,000
Loans to the District						0
						0
Net assets		310,621	79,267	2,164	41,852	433,903

Funds of the District

General Fund (Unrestricted)	16	310,621				310,621
District Advance Fund (Unrestricted)			79,267			79,267
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	16			2,164		2,164
Total Unrestricted Funds						392,051
Restricted Funds	17				41,852	41,852
Total Funds		310,621	79,267	2,164	41,852	433,903

Signed

District Treasurer

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023

Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	District Advance Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Total
	£	£	£	£	£

Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets	11	230,360				230,360
Investment properties						0
Investments						0
Total fixed assets		230,360	0	0	0	230,360

Current Assets

Debtors	12	6,688				6,688
Loans by the District						0
Trustee Investment Fund with TMCP	13		166,237			166,237
Central Finance Board Deposits	14	70,921		8,505	65,209	144,636
Cash at Bank and in hand	14	2,477				2,477
Total current assets		80,087	166,237	8,505	65,209	320,039

Current liabilities

Creditors (due in under 1 year)	15	3,731				3,731
Grants payable in 2023-24			120,814			120,814
Total current liabilities		3,731	120,814	0	0	124,545
Net current assets/liabilities		76,355	45,423	8,505	65,209	195,493

Total assets less current liabilities		306,716	45,423	8,505	65,209	425,854
---------------------------------------	--	---------	--------	-------	--------	---------

Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)						
Grants payable in 2024-25 and beyond			13,000			13,000
Loans to the District						0
						0
Net assets		306,716	32,423	8,505	65,209	412,854

Funds of the District

General Fund (Unrestricted)	16	306,716				306,716
District Advance Fund (Unrestricted)			32,423			32,423
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	16			8,505		8,505
Total Unrestricted Funds						347,645
Restricted Funds	17				65,209	65,209
Total Funds		306,716	32,423	8,505	65,209	412,854

Signed

District Treasurer

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting framework and accounting policies

i Accounting framework

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2019 version of *Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP)* applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective from 1 January 2019) – (the Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

ii Public benefit entity

The Lincolnshire District (hereinafter referred to as "District") meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s) below.

iii Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost on the accruals basis to show a true and fair view of the District's financial position and activities.

iv Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

v Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2024, the trustees believe that the District is a going concern.

vi FRS102 SORP2019

These accounts are compliant with FRS102 and with the FRS102 SORP 2019.

vii Consolidation

The District oversees the work of ministers and lay workers in churches and circuits within the District but does not have control over those churches or circuits, ministers or lay workers except in extreme circumstances, none of which were applicable. For this reason, the financial statements of the churches and circuits within the District are not consolidated into these financial statements.

viii Income recognition

Income is brought into account when it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will accrue to the District. No attempt is made to measure the value of services donated by volunteers. Details of how the contribution to the cost of the Chair of District has been determined appears in Note 3. A similar figure appears in the Expenditure section of the SOFA.

Individual amounts categorised as *Other income* in the SOFA will be shown separately if they are considered material.

The District acts as agent in these matters:

1. the collection of quarterly assessments from circuits which are paid to the Methodist Church Fund (MCF)
2. the payment of expenses of delegates from the District to the Methodist Conference

In all these matters the transactions are not reflected in the SOFA because there is no obligation on the District to make up any shortfall in assessments from Circuits. Sums received as Circuit assessments cannot be recognised as income in the District as they are the income of the MCF.

In accordance with the Charities SORP, the time of volunteers is not recognised.

ix Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the District to pay out resources.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

x Grants

Grants are recognised in full when the award is made once the District accepts that there is a legal or constructive obligation to make the payment and that such payment is probable.

xi VAT

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

xii Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000. The freehold property is shown in the accounts at cost in 2011, of which the land component is deemed to be £90,000. No depreciation is provided on the building because the trustees consider the current residual fair value of the manse building (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year-end) to be not less than its cost to date. The property has been reviewed for impairment.

xiii Debtors and creditors; bank and cash

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the District or prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any trade discounts, where normal credit terms apply, or amount advanced to the District. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds of bank balances and deposit account balances are shown at the realisable values.

xiv Methodist Church Fund (MCF)

The District acts as agent for the MCF by collecting its assessments on Circuits and does not, therefore, include the assessments in the SOFA. If a Circuit is late in paying its MCF assessment to the District but such sum is received before the quarterly transfer to the MCF, the amount paid late will be shown as a debtor in the District's accounts.

xv Manse costs

The District is required to provide accommodation for the Chair of District and family. The District bears the cost of repairs, maintenance, building insurance, Council Tax and water charges. These costs are not shown separately as benefits-in-kind for the Chair as HMRC does not seek to tax these receipts in the hands of the Chair. In addition, since February 2017, the District has made a contribution towards the cost of the Manse occupied by the part-time Chaplain, which is provided by the Lincoln Circuit with which the appointment is shared.

2 Assessment on Circuits

All Circuits (see list given below in this note) paid their assessments to the District and to the MCF during the year. An assessment on Circuits is determined annually by the District by reference to offers made by each Circuit towards meeting the financial requirements of the District.

The District was made up of the following Circuits:

Circuit No	Circuit Name
17/1	Epworth, Scunthorpe and Gainsborough
17/2	Lincoln
17/4	Mid Lincolnshire
17/5	Grimsby and Cleethorpes
17/6	East Lincolnshire
17/11	Barton, Brigg and Wolds
17/12	Sleaford
17/15	South Holland
17/22	Boston

Contribution to Methodist Church Fund (MCF)

In addition to the assessments on the Circuits to help defray the costs of running the District, the District acted as agent for the MCF which levied assessments on the Circuits in this District totalling £289,779 (2022-23: £274,655) all of which were collected and paid over to the MCF in the year. No balance was held at the end of the year; no fee is received for this service which is performed at nearly nil cost to the District. These sums collected for and remitted to the MCF do not appear elsewhere in these financial statements.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

3 Cost of Chair and trustees

The Chair of District chairs meetings of the District Council (DC). The members of the DC are the trustees of the District. The stipend, employer's NIC and employer's pension contributions of the Chair of District are paid by the Methodist Connexion. The Chair's other costs are met mostly by the District.

	2023-24	2022-23
	£	£
Stipend to Chair	36,300	34,836
Employer's National Insurance Contribution	3,754	3,644
Employer's pension contribution to the defined benefit scheme	7,812	7,244
Other costs	-	-
Cash cost paid by the Connexion (see, SOFA, line 6)	47,866	45,724
Chair's expenses	5,509	3,301
Total cost	53,375	49,025

Since the stipend-related costs above (*i.e.* £47,866; 2022-23 £45,724) are borne by the Connexion, they appear both in the Income of the District (see SOFA line 6) and the Expenditure of the District (see SOFA line 11). It should be noted that the Chair is required to occupy the District manse. The manse is provided by the District and the District maintains the property. The costs of maintaining the manse for the year were £20,556 (2022-23 £7,146) - see Note 7 below. The Chair of District is the sole paid key management person but is supported by members of the DC.

No accrual is made for the Chair's entitlement to a sabbatical as his functions are undertaken by the Assistant Chairs at minimal extra cost to the District.

Payment to Trustees

It is District policy to offer to reimburse members of the District Council (DC) and others involved in the administration of District affairs for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties. The Chair of District undertakes the primary executive role within the District. Apart from the Chair of District and the lay Secretary of Synod, no member of the DC was in receipt of any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the District, although certain travelling and administration costs were reimbursed whenever this was requested.

Other than the lay Secretary of Synod, none of the trustees are an employee of the District. Trustees claimed £488.40 in expenses during the year. (2022-23: No trustees claimed any expenses.)

4 Other income

A direct request to churches to host coffee mornings to raise funds for the healthcare chaplaincy resulted in donations of £1249 during the year ended 31 August 2024.

5 Grants, donations and related Support costs

Grants and donations totalling £118,008 were awarded during the year (2022-23: £104,289) as shown below:

	2023-24	2022-23
	£	£
Unrestricted:		
- From General Fund		
- From Youth Activities Fund		
- From DAF	118,008	104,289
- To Ecumenical and New Communities	-	-
Sub total	118,008	104,289
Restricted:		
- From Emergency Welfare Fund		
- From Youth Bursary		
- From Benevolence Fund		
- From Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund		
Sub total	-	-
Total	118,008	104,289

Details of grants paid by the District during the year were reported to the District Council.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

5 Grants, donations and related Support costs (cont'd.....)

Expenditure on charitable activities through the District Advance Fund

This fund receives formulaically determined contributions from the Circuit Model Trust Funds held by Circuits within the District, an annual grant from the Connexional Priority Fund and a Mission in Britain Fund and redistributes the monies to grantees in the District through relevant grant applications as assessed by the District Resourcing Mission Group. During the year the following grants were awarded:

2023-24				
Given to	Amount in £		Analysis of amounts given by type of work	Amount in £
Churches	11,953		Projects	19,000
Circuits	24,000		Ministry	35,000
.....			General	64,008
Sub total	35,953			
Individuals	-			
Sub total	35,953			
Ecumenical	5,000			
District	87,055			
Total	118,008			118,008
2022-23				
Given to	Amount in £		Analysis of amounts given by type of work	Amount in £
Churches	4,289		Projects	3,000
Circuits	2,000		Ministry	42,000
.....			General	65,289
Institutions	6,289			
Individuals				
Sub total	6,289			
Ecumenical	35,000			
District	63,000			
Total	104,289			104,289

The income of the fund was £164,852 (2022-23: £128,225) (net of costs) during the year. The total paid out in grants was £83,547 (2021-22: £108,966). A full list of grants will be presented to the April Synod. The Resourcing Mission Group is aware that grant applications must demonstrate public benefit.

6 Salaries and associated costs

Gross salaries paid to 4 (2022-23: 4) part time employees were as follows:

	2023-24	2022-23
	£	£
Gross pay	86,095	58,100
Employer's National Insurance contribution	8,321	5,346
Employer's pension contribution to defined contribution scheme	6,344	5,907
Total cost for 4 (2022-23: 4) part time employees	100,760	69,353
Total weekly contractual hours of 4 (2022-23: 4) part time employees	96	89

No employees received employee benefits that totalled more than £60,000. There is no accrual for holiday pay as it is immaterial. All employees are paid at or above the Living Wage. One of the part time employees was engaged as Secretary to Synod, another provided secretarial and administrative assistance to the District and to the Chair and acted as District Officer and the third is a Chaplain, whose ministerial appointment is shared with Lincoln Circuit. The fourth is the District Safeguarding Officer.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

6 Salaries and associated costs (cont'd.....)

Pensions

Most ordained presbyters and deacons are members of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS). This is a defined benefit scheme. The Supreme Court held in 2014 that Methodist ministers (which term includes presbyters and deacons) are not employees of the Church. For simplicity, however, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions and pension contributions, the terms 'employer' and 'employee' are used as they would be in an employing body.

On the other hand lay employees are contractually employees. Two part time employees were given, and turned down, the opportunity to join a defined contribution workplace pension scheme to which the District and the employee would contribute. The other part-time employee is a member of that scheme. The Chaplain is a member of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme.

The Connexion accounts for both the MMPS and the Pension and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church (PASLEMC) and shows the figures in the annual Methodist Church in Great Britain accounts. The MMPS is in deficit but a plan for removal of the deficit has been proposed and is being implemented. Details of the deficits on these schemes can be found in the Annual Report and Accounts of The Methodist Church at www.methodist.org.uk.

7 Property costs

	2023-24 £	2022-23 £
District office, rent and services	1,704	1,862
Contribution to Chaplain's manse	7,500	7,788
Chair's manse	20,556	7,146
Total	29,760	16,797

8 Office expenses

	2023-24 £	2022-23 £
Printing, postage and stationery	930	1,093
Telephone	231	174
Insurance	616	227
Safeguarding	3,480	20,298
Publicity	552	-
Computers and support	2,322	1,593
Other	228	489
Total charged to General Fund	8,359	23,874
Other - Designated Funds		
TMCP charges - District Advance Fund	474	419
Total	8,833	24,293

None of the remaining individual amounts (aggregated as 'Other' above) is considered material and therefore none is listed separately.

9 Synods, Committees, Conference

	2023-24 £	2022-23 £
Synods	1,478	1,314
Conference	72	
Committees	2,301	2,602
Training/Retreats	5,011	4,913
Total	8,862	14,538

10 Other outgoings

	2023-24 £	2022-23 £
Provision for bad debts		
Agricultural Chaplain expenses, including travel	5,367	5,710
Youth Work	3,820	40
	9,187	5,750
Paid from LCHC grants	4,737	3,628
Total	13,924	9,378

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

11 Manse and other property

The value of the District manse is greater than its historical cost in 2011 shown in the accounts. There is no depreciation on the manse as the Trustees believe that the current residual market value of the building is greater than the carrying value of that part of the asset's cost to date.

	Land	Buildings	Total
	£	£	£
Cost or valuation			
Balance brought forward at 1 September, at cost	90,000	140,360	230,360
Additions in the year			
Revaluations in the year			
Less: Disposals in the year			
Transfers between categories			
Balance carried forward at 31 August	90,000	140,360	230,360

12 Debtors and prepayments

All sums shown as Debtors at 31 Aug 2023 were received during the current year. All sums paid in advance at 31 Aug 2024 were for activities, (principally deposits for retreats, subscriptions and council tax). It is expected that payments in advance at 31 August 2024 will be expensed in 2024-25.

Debtors were made up as follows:

	2023-24 £	2022-23 £
Trade debtors		
Circuit assessments received late	-	
Minister's removal costs to be reimbursed by Connexion	10,262	179
	10,262	179
Prepayments and accrued income		
Payments in advance	3,756	6,509
	3,756	6,509
Other debtors		
	-	-
Total	14,018	6,688

13 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP)

The funds that support the District Advance Fund are held by TMCP in Trustees Interest Funds, which is a cash deposit fund on which interest is credited to the account each month.

TMCP is the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds. Trust property is held for and on behalf of local Managing Trustees who are responsible for the day to day management of trust property. TMCP ensure that, through providing guidance and acting under their direction, the Managing Trustees comply with charity law and Methodist law and policy as determined by the Methodist Conference.

14 Central Finance Board (CFB) and cash at bank

The District has one current account at CAF Bank Ltd., an authorised institution. The sums held in that account are immediately available. In addition the District has 9 (2022-23: 11) deposit accounts at CFB, a common deposit fund. These accounts are one General Fund, 1 (2022-23: 3) Designated Funds and 7 (2022-23: 7) Restricted Funds. Interest is earned on these accounts and credited monthly; the sums deposited can be withdrawn without notice and without loss of interest. These sums are viewed as being liquid.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

15 Creditors and accrued expenses

	2023-24 £	2022-23 £
Creditors:		
Expenses reimbursement	-	-
Unpaid invoices	1,324	1,225
Subscriptions	-	-
Other	-	-
<i>Total creditors</i>	<i>1,324</i>	<i>1,225</i>
Accruals:		
PAYE, NI and Pensions contributions	- 13	- 13
Accountancy fees	3,200	2,520
<i>Total accruals</i>	<i>3,187</i>	<i>2,507</i>
Total of creditors and accrued expenses	4,511	3,731

Maturity analysis of basic financial instruments

	Accrued at 1st Sep 2023 £	Paid this year £	Accruals made this year £	Accrued at the end of 31 Aug 2024 £
Expenses	-	-	-	-
Unpaid Invoices	1,225	1,225	1,324	1,324
Subscriptions	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-
Accruals	2,520	2,520	3,200	3,200
Employers NIC	-	-	-	-
PAYE and pension	- 13	-	-	- 13
Total costs	3,731	3,744	4,524	4,511

All sums accrued at 31 Aug 2023 were paid during the year to 31 Aug 2024 and it is expected that all sums accrued at 31 Aug 2024 will be paid during the year to 31 Aug 2025.

16 Unrestricted Funds

16.1 General Fund

Balance of £310,621 at 31 Aug 2024 (2023: £306,716)

The purpose of the fund is for use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the District and which have not been designated for other purposes. About 75% of this fund is held as a freehold property, the District manse for the Chair of District. During the year £2,507 (2022-23: £2,089) was paid out as a subscription to Churches Together in All Lincolnshire.

16.2 Other Designated Funds

Balance of £2,164 at 31 Aug 2024 (2023: £8,505)

These funds are to serve specific purposes but are not restricted by any document or deed to that purpose alone. These funds comprise:

The Manse Fund - balance £nil (2023: £3,879) - is available to meet major repairs and renovations to the District manse.

The Chair's Removal Costs Fund - balance £2,164 (2023: £4,447) - is accumulating funds to meet the future removal costs on a change in Chair of District.

The Training new Ministers Fund - balance £nil (2023: £179) - is held to meet costs of the training of new Ministers. This fund was closed during the year

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

17 Restricted Funds

Balance of £41,852 at 31 Aug 2024 (2023: £65,209)

The Benevolence Fund – balance £2,004 (2023: £1,904) - provides financial support to active and supernumerary ministers in the District at the discretion of the Chair of District.

The Youth and Children's Bursary Fund – balance £5,394 (2023: £6,740) - is used to assist financially:

1. individual leaders to attend a course or conference which will have some direct benefit to them and to their work amongst children and young people;
2. individual young people to attend a course, conference, or special youth event.
3. or by the provision of other resources, new and existing work amongst children and young people within the District, where little other support is available.

Agricultural Chaplaincy - balance £7,789 (2023: £8,972) - is to support the work of the Agricultural Chaplain.

Lincolnshire Community Healthcare Chaplaincy - balance £23,435 (2022: £27,070) - is to support the work of the Lincolnshire Community Healthcare Chaplaincy scheme.

Emergency Welfare Fund - balance £3,131 (2023: £8,833) - The purpose of this fund is to be able to respond quickly and flexibly, via churches, to situations of emergency need in the community.

Youth Activities fund - balance £61 (2023: £1,558) - is earmarked to support youth group in attending future "3 Gen" Conferences.

New Places for New People - £37 (2023: £10,132) - a grant was received from the Connexion and is to be used to support the exploration of a District New Places for New People project.

18 Connected organisations and related parties

All of the District trustees are members of one or another Church and Circuit within the District and may be trustees in their Churches and/or Circuits.

Connected organisations include the Methodist Connexion, Circuits and Churches within the District, other Methodist Districts in Great Britain, the Methodist Ministers' Children's Relief Association, CFB and TMCP. All of these entities have their own trustees or directors and autonomous administration such that the District has no significant influence over any of them, nor they over the District. They are, therefore, not considered related parties.

Name of Connected Organisations	Receipts £	Payments £	Adjustments £
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District - To Methodist Church Fund	289,779	289,779	
Grant from Connexional Priority Fund	80,942		
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District (Levy on Circuit Model Trust Funds)	70,836		
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District (for District Expenses Fund)	119,002		
To Churches within the Lincolnshire District (grants)		35,953	
From Methodist Church Fund for New Places for New People	-		
Total 2023-24	560,559	325,732	-

Name of Connected Organisations	Receipts £	Payments £	Adjustments £
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District - To Methodist Church Fund	274,655	274,655	
Grant from Connexional Priority Fund	43,106		
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District (Levy on Circuit Model Trust Funds)	78,832		
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District (for District Expenses Fund)	120,091		
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District (contributions to cost of Retreats)	-		
To Churches within the Lincolnshire District (grants)		6,289	
From Methodist Church Fund for New Places for New People	10,000		
Total 2022-23	526,684	280,944	-

There were no related party transactions.

19 Volunteer contributions

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit, Church) within the Methodist Church is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. Principally volunteer contributions to the District are by chaplains and by those serving on committees of the District that deal with mission, manses, finance, policy, grants, training, development and safeguarding. The District is grateful to all volunteers for their help and commitment.

20 Capital commitments and contingent liabilities

There were no capital commitments or contingent liabilities at the year end (2022-23: nil).

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

DECLARATIONS - cont'd

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or

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

the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts

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

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

** Please delete as appropriate*

Name

Keith May

Signature

Relevant Professional qualification of examiner

ACMA CGMA

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Keith May Accounting Services Ltd

Address

Aura Business Centre, Heath Road, Skegness PE25 3SJ

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT DECLARATIONS

Treasurer

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

Signature of Treasurer

Date

Name of Treasurer

Address

Presentation to the District Council for approval.

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

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Name of the Chair of the meeting

Rev. Angela Long

Date

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

LINCOLNSHIRE

District Charity No. 1134228

Responsibilities and basis of Report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Lincolnshire District for the year ended 31 August 2024. As the District'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 District'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.

Accounts

Lincolnshire Methodist District
Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2023

Objectives and Activities

Lincolnshire Methodist District (the District) exists to advance the mission of the Methodist Church throughout the majority of the geographic county of Lincolnshire and the areas of North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire (hereafter known as Lincolnshire) by providing support for the nine circuits in line with Connexional priorities. The District comprises 105 local Methodist churches grouped into nine circuits served by a ministerial team of 20 ordained ministers plus a number of part time active retired ministers, lay workers and volunteers.

The District is led by a full time District Chair working with a personal assistant, a safeguarding officer, synod secretary and district officer. In addition, a large number of voluntary officers, including a district steward, support the work of the District.

The District Synod, which met twice during the year, sets the policy for the District, serving as a link between the Methodist Conference and the Connexional team on the one hand and the circuits and local churches on the other. It has oversight of all District matters, formulating and promoting policies, through its various officers and committees to assist the mission of the Church, to give inspiration to the leaders in the circuits and to ensure the interrelation of all aspects of the Church's life throughout the District.

The day to day work of the Synod is carried out by the District Council who are the trustees of Lincolnshire Methodist District. As a registered charity, the District takes seriously its responsibilities to the Charity Commissioners and adheres to their guidance concerning public benefit in relation to charitable objectives.

2. Achievements and Performance

The following activities took place during the year:

- One new minister was welcomed to the District in September 2022. A further three new ministers were identified in the stationing process in the autumn of 2022 ready for arrival in the District in September 2023.
- Two local church pastor applications were approved and training arranged to start in September 2023.
- Two ministerial synods and three representative synods took place drawing together ministers and lay people from all the circuits to ratify decisions and vote on important issues.
- The Lincolnshire Community Healthcare Chaplaincy was re-launched with the design of a new logo, a new publicity leaflet and a poster for use within GP practices. Eight health care chaplains continued to visit 6 GP practices to provide a chaplaincy listening service for patients and staff. In the calendar year to 31st December 2022 chaplains attended 246 appointments with patients. The most frequent reason for referral was bereavement and loss but many other topics of concern were explored. During the year the chaplaincy Executive worked with an external consultant to design a training course for new chaplains. This was advertised with 8 trainees ready to start training in October 2023. Supervision for chaplains was introduced during the year.
- Conversations with neighbouring Districts about merging Districts had come to a halt and so the process to appoint a District Chair just for Lincolnshire District began with the result that Rev Angela Long was appointed to start on 1st September 2023.
- A District management group supported the work of the District Agricultural Chaplain who works closely with Lincolnshire Rural Support Network offering support to clients from the farming and agricultural sector. Representatives of the District worked with Lincolnshire Rural and Agricultural Chaplaincy charity to seek to secure funds for agricultural chaplaincy into the future.
- A District New Places for New People group met and began the process of discerning the best way forward for a District led project under the Connexional NPNP initiative. Funding was received from Connexion for a pilot project and several expressions of interest were considered.

- The District Resourcing Mission Group met within the year to consider grant applications from churches, circuits and ecumenical groups. Grants included financial support to seven churches hosting “warm spaces”.
- A stationing briefing was held in May to help prepare the circuits for the process of applying for a new minister.
- District quiet days were held at the Little Retreat at Lea
- Meetings with circuit stewards and superintendent ministers took place to help share information and good practice.
- Meetings of the Insight Group which included Bible study, prayer and conversation took place online.
- A fortnight of online events on topics related to the Connexional justice, dignity and solidary strategy were led by a member of the Learning Network. These sessions included the mandatory Connexional training in equality, diversity and inclusion. Further EDI training continued to be rolled out either face to face or online across the District.
- The District Safeguarding Officer (DSO) continued work from April as a paid employee rather than an external consultant.
- 138 people were trained on the Creating Safer Spaces Advanced safeguarding course. Six of these courses took place in person and five were online. The DSO also supported several circuits by leading three foundation courses.
- The District Safeguarding Officer supported many churches and individuals in a variety of case work and with the development of policy and procedure.
- Superintendent Ministers and other Ministers each had a 48 hour retreat at Launde Abbey.
- The additional Synod held in May approved the amalgamation of half of the Wolds and Trent Circuit into a new Epworth, Scunthorpe and Gainsborough Circuit and the other half into the new Barton, Brigg and Wolds Circuit.
- A leaving service for The Chair of District, Rev Bruce Thompson, was held in July at Louth Methodist Church to mark his ministry in Lincolnshire District. At the same time plans were in place for the welcome service for Rev Angela Long which took place in August. A congregation gathered in Grimsby with others at churches across the District joining in via an online link.

2.1 Plans for future years

The statement “*Faithful and True: Beyond 2020 vision*” was launched at Synod in September 2021. The eight priorities will be the focus of work and funding in the coming years.

Rev Angela Long is visiting circuits and congregations listening to concerns and hopes which will help shape future policy beyond 2023.

3. Financial Review

During the year the District received total income of £309,419 (2021-2022: £261,317) and spent £237,780 (2021-2022: £274,258), resulting in a surplus of £71,639 (2021-2022 deficit of £12,941) across all funds. Total reserves carried forward are £412,854 (2021-2022: £341,215) and, as a result, the unrestricted readily available reserves total £84,860 (2021-2022: £61,196) and restricted reserves total £65,209 (2021-2022: £41,171) excluding the restricted District Advance Fund.

The trustees of the District have every reason to believe that the District is a going concern, principally because Circuits continue to meet their assessments and the District has adequate reserves to cover any shortfall in anticipated income. There are no subsidiary undertakings. Trustees are very aware of the increasing pressure on circuit finances due to the cost of living crisis and diminishing church membership and recognise that the next few years could be extremely difficult for individuals, churches, circuits and the District given that District income is a by-product of local giving.

The District continues to hold one freehold property which is the Chair’s Manse in Lincoln.

The District has the following principal sources of income:

- Assessments on Circuits within the District
- Distribution from the Connexional Priority Fund to the District Advance Fund
- Levies on the Circuit Model Trust Funds of Circuits within the District to the District Advance Fund
- Interest on funds invested

These sums are used to administer the District and to provide grants to circuits, churches and individuals in the District so that they may embark on or continue with projects that fulfil the mission of the District.

Methodist Ministers' Pension Fund

Trustees are aware that the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme is treated as a group defined benefit plan. The net defined benefit cost is recognised by the sponsoring entity, The Methodist Church in Great Britain, as there is no contractual agreement or stated policy for charging the net defined benefit cost to individual entities, such as the District. The District recognises a cost equal to its contributions payable for the period. Further details in respect of these pension arrangements are disclosed in the accounts of The Methodist Church in Great Britain.

3.1 Investment Policy and Performance

To comply with Methodist Standing Orders, monies for long term 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 districts. These sums are invested in unitised investments or held on deposit. The investment returns are close to tracking the movements in the FTSE100 index. The deposit income mirrors the deposit rates available elsewhere. The District Trustees' investment policy is aligned with that of the Central Finance Board (CFB) and TMCP because these organisations take into consideration the social, environmental and ethical considerations, both negatively and positively in establishing investment policy.

Short term deposits are lodged directly with the CFB and attract rates of interest comparable to the rest of the market.

There are no bench marks for the expected returns at TMCP and CFB. It is the District's policy to manage the cash and investment resources of the District 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 District's low appetite for risk. Due to increased interest rates during the past year the total return achieved on the funds invested with the CFB was between 1.73% and 5.03% with an average monthly rate of 3.25% for the year.

3.2 Reserves Policy

This Reserves policy relates to the funds operated by the Trustees of the Lincolnshire Methodist District (the District). A bank current account is operated for the District expenses fund, and money not immediately required is placed on deposit with the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church (CFB).

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

District Advance Fund - Trust No.16017

This Fund is held with The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes in its Trustee Interest Fund. The use of the Fund is regulated by Standing Order (SO) 963 of the Methodist Church, where its purposes are restricted to the support of personnel serving in the District or any of its circuits, for property schemes approved under SO 93 and where applicable SO 931, and for ecumenical work. The District has also decided that grants should only be given if the relevant scheme is shown to be for, or to assist, mission work and is in accordance with its vision statement.

The Fund is administered on behalf of Synod by the District Resourcing Mission Group, and derives its income from an annual levy on Circuit Model Trust Funds within the District, an annual allocation from the Connexional Priority Fund and interest on funds held awaiting distribution. The aim is to hold sufficient reserves to cover grants already awarded for payment in subsequent years in order to comply with "The Statement of Recommended Practice" relative thereto. At 31st August 2023 the balance in hand was £166,237, an excess of £32,423 over contingent liabilities for grants promised for future years of £133,814.

General (District Expenses) Fund

This Fund receives income from Circuit assessments and bank interest and is used for general expenses of the District. The aim of the Trustees is to hold sufficient readily available funds to cover at least two quarters expenditure (2023-2024: approx. £60,000) and redundancy costs. If it were necessary to make all employees redundant in 2024 payments of a minimum of approximately £8,000 would be due. The balance in hand at 31st August 2023 is therefore a little too high however expenditure on preparing the manse for the new Chair of District, which would usually have been paid out before the year end, was incurred in September. Accordingly, the Trustees consider that the balance of £76,716 in hand at 31st August 2023 is an appropriate level of reserve.

DESIGNATED FUNDS

Chair's Manse Fund

This fund, held on deposit with the Central Finance Board (CFB), receives transfers from the General Fund and interest on the funds deposited and is designed to meet exceptional expenditure incurred on the Chair's manse. The balance of £3,879 as at 31st August 2023 was all spent in September 2023 whilst preparing the manse for the incoming Chair of District. Over the next five years a balance of £45,000 should be built up by designating amounts from the General fund in order to provide a replacement kitchen and other planned and routine maintenance upon the arrival of an incoming chair of District in years to come.

Relocation Fund

This fund, held on deposit with CFB, receives transfers from the General Fund and interest on the funds deposited and is designed to accumulate funds towards the future cost of relocating a new Chair of District. The cost of the next relocation of a District Chair is unknown however it is considered prudent to build up a fund of £3,000.

District Officer Fund

This account was no longer needed and therefore closed during the financial year.

Training New Ministers

This fund, held on deposit with CFB and receiving interest on the funds deposited, is to be used for training new ministers. At 31st August 2023 the balance in hand was £179. It is not considered necessary to fix a reserve.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

District Benevolence Fund

This fund, which receives interest on funds held on deposit with CFB, is used to support active and supernumerary ministers and widows at the discretion of the Chair of the District. There were no calls on the fund in 2022-2023. The balance is considered adequate and there are no plans to fundraise for an increase.

Youth and Children's Bursary Fund

The purpose of this fund, which receives interest on funds held on deposit with CFB, is to assist financially:-

- a) individual leaders to attend a courses or conferences which will have some direct benefit to them and to their work amongst children and young people;
- b) individual young people to attend a course, conference, or special youth event.
- c) or by the provision of other resources, new and existing work amongst children and young people within the District, where little other support is available.

It is not considered necessary to fix a reserve, as the balance of £6,740 at 31st August 2023 is considered sufficient for the foreseeable future.

Agricultural Chaplaincy

This fund is specifically for the work of the Agricultural Chaplaincy and is held within a District CFB deposit account. It was received following the closure of another related organisation. The balance at 31st August 2023 was £8,971 and this will be used over the next few years alongside internal and external grants which will need to be sought to fund the annual costs of the agricultural chaplaincy.

Lincolnshire Community Healthcare Chaplaincy

Funds within this reserve held with the CFB are used to fund the work of the Lincolnshire Community Healthcare Chaplaincy. The balance on this fund on 31st August 2023 was £27,070. Active fundraising is now underway in order to be able to implement the plans outlined in the development plan for this chaplaincy.

Emergency Welfare Fund

This fund was created during 2020-2021 using a grant of £10,000 from the District Advance Fund. The purpose of the fund is to be able to respond quickly and flexibly, via churches, to situations of emergency need in the community. The balance at 31st August 2023 was £8,833. District Council agreed that a balance of no more than £3,000 is required and therefore an amount should be returned to the District Advance Fund.

Youth Activities Fund

This fund had a balance of £1,558. It is not considered necessary to set a reserve for this fund. It is expected that this amount will be expended during 2023-2024.

New Places for New People (NPNP)

This restricted fund was created following receipt of a grant of £10,000 from Connexion. This will be used for a pilot NPNP scheme and so is expected to be expended during 2023-2024.

Summary

We have considered the District Mission Policy and have decided that we have sufficient reserves in hand. Should our reserves fall below expectations we would firstly seek to reduce expenditure and, failing that, would seek to increase income from other sources to restore the reserves to an acceptable level.

This Reserves Policy was adopted by the District Trustees on 15th February 2024.

3.3 Collaborative arrangements with connected charities

The District's main source of funding was the assessments obtained from each Circuit within the District. Assessments are determined annually by the District in consultation with circuits. Offers are made by each circuit in order to meet the financial requirements of the District. This sum amounted to £120,091 (2021-2022: £95,424).

The District also obtained from each Circuit with a reserve, known as a Circuit Model Trust Fund (CMTF), a levy based on the size of the Circuit's CMTF at the start of the Connexional year (1st September). In 2022-2023 this sum was £78,832 (2021-2022: £66,732) and was credited to the District Advance Fund. A Connexional contribution from the Connexional Advance and Priority Fund of £38,529 (2021-2022: £50,534) was also received into the District Advance Fund for distribution via grants.

The District holds no funds as custodian trustee. It does, however, receive each quarter from Circuits within the District the Circuits' contributions to the Methodist Church Fund (MCF). These sums are collected as agent for the MCF and are passed to the MCF later in the same quarter. Funds received by the District as agent are not recognised as income or as an asset in the financial statements because the funds are not within its control. No fee is earned in respect of this agency arrangement and the District incurs no cost through this arrangement.

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 District'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 accruals method
- made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- followed applicable accounting standards including the FRSSE
- prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis
- prepared accounts to comply with the Charities SORP 2019

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the District and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the District 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 included on the District's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

4.1 Risk

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

There has been a continual reduction in the availability of ordained ministers to serve in circuits and this, along with the reduction in the number of lay people available to serve as office holders is a cause for concern for the whole District. Several circuits are also known to be struggling financially and this could pose a risk for the District if those circuits are not able to contribute to the running costs of the District via the assessment. Other risks include reputational risks, operational risks such as failure of IT systems and risks arising from safeguarding cases.

Steps taken to mitigate against such risks include relevant training, engagement of a professional IT company, review of policies and procedures and purchase of insurance.

The risk register was reviewed in February 2023.

5. Structure, Governance and Management

The District 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 9th 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 or ratified by the half yearly circuit meeting. A district is the coordinating charity for a group of contiguous circuits and makes its decisions at the half yearly synods. The Methodist Conference meets once each year as the governing body for all Methodist churches.

1. Overall control rests with the Methodist Conference.
2. 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.
3. Connexional decisions are passed to the Chair of the District and the appropriate officers of the District for implementation.

4. The District looks to the circuits for implementation of District policy and Connexional initiatives with authority delegated to the circuit meeting for certain matters.
5. The circuit meeting looks to church councils for local implementation by the presbyter, the church stewards, and other officers, and authority is delegated to church councils as managing trustees.

5.2 Purpose of the District

The District is an expression, over a wider geographical area than any circuit, of the Connexional character of the church.

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

- the Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church, and
- any charitable purposes for the time being of any Connexional, district, circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church, and
- any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church, and
- any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary of the Methodist Church.

The primary purpose of this District is to advance the mission of the church in Lincolnshire:

- By providing support for circuits in matters of mission, administration or ministry
- By offering to circuits resources of finance (grants), personnel and expertise
- By facilitating District-wide initiatives (such as chaplaincies), events, worship and training opportunities.

5.3 Governance

The District operates within a statutory framework of regulation and seeks to ensure that it follows Methodist standing orders. It relies on the Connexional Office at 25 Tavistock Place, London, WC1H 9SF to provide guidance on changes that could affect the District.

The members of the district policy committee (known in this District as District Council) are appointed as trustees annually by a vote of the synod for a continuous term not normally exceeding six years. The Chair of District is ex-officio Chair of the District Council. Nominations to fill vacant positions are brought to synod for approval. Trustees may be either ministers or lay people attending churches in the area covered by the District.

There were seven trustee meetings (District Council), held via Zoom, during 2022-2023. The group's remit includes the oversight of the work of the District Resourcing Mission Group, finance, property, safeguarding, authorisations to preside at communion, chaplaincy projects, sabbaticals, manses, lay employment, district youth and children's work and appointments. It also links with the Eastern Region of the Methodist Church Learning Network; one of the Learning Network's officers attends meetings of the District Council.

5.4 Responsibility of the District Council

The responsibility of the District Council is:

1. to formulate and promote policies which will advance the mission of the Church in the circuits and local churches and, in particular, to supervise the use of resources of personnel, property and finance and to assist local churches and circuits having exceptional problems
2. to encourage inter-circuit and ecumenical co-operation
3. to act in an executive capacity in matters remitted to the council by the synod
4. to keep within its purview all District concerns not dealt with elsewhere
5. 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 to carry out its other responsibilities with any such development in mind

6. to be aware that the stipend of the Chair of the District is set by the Methodist Conference with all expenses met by the District
7. constantly to be aware of the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission

6. Reference and Administrative Details

6.1 Name of the Charity

Lincolnshire Methodist District

6.2 Charity Registration Number

1134228, Registered in England and Wales

6.3 Principal Office

Methodist District Office
Office 5, 72a Newark Road
Lincoln
LN5 8PY

6.4 Chair of the District

Rev Bruce D Thompson (until 31st August 2023)
Rev Angela J Long (from 1st September 2023)

6.5 Secretary of the Synod (Representative)

Mrs Sue Brumpton

6.6 Secretary of the Synod (Presbyteral)

Rev Angela Long (until 31st August 2023)
Vacancy (from 1st September 2023)

6.7 District Treasurer

Vacancy

6.8 Chair's PA and District Officer

Mrs Alison Godfrey

6.9 Independent Examiner

Keith May Accountancy Services Ltd

6.10 Bookkeepers:

Forrester Boyd, Grimsby

6.11 Names of Trustees

The following served as trustees throughout part or all of the year 2022-2023 or were trustees at the time of this report being approved:

Rev Bruce Thompson (Chair) (resigned 31.8.23)
Rev Angela Long (Chair) (appointed 1.9.23)
Rev Jade Bath (resigned 31.12.23)
Mr Paul Boucher
Mrs Sue Brumpton
Mr Richard Melling (appointed 15.2.24)
Mrs Sally-Ann Robinson
Rev Mark Sherman (resigned 31.8.23)
Rev Luke Smith
Rev Alan Swann (resigned 31.1.23)

6.11 Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
9 Bonhill Street
London
EC2A 4PE

6.12 Investment Managers and Custodian Trustees

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

Approvals

The Trustees' Report and the Financial Statements were approved by the District Council on 15th February 2024 and will be reported to the Synod on 20th April 2024.

Signed on behalf of the District Council, as authorised

Rev Angela Long
District Chair
Date:

Mrs Sally-Ann Robinson
Trustee
Date:



**District
Accruals Accounts
2022-23**

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS
ACCRUALS BASIS
for the year ended 31 August 2023**

LINCOLNSHIRE

District

District no

17

Registered Charity - Registration number

1134228

District Chair

Rev Angela Long, Chair of District

Synod Secretary

Mrs. Susan Brumpton

Treasurer

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	District Advance Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022-23 £
Income from						
1 Donations and legacies		19			300	319
2 Connexional Advance & Priority Fund			43,106			43,106
3 Income from investments		2,817	6,706	263	1,562	11,348
Income from charitable activities						
4 Assessments on circuits	2	120,091				120,091
5 From Circuit Model Trust Funds			78,832			78,832
6 Contribution to the cost of the Chair	3	45,724				45,724
7 Other charitable activities					10,000	10,000
8 Income from other trading activities						0
9 Other income						0
Total income		168,650	128,644	263	11,862	309,419
Expenditure						
9 Grants and donations	5	2,089	51,289			53,378
10 Salaries and associated costs	6	69,353				69,353
11 Cost of the Chair	3	49,025				49,025
12 Property Maintenance	7	16,797				16,797
13 Office expenses	8	23,874	419			24,293
14 Synods, committees, Conference	9	14,538				14,538
15 Training		1,091			1,425	2,516
16 Professional fees		4,212				4,212
17 Other outgoings	10				3,668	3,668
Total expenditure		180,979	51,708	0	5,093	237,780
Net income/(expenditure) before gains and losses on investments						
		-12,329	76,936	263	6,769	71,639
18 Net gains/(losses) on investments						0
Net income/(expenditure)		-12,329	76,936	263	6,769	71,639
19 Transfers between funds		31,432	-53,000	4,299	17,269	0
20 Other gains/(losses)						0
Net movement in funds		19,103	23,936	4,562	24,038	71,639
Total funds brought forward		287,613	8,487	3,943	41,171	341,215
Total funds carried forward		306,716	32,423	8,505	65,209	412,854

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2022

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	District Advance Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021-22 £
Income from						
1 Donations and legacies						0
2 Connexional Advance & Property Fund			55,319			55,319
3 Income from investments		252	809	27	174	1,262
Income from charitable activities						
4 Assessments on circuits	2	93,764				93,764
5 From Circuit Model Trust Funds			66,732			66,732
6 Contribution to the cost of the Chair	3	42,740				42,740
7 Other charitable activities					1,500	1,500
8 Income from other trading activities						0
9 Other income						0
Total income		136,756	122,860	27	1,674	261,317
Expenditure						
9 Grants and donations	5	2,280	86,035		1,200	89,515
10 Salaries and associated costs	6	49,920				49,920
11 Cost of the Chair	3	45,455				45,455
12 Property Maintenance	7	14,648				14,648
13 Office expenses	8	52,903	364			53,267
14 Synods, committees, Conference	9	11,520				11,520
15 Training		1,223			908	2,131
16 Professional fees		5,071				5,071
17 Other outgoings	10				2,731	2,731
Total expenditure		183,019	86,399	0	4,839	274,258
Net income/(expenditure) before gains and losses on investments						
		-46,263	36,461	27	-3,165	-12,940
18 Net gains/(losses) on investments						0
Net income/(expenditure)		-46,263	36,461	27	-3,165	-12,940
19 Transfers between funds		36,637	-34,600	-2,500	463	0
20 Other gains/(losses)						0
Net movement in funds		-9,626	1,861	-2,473	-2,702	-12,940
Total funds brought forward		297,239	6,627	6,416	43,874	354,155
Total funds carried forward		287,613	8,487	3,943	41,171	341,215

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023

Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	District Advance Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Total
	£	£	£	£	£

Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets	11	230,360			230,360
Investment properties					0
Investments					0
Total fixed assets		230,360	0	0	230,360

Current Assets

Debtors	12	6,688			6,688
Loans by the District					0
Trustee Investment Fund with TMCP	13		166,237		166,237
Central Finance Board Deposits	14	70,921	8,505	65,209	144,636
Cash at Bank and in hand	14	2,477			2,477
Total current assets		80,087	166,237	8,505	320,039

Current liabilities

Creditors (due in under 1 year)	15	3,731			3,731
Grants payable in 2023-24			120,814		120,814
Total current liabilities		3,731	120,814	0	124,545
Net current assets/liabilities		76,355	45,423	8,505	195,493

Total assets less current liabilities		306,716	45,423	8,505	65,209	425,854
--	--	----------------	---------------	--------------	---------------	----------------

Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)						
Grants payable in 2024-25 and beyond			13,000			13,000
Loans to the District						0
						0
Net assets		306,716	32,423	8,505	65,209	412,854

Funds of the District

General Fund (Unrestricted)	16	306,716				306,716
District Advance Fund (Unrestricted)			32,423			32,423
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	16			8,505		8,505
Total Unrestricted Funds						347,645
Restricted Funds	17				65,209	65,209
Total Funds		306,716	32,423	8,505	65,209	412,854

Signed



District Treasurer

ON BEHALF OF
THE TRUSTEES

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2022

Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	District Advance Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Total
	£	£	£	£	£

Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets	11	230,360			230,360
Investment properties					0
Investments					0
Total fixed assets		230,360	0	0	230,360

Current Assets

Debtors	12	2,754			2,754
Loans by the District					0
Trustee Investment Fund with TMCP	13		147,009		147,009
Central Finance Board Deposits	14	52,253	3,943	41,171	97,367
Cash at Bank and in hand	14	6,282			6,282
Total current assets		61,289	147,009	41,171	253,412

Current liabilities

Creditors (due in under 1 year)	15	4,036			4,036
Grants payable in 2022-23			114,521		114,521
Total current liabilities		4,036	114,521	0	118,557
Net current assets/liabilities		57,253	32,488	41,171	134,855

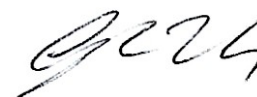
Total assets less current liabilities		287,613	32,488	3,943	41,171	365,215
--	--	----------------	---------------	--------------	---------------	----------------

Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)						
Grants payable in 2023-24 and beyond			24,000			24,000
Loans to the District						0
						0
Net assets		287,613	8,488	3,943	41,171	341,215

Funds of the District

Funds of the District						
General Fund (Unrestricted)	16	287,613				287,613
District Advance Fund (Unrestricted)			8,488			8,488
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	16			3,943		3,943
Total Unrestricted Funds						300,044
Restricted Funds	17				41,171	41,171
Total Funds		287,613	8,488	3,943	41,171	341,215

Signed



District Treasurer

ON BEHALF OF
THE TRUSTEES

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting framework and accounting policies

i Accounting framework

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2019 version of *Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP)* applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective from 1 January 2019) – (the Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

ii Public benefit entity

The Lincolnshire District (hereinafter referred to as "District") meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s) below.

iii Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost on the accruals basis to show a true and fair view of the District's financial position and activities.

iv Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

v Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2023, the trustees believe that the District is a going concern.

vi FRS102 SORP2019

These accounts are compliant with FRS102 and with the FRS102 SORP 2019.

vii Consolidation

The District oversees the work of ministers and lay workers in churches and circuits within the District but does not have control over those churches or circuits, ministers or lay workers except in extreme circumstances, none of which were applicable. For this reason, the financial statements of the churches and circuits within the District are not consolidated into these financial statements.

viii Income recognition

Income is brought into account when it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will accrue to the District. No attempt is made to measure the value of services donated by volunteers. Details of how the contribution to the cost of the Chair of District has been determined appears in Note 3. A similar figure appears in the Expenditure section of the SOFA.

Individual amounts categorised as *Other income* in the SOFA will be shown separately if they are considered material.

The District acts as agent in three matters:

1. the collection of quarterly assessments from circuits which are paid to the Methodist Church Fund (MCF)
2. the payment of expenses of delegates from the District to the Methodist Conference
3. the collection taken at the spring synod on behalf of the Methodist Ministers' Children's Relief Fund
4. In addition in 2023 the District collected and paid out leaving gifts to the Chair of District

In all these matters the transactions are not reflected in the SOFA because there is no obligation on the District to make up any shortfall in assessments from Circuits. Sums received as Circuit assessments cannot be recognised as income in the District as they are the income of the MCF.

In accordance with the Charities SORP, the time of volunteers is not recognised.

ix Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the District to pay out resources.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

x Grants

Grants are recognised in full when the award is made once the District accepts that there is a legal or constructive obligation to make the payment and that such payment is probable.

xi VAT

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

xii Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000. The freehold property is shown in the accounts at cost in 2011, of which the land component is deemed to be £90,000. No depreciation is provided on the building because the trustees consider the current residual fair value of the manse building (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year-end) to be not less than its cost to date. The property has been reviewed for impairment.

xiii Debtors and creditors; bank and cash

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the District or prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any trade discounts, where normal credit terms apply, or amount advanced to the District. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds of bank balances and deposit account balances are shown at the realisable values.

xiv Methodist Church Fund (MCF)

The District acts as agent for the MCF by collecting its assessments on Circuits and does not, therefore, include the assessments in the SOFA. If a Circuit is late in paying its MCF assessment to the District but such sum is received before the quarterly transfer to the MCF, the amount paid late will be shown as a debtor in the District's accounts.

xv Manse costs

The District is required to provide accommodation for the Chair of District and family. The District bears the cost of repairs, maintenance, building insurance, Council Tax and water charges. These costs are not shown separately as benefits-in-kind for the Chair as HMRC does not seek to tax these receipts in the hands of the Chair. In addition, since February 2017, the District has made a contribution towards the cost of the Manse occupied by the part-time Chaplain, which is provided by the Lincoln Circuit with which the appointment is shared.

2 Assessment on Circuits

All Circuits (see list given below in this note) paid their assessments to the District and to the MCF during the year. An assessment on Circuits is determined annually by the District by reference to offers made by each Circuit towards meeting the financial requirements of the District.

The District was made up of the following Circuits:

Circuit No	Circuit Name
17/1	Epworth and Scunthorpe
17/2	Lincoln
17/4	Mid Lincolnshire
17/5	Grimsby and Cleethorpes
17/6	East Lincolnshire
17/7	Wolds and Trent
17/11	Barton and Brigg
17/12	Sleaford
17/15	South Holland
17/22	Boston

Contribution to Methodist Church Fund (MCF)

In addition to the assessments on the Circuits to help defray the costs of running the District, the District acted as agent for the MCF which levied assessments on the Circuits in this District totalling £274,655 (2021-22: £285,988) all of which were collected and paid over to the MCF in the year. No balance was held at the end of the year; no fee is received for this service which is performed at nearly nil cost to the District. These sums collected for and remitted to the MCF do not appear elsewhere in these financial statements.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

3 Cost of Chair and trustees

The Chair of District chairs meetings of the District Council (DC). The members of the DC are the trustees of the District. The stipend, employer's NIC and employer's pension contributions of the Chair of District are paid by the Methodist Connexion. The Chair's other costs are met mostly by the District.

	2022-23	2021-22
	£	£
Stipend to Chair	34,836	32,451
Employer's National Insurance Contribution	3,644	3,343
Employer's pension contribution to the defined benefit scheme	7,244	6,947
Cash cost paid by the Connexion (see, SOFA, line 6)	45,724	42,740
Chair's expenses	3,301	2,715
Total cost	49,025	45,455

Since the stipend-related costs above (i.e., £49,025; 2021-22 £45,455) are borne by the Connexion, they appear both in the Income of the District (see SOFA line 6) and the Expenditure of the District (see SOFA line 11). It should be noted that the Chair is required to occupy the District manse. The manse is provided by the District and the District maintains the property. The costs of maintaining the manse for the year were £7,146 (2021-22 £5,151) - see Note 7 below. The Chair of District is the sole paid key management person but is supported by members of the DC.

No accrual is made for the Chair's entitlement to a sabbatical as his functions are undertaken by the Assistant Chairs at minimal extra cost to the District.

Payment to Trustees

It is District policy to offer to reimburse members of the District Council (DC) and others involved in the administration of District affairs for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties. The Chair of District undertakes the primary executive role within the District. Apart from the Chair of District and the lay Secretary of Synod, no member of the DC was in receipt of any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the District, although certain travelling and administration costs were reimbursed whenever this was requested.

Other than the lay Secretary of Synod, none of the trustees is an employee of the District. Due to meetings taking place on Zoom during 2022/23 no trustees claimed any expenses. (2021-22: No trustees claimed any expenses.)

4 Other income

The District has not normally undertaken fundraising however in respect of the work of the healthcare chaplaincy fundraising is now beginning with a grant of £300 received during the year.

5 Grants, donations and related Support costs

Grants and donations totalling £104,289 were awarded during the year (2021-22: £120,635) as shown below:

	2022-23	2021-22
	£	£
Unrestricted:		
- From General Fund		
- From Youth Activities Fund		
- From DAF	104,289	120,635
- To Ecumenical and New Communities	-	-
Sub total	104,289	120,635
Restricted:		
- From Emergency Welfare Fund		1,000
- From Youth Bursary		
- From Benevolence Fund		200
- From Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund		
Sub total	-	1,200
Total	104,289	121,835

Details of grants paid by the District during the year were reported to the District Council.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

5 Grants, donations and related Support costs (cont'd.....)

Expenditure on charitable activities through the District Advance Fund

This fund receives formulaically determined contributions from the Circuit Model Trust Funds held by Circuits within the District and, from time to time, a grant from the Connexional Priority Fund and redistributes the monies to grantees in the District through relevant grants as assessed by the District Resourcing Mission Group. During the year the following grants were awarded:

2022-23				
Given to	Amount in £		Analysis of amounts given by type of	Amount in £
Churches	4,289		Projects	3,000
Circuits	2,000		Ministry	42,000
.....			General	65,289
<i>Institutions</i>	6,289			
Individuals				
<i>Sub total</i>	6,289			
Ecumenical	35,000			
District	63,000			
Total	104,289			104,289
2021-22				
Given to	Amount in £		Analysis of amounts given by type of	Amount in £
Churches	10,000		Projects	-
Circuits	800		Ministry	58,600
.....			General	62,035
<i>Institutions</i>	10,800			
Individuals				
<i>Sub total</i>	10,800			
Ecumenical	5,235			
District	104,600			
Total	120,635			120,635

The income of the fund was £128,225 (2021-22: £122,496) (net of costs) during the year. The total paid out in grants was £108,966 (2021-22: £103,355). A full list of grants will be presented to the April Synod. The Resourcing Mission Group is aware that grant applications must demonstrate public benefit.

6 Salaries and associated costs

Gross salaries paid to 4 (2021-22: 3) part time employees were as follows:

	2022-23	2021-22
	£	£
Gross pay	58,100	40,842
Employer's National Insurance contribution	5,346	3,505
Employer's pension contribution to defined contribution scheme	5,907	5,573
Total cost for 3 (2020-21: 3) part time employees	69,353	49,920
Total weekly contractual hours of 4 (2021-22: 3) part time employees	89	64

No employees received employee benefits that totalled more than £60,000. There is no accrual for holiday pay as it is immaterial. All employees are paid at or above the Living Wage. One of the part time employees was engaged as Secretary to Synod, another provided secretarial and administrative assistance to the District and to the Chair and acted as District Officer and the third is a Chaplain, whose ministerial appointment is shared with Lincoln Circuit. The fourth is the District Safeguarding Officer employed by the District from 1st April 2023.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

6 Salaries and associated costs (cont'd.....)

Pensions

Most ordained presbyters and deacons are members of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS). This is a defined benefit scheme. The Supreme Court held in 2014 that Methodist ministers (which term includes presbyters and deacons) are not employees of the Church. For simplicity, however, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions and pension contributions, the terms 'employer' and 'employee' are used as they would be in an employing body.

On the other hand lay employees are contractually employees. Two part time employees were given, and turned down, the opportunity to join a defined contribution workplace pension scheme to which the District and the employee would contribute. The other part-time employee is a member of that scheme. The Chaplain is a member of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme.

The Connexion accounts for both the MMPS and the Pension and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church (PASLEMC) and shows the figures in the annual Methodist Church in Great Britain accounts. The MMPS is in deficit but a plan for removal of the deficit has been proposed and is being implemented. Details of the deficits on these schemes can be found in the Annual Report and Accounts of The Methodist Church at www.methodist.org.uk.

7 Property costs

	2022-23 £	2021-22 £
District office, rent and services	1,862	1,744
Contribution to Chaplain's manse	7,788	7,752
Chair's manse	7,146	5,151
Total	16,797	14,648

8 Office expenses

	2022-23 £	2021-22 £
Printing, postage and stationery	1,093	709
Telephone	174	230
Insurance	227	246
Safeguarding	20,298	37,229
Publicity	-	434
Computers and support	1,593	1,963
Other	489	12,090
Total charged to General Fund	23,874	52,903
Other - Designated Funds		-
TMCP charges - District Advance Fund	419	364
Total	24,293	53,267

None of the remaining individual amounts (aggregated as 'Other' above) is considered material and therefore none is listed separately.

9 Synods, Committees, Conference

	2022-23 £	2021-22 £
Synods	1,314	579
Conference		
Committees	2,602	2,299
Agricultural Chaplain expenses, including travel	5,710	5,157
Other	4,913	3,485
Total	14,538	11,520

None of the remaining individual amounts (aggregated as 'Other' above) is considered material and therefore none is listed separately.

10 Other outgoings

	2022-23 £	2021-22 £
Provision for bad debts		
Sundry outgoings	40	-
	40	-
Paid from LCHC grants	3,628	2,731
Total	3,668	2,731

None of the remaining individual amounts (aggregated as 'Sundry outgoings' above) is considered material and therefore none is listed separately.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

11 Manse and other property

The value of the District manse is greater than its historical cost in 2011 shown in the accounts. There is no depreciation on the manse as the Trustees believe that the current residual market value of the building is greater than the carrying value of that part of the asset's cost to date.

	Land	Buildings	Total
	£	£	£
Cost or valuation			
Balance brought forward at 1 September, at cost	90,000	140,360	230,360
Additions in the year			
Revaluations in the year			
Less: Disposals in the year			
Transfers between categories			
Balance carried forward at 31 August	90,000	140,360	230,360

12 Debtors and prepayments

All sums shown as Debtors at 31 Aug 2022 were received during the current year. All sums paid in advance at 31 Aug 2023 were for activities, (principally deposits for retreats). It is expected that payments in advance at 31 August 2023 will be expensed in 2023-24.

Debtors were made up as follows:

	2022-23 £	2021-22 £
Trade debtors		
Circuit assessments received late		
Ministers' Retreat	179	-
	179	-
Prepayments and accrued income		
Payments in advance	6,509	2,754
	6,509	2,754
Other debtors		
	-	-
Total (net)	6,688	2,754

13 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP)

The funds that support the District Advance Fund are held by TMCP in Trustees Interest Funds, which is a cash deposit fund on which interest is credited to the account each month.

TMCP is the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds. Trust property is held for and on behalf of local Managing Trustees who are responsible for the day to day management of trust property. TMCP ensure that, through providing guidance and acting under their direction, the Managing Trustees comply with charity law and Methodist law and policy as determined by the Methodist Conference.

14 Central Finance Board (CFB) and cash at bank

The District has one current account at CAF Bank Ltd., an authorised institution. The sums held in that account are immediately available. In addition the District has 11 (2021-22: 11) deposit accounts at CFB, a common deposit fund. These accounts are one General Fund, 3 (2021-22: 4) Designated Funds and 7 (2021-22: 6) Restricted Funds. Interest is earned on these accounts and credited monthly; the sums deposited can be withdrawn without notice and without loss of interest. These sums are viewed as being liquid.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

15 Creditors and accrued expenses

	2022-23 £	2021-22 £
Creditors:		
Expenses reimbursement	-	-
Unpaid invoices	1,225	1,169
Subscriptions	-	-
Other	-	-
Total creditors	1,225	1,169
Accruals:		
PAYE, NI and Pensions contributions	- 13	- 12
Accountancy fees	2,520	2,880
Total accruals	2,507	2,867
Total of creditors and accrued expenses	3,731	4,036

Maturity analysis of basic financial instruments

	Accrued at 1st Sep 2022	Paid this year	Accruals made this year	Accrued at the end of 31 Aug 2023
	£	£	£	£
Expenses	-	-	-	-
Unpaid Invoices	1,169	1,169	1,225	1,225
Subscriptions	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-
Accruals	2,880	2,880	2,520	2,520
Employers NIC	-	-	-	-
PAYE and pension	- 12	-	1	13
Total costs	4,036	4,049	3,744	3,731

All sums accrued at 31 Aug 2022 were paid during the year to 31 Aug 2023 and it is expected that all sums accrued at 31 Aug 2023 will be paid during the year to 31 Aug 2024.

16 Unrestricted Funds

16.1 General Fund

Balance of £306,716 at 31 Aug 2023 (2022: £287,613)

The purpose of the fund is for use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the District and which have not been designated for other purposes. About 75% of this fund is held as a freehold property, the District manse for the Chair of District. During the year £2,089 (2021-22: £2,280) was paid out as a subscription to Churches Together in All Lincolnshire.

16.2 Other Designated Funds

Balance of £8,505 at 31 Aug 2023 (2022: £3,943)

These funds are to serve specific purposes but are not restricted by any document or deed to that purpose alone. These funds comprise:

The Manse Fund - balance £3,879 (2022: £14) - is available to meet major repairs and renovations to the District manse.

The Chair's Removal Costs Fund - balance £4,447 (2022: £3,554) - is accumulating funds to meet the future removal costs on a change in Chair of District.

The District Office Fund - balance £nil (2022: £202) - is available to meet unexpected costs of the District Office and the District Officer or such other costs as the DC may decide. This fund has now been closed.

The Training new Ministers Fund - balance £179 (2022: £172) - is held to meet costs of the training of new Ministers.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

17 Restricted Funds

Balance of £65,209 at 31 Aug 2023 (2022: £41,171)

The Benevolence Fund – balance £1,904 (2022: £1,840) – provides financial support to active and supernumerary ministers in the District at the discretion of the Chair of District.

The Youth and Children's Bursary Fund – balance £6,740 (2022: £6,514) – is used to assist financially:

1. individual leaders to attend a courses or conference which will have some direct benefit to them and to their work amongst children and young people;
2. individual young people to attend a course, conference, or special youth event.
3. or by the provision of other resources, new and existing work amongst children and young people within the District, where little other support is available.

Agricultural Chaplaincy - balance £8,972 (2022: £11,347) - is earmarked to support the work of the Agricultural Chaplain.

Lincolnshire Community Healthcare Chaplaincy - balance £27,070 (2022: £11,427) - is earmarked to support the work of the Lincolnshire Community Healthcare Chaplaincy scheme.

Emergency Welfare Fund - balance £8,833 (2022: £8,536) - The purpose of this fund is to be able to respond quickly and flexibly, via churches, to situations of emergency need in the community.

Youth Activities fund - balance £1,558 (2022: £1,506) - is earmarked to support youth group in attending future "3 Gen" Conferences.

New Places for New People - £10,132 (2022: £nil) - a grant was received from the Connexion and is to be used to support the exploration of a District New Places for New People project.

18 Connected organisations and related parties

All of the District trustees are members of one or another Church and Circuit within the District and may be trustees in their Churches and/or Circuits.

Connected organisations include the Methodist Connexion, Circuits and Churches within the District, other Methodist Districts in Great Britain, the Methodist Ministers' Children's Relief Association, CFB and TMCP. All of these entities have their own trustees or directors and autonomous administration such that the District has no significant influence over any of them, nor they over the District. They are, therefore, not considered related parties.

Name of Connected Organisations	Receipts £	Payments £	Adjustments £
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District - To Methodist Church Fund	274,655	274,655	
Grant from Connexional Priority Fund	43,106		
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District (Levy on Circuit Model Trust Funds)	78,832		
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District (for District Expenses Fund)	120,091		
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District (contributions to cost of Retreats)	-		
To Churches within the Lincolnshire District (grants)		6,289	
From Methodist Church Fund for New Places for New People	10,000		
Total 2022-23	526,684	280,944	-

Name of Connected Organisations	Receipts £	Payments £	Adjustments £
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District - To Methodist Church Fund	285,988	285,988	
Grant from Connexional Priority Fund	55,319		
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District (Levy on Circuit Model Trust Funds)	66,732		
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District (for District Expenses Fund)	93,764		
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District (contributions to cost of Retreats)	-		
To Churches within the Lincolnshire District (grants)		10,800	
Total 2021-22	501,803	296,788	-

There were no related party transactions.

19 Volunteer contributions

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit, Church) within the Methodist Church is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. Principally volunteer contributions to the District are by chaplains and by those serving on committees of the District that deal with mission, manses, finance, policy, grants, training, development and safeguarding. The District is grateful to all volunteers for their help and commitment.

20 Capital commitments and contingent liabilities

There were no capital commitments or contingent liabilities at the year end (2021-22: nil).

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT DECLARATIONS

Treasurer

I confirm that these accrual based accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 have been prepared from the records of the District and that they include all funds under the control of the District Council.

Signature of Treasurer
District officer

A. J. Godfrey

Date

15.2.24

Name of Treasurer
District officer

ALISON GODFREY

Address

72a Newark Road, Lincoln LN5 8PY

Presentation to the District Council for approval.

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 were presented to the District Council at its meeting on and were approved.

15/2/24

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Angela Long

Name of the Chair of the meeting

Rev. Angela Long

Date

15/2/24

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

LINCOLNSHIRE

District Charity No. **1134228**

Responsibilities and basis of Report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Lincolnshire District for the year ended 31 August 2023. As the District'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 District'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.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

DECLARATIONS - cont'd

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or

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

the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts

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

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

** Please delete as appropriate*

Name

Keith May

Signature

Relevant Professional qualification of examiner

ACMA CGMA

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Keith May Accounting Services Ltd

Address

Aura Business Centre, Heath Road, Skegness PE25 3SJ

Date

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT DECLARATIONS

Treasurer

I confirm that these accrual based accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 have been prepared from the records of the District and that they include all funds under the control of the District Council.

Signature of Treasurer
District officer

A. J. Godfrey

Date

15.2.24

Name of Treasurer
District officer

ALISON GODFREY

Address

72a Newark Road, Lincoln LN5 8PY

Presentation to the District Council for approval.

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 were presented to the District Council at its meeting on and were approved.

15/2/24

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Angela Long

Name of the Chair of the meeting

Rev. Angela Long

Date

15/2/24

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

LINCOLNSHIRE

District Charity No. 1134228

Responsibilities and basis of Report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Lincolnshire District for the year ended 31 August 2023. As the District'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 District'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.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT DECLARATIONS - cont'd

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or

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

the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts

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

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

** Please delete as appropriate*

Name

Keith May

Signature

Relevant Professional qualification of examiner

ACMA CGMA

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Keith May Accounting Services Ltd

Address

Aura Business Centre, Heath Road, Skegness PE25 3SJ

Date

Accounts

Lincolnshire Methodist District

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2022

Objectives and Activities

Lincolnshire Methodist District (the District) exists to advance the mission of the Methodist Church throughout the majority of the geographic county of Lincolnshire and the areas of North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire (hereafter known as Lincolnshire) by providing support for the ten circuits in line with Connexional priorities. The District comprises 116 local Methodist churches grouped into ten circuits served by a ministerial team of 25 ordained ministers plus a number of part time active retired ministers, lay workers and volunteers.

The District is led by a full time District Chair working with a personal assistant, a safeguarding officer, synod secretary and district officer. In addition, a large number of voluntary officers, including a district steward, support the work of the District.

The District Synod, which met twice during the year, sets the policy for the District, serving as a link between the Methodist Conference and the Connexional team on the one hand and the circuits and local churches on the other. It has oversight of all District affairs, formulating and promoting policies, through its various officers and committees to assist the mission of the Church, to give inspiration to the leaders in the circuits and to ensure the interrelation of all aspects of the Church's life throughout the District.

The day to day work of the Synod is carried out by the District Council who are the trustees of Lincolnshire Methodist District. As a registered charity, the District takes seriously its responsibilities to the Charity Commissioners and adheres to their guidance concerning public benefit in relation to charitable objectives.

2. Achievements and Performance

Whilst most churches, circuits and District activities were largely back to normal during the past year following the removal of Covid restrictions the impact of the pandemic was still felt. Apart from Synod the majority of District meetings are now held online which helps cut costs, time and carbon emissions. Unfortunately the pandemic seems to have accelerated the closure of some chapels and so District Trustees received and approved several applications to cease worship in particular places.

The following activities took place during the year:

- Three new ministers were welcomed to the District in September 2021 with their induction to the District taking place online. A further three new ministers were identified in the stationing process in the autumn of 2021 ready for arrival in the District in September 2022.
- There was one new local church pastor applicant who together with a new volunteer from last year attended the Certificate in Pastoral Care course at Cliff College. The appointment was subsequently approved.
- Ten meetings of the District Council (trustees) took place; Zoom enabled more frequent meetings to take place.
- Two ministerial synods and two representative synods took place drawing together ministers and lay people from all the circuits to ratify decisions and vote on important issues.
- Regular regional meetings took place with colleagues from other Districts. A growing amount of committee work is now being undertaken regionally e.g. probationers committee. There was an expectation that the Methodist Conference

held in June 2022 would vote for Districts to merge however the vote didn't go in the way anticipated.

- The District Agricultural Chaplain now works with a team of part time Anglican colleagues which both extends the reach of the chaplaincy and starts the process of succession planning. He is supported by a District management group.
- A stationing briefing was held in May to help prepare the circuits for the process of applying for a new minister. Follow up training consisted of a session on unconscious bias led by the Learning Network.
- The Chair of District provided cover for the Boston Circuit Superintendent for a period of three to four months.
- An online event was held with guest speaker Carolyn Custis James joining from America.
- A weekend of events for lay people with the title "The people who inspired our lives" took place on Zoom and was appreciated by all who attended.
- Several District quiet days were held at the Little Retreat at Lea which held its official opening and dedication service in the autumn of 2021. This followed the extensive building work which took place in previous months.
- Meetings with circuit stewards and superintendent ministers took place to help share information and good practice.
- Nine meetings of the Insight Group which includes Bible study, prayer and conversation took place online.
- A safeguarding conference followed by a fortnight of follow up events on the topic of The Theology of Safeguarding took place. Guest speakers gave key note speeches and in 14 sessions topics such as trauma, pastoral care, supporting and understanding survivors were explored.
- There was a Connexional requirement to get all local preachers and worship leaders up to date with their advanced safeguarding training. This resulted in the District Safeguarding Officer running 13 courses with attendance of 161 people in total.
- The District Safeguarding Officer supported many churches and individuals in a variety of case work and with the development of policy and procedure.
- Following Covid restrictions retreats were again allowed to happen and so the Superintendent Ministers went to Launde Abbey in January and the other ministers to the same venue in April 2022.
- The Lincolnshire Community Healthcare Chaplaincy wrote a development plan and held a training day for all those involved in the chaplaincy. Eight chaplains were actively taking appointments and were pleased to be able to make the gradual return to seeing people in person at the various GP practices.
- The District Resourcing Mission Group met twice to decide upon grant applications. There were fewer applications than in previous years which enabled the group to designate some funds for potential future eco projects.
- The Chair of District met with ecumenical leaders from the main denominations. Once such meeting resulted in the church leaders composing a letter about the cost of living crisis. This was sent to all church members in the area via the circuits

2.1 Plans for future years

The statement "*Faithful and True: Beyond 2020 vision*" was launched at Synod in September 2021. The eight priorities will be the focus of work and funding in the coming years.

Circuits were asked to identify the areas that they felt should be the focus out of the eight categories so that grant funding could be focussed in these areas.

3. Financial Review

During the year the District received total income of £261,317 (2020-2021: £243,191) and dispersed £274,258 (2020-2021: £226,517), resulting in a deficit of £12,940 (2020-2021 surplus of £16,614). Total reserves carried forward are £341,215 (£354,155 in 2021) and, as a result, the unrestricted readily available reserves total £61,289 (2020-2021: £73,181) and restricted reserves total £41,171 (2020-2021: £43,873k) excluding the restricted District Advance Fund.

The trustees of the District have every reason to believe that the District is a going concern, principally because Circuits continue to meet their assessments and the District has adequate reserves to cover any shortfall in anticipated income. There are no subsidiary undertakings. Trustees are very aware of the increasing pressure on circuit finances due to the cost of living crisis and diminishing church membership and recognise that the next few years could be extremely difficult for individuals, churches, circuits and the District given that District income is a by-product of local giving.

The District continues to hold one freehold property which is the Chair's Manse in Lincoln.

The District has the following principal sources of income:

- Assessments on Circuits within the District.
- Distribution from the Connexional Priority Fund
- Levies on the Circuit Model Trust Funds of Circuits within the District
- Interest on funds invested

These sums are used to administer the District and to provide grants to circuits, churches and individuals in the District so that they may embark on or continue with projects that fulfil the mission of the District.

Methodist Ministers' Pension Fund

Trustees are aware that the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme is treated as a group defined benefit plan. The net defined benefit cost is recognised by the sponsoring entity, The Methodist Church in Great Britain, as there is no contractual agreement or stated policy for charging the net defined benefit cost to individual entities, such as the District. The District recognises a cost equal to its contributions payable for the period. Further details in respect of these pension arrangements are disclosed in the accounts of The Methodist Church in Great Britain.

A donation of £11,000 was contributed by the District to the Pension Scheme during this financial year following a difficult triennial evaluation and subsequent appeal for funds from Methodist Connexion.

3.1 Investment Policy and Performance

To comply with Methodist Standing Orders, monies for long term 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 districts. These sums are invested in unitised investments or held on deposit. The investment returns are close to tracking the movements in the FTSE100 index. The deposit income mirrors the deposit rates available elsewhere. The District Trustees' investment policy is aligned with that of the Central Finance Board (CFB) and TMCP because these organisations take into consideration the social, environmental and ethical considerations, both negatively and positively in establishing investment policy.

Short term deposits are lodged directly with the CFB and attract rates of interest comparable to the rest of the market.

There are no bench marks for the expected returns at TMCP and CFB. It is the District's policy to manage the cash and investment resources of the District 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 District's low appetite for risk. The total return achieved on the funds invested with the CFB was between 0.01% and 1.38% with an average monthly rate of 0.42% for the year.

3.2 Reserves Policy

This Reserves policy relates to the funds operated by the Trustees of the Lincolnshire Methodist District (the District). A bank current account is operated for the District expenses fund, and money not immediately required is placed on deposit with the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church (CFB).

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

District Advance Fund - Trust No.16017

This Fund is held with The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes in its Trustee Interest Fund. The use of the Fund is regulated by Standing Order (SO) 963 of the Methodist Church, where its purposes are restricted to the support of personnel serving in the District or any of its circuits, for property schemes approved under SO 93 and where applicable SO 931, and for ecumenical work. The District has also decided that grants should only be given if the relevant scheme is shown to be for, or to assist, mission work and is in accordance with its vision statement.

The Fund is administered on behalf of Synod by the District Resourcing Mission Group, and derives its income from an annual levy on Circuit Model Trust Funds within the District, an annual allocation from the Connexional Priority Fund and interest on funds held awaiting distribution. The aim is to hold sufficient reserves to cover grants already awarded for payment in subsequent years in order to comply with "The Statement of Recommended Practice" relative thereto. At 31st August 2022 the balance in hand was £147,009, an excess of £8,487 over contingent liabilities for grants promised for future years of £138,521.

General (District Expenses) Fund

This Fund receives income from Circuit assessments and bank interest and is used for general expenses of the District. The aim of the Trustees is to hold sufficient readily available funds to cover at least two quarters expenditure (2022-2023: approx. £57,500) and redundancy costs. If it were necessary to make all employees redundant in 2023 payments of a minimum of around £7,500 would be due. Accordingly, the Trustees consider that the balance of £65,232 in hand at 31st August 2022 is adequate and should be maintained at this level.

DESIGNATED FUNDS

Chair's Manse Fund

This fund, held on deposit with the Central Finance Board (CFB), receives transfers from the General Fund and interest on the funds deposited and is designed to meet exceptional expenditure incurred on the Chair's manse. The balance of £14 is considered inadequate and should be built up to a target level of £15,000 in order to be available for planned maintenance in coming years.

Relocation Fund

This fund, held on deposit with CFB, receives transfers from the General Fund and interest on the funds deposited and is designed to accumulate funds towards the future cost of relocating a new Chair of District. The cost of the next relocation of a District Chair is unknown however it is considered prudent to increase the current balance of £3,553 to a target reserve of £4,500.

District Officer Fund

During the year 2021-2022 £2,500 was transferred to the general fund to meet general running costs. The balance of £202 as at 31st August 2022 is held on deposit with CFB and receives interest on the funds deposited. The costs relating to the District Officer are now part of the general budget and so it is not considered necessary to keep this fund

open. The remainder of this fund will therefore be transferred to the general fund and this account be closed.

Training New Ministers

This fund, held on deposit with CFB and receiving interest on the funds deposited, is to be used for training new ministers. At 31st August 2022 the balance in hand was £173. It is not considered necessary to fix a reserve.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

District Benevolence Fund (Wellbeing)

This fund, which receives interest on funds held on deposit with CFB, is used to support active and supernumerary ministers and widows at the discretion of the Chair of the District. There was one grant of £200 paid during the last year resulting in a balance of £1,840 at 31st August 2022. The balance is considered low and so ways of building up the fund over the coming years needs to be considered. The target is £5,000.

Youth and Children's Bursary Fund

The purpose of this fund, which receives interest on funds held on deposit with CFB, is to assist financially:-

- a) individual leaders to attend a courses or conference which will have some direct benefit to them and to their work amongst children and young people;
- b) individual young people to attend a course, conference, or special youth event.
- c) or by the provision of other resources, new and existing work amongst children and young people within the District, where little other support is available.

It is not considered necessary to fix a reserve, as the balance of £6,514 at 31st August 2022 is considered sufficient for the foreseeable future.

Agricultural Chaplaincy

This fund is specifically for the work of the Agricultural Chaplaincy and is held within a District CFB deposit account. It was received following the closure of another related organisation. The balance at 31st August 2022 was £11,347 and this will be used over the next few years alongside internal and external grants which will need to be sought to fund the annual costs of the agricultural chaplaincy.

Lincolnshire Community Healthcare Chaplaincy

Funds within this reserve held with the CFB are used to fund the work of the Lincolnshire Community Healthcare Chaplaincy. The balance on this fund on 31st August 2022 was £11,427. Active fundraising through grant applications is now underway in order to be able to implement the plans outlined in the development plan for this chaplaincy.

Emergency Welfare Fund

This fund was created during 2020-2021 using a grant of £10,000 from the District Advance Fund. The purpose of the fund is to be able to respond quickly and flexibly, via churches, to situations of emergency need in the community. The balance at 31st August 2022 was £8,536 and it is not considered necessary to fix a reserve. It is anticipated that there will be more demand for this fund in the coming year due to the cost of living crisis.

Youth Activities Fund

A donation of £1,500 was received during the financial year 2021-2022 for the purpose of supporting young people attending the 3 Generate national youth event. It is not considered necessary to set a reserve for this fund.

Summary

We have considered the District Mission Policy and have decided that we have sufficient reserves in hand. Should our reserves fall below expectations we would firstly seek to reduce expenditure and, failing that, would seek to increase income from other sources to restore the reserves to an acceptable level.

This Reserves Policy was adopted by the District Trustees on 2nd February 2023.

3.3 Collaborative arrangements with connected charities

The District's main source of funding was the assessments obtained from each Circuit within the District. Assessments are determined annually by the District in consultation with circuits. Offers are made by each circuit in order to meet the financial requirements of the District. This sum amounted to £93,765 (2020-2021: £95,424).

The District also obtained from each Circuit with a reserve, known as a Circuit Model Trust Fund (CMTF), a levy based on the size of the Circuit's CMTF at the start of the Connexional year (1st September). In 2021-2022 this sum was £66,732 (2020-2021: £57,230) and was credited to the District Advance Fund. A Connexional contribution from the Connexional Advance and Priority Fund of £50,534 (2020-2021: £37,722) was also received into the District Advance Fund for distribution via grants.

The District holds no funds as custodian trustee. It does, however, receive each quarter from Circuits within the District the Circuits' contributions to the Methodist Church Fund (MCF). These sums are collected as agent for the MCF and are passed to the MCF later in the same quarter. Funds received by the District as agent are not recognised as income or as an asset in the financial statements because the funds are not within its control. No fee is earned in respect of this agency arrangement and the District incurs no cost through this arrangement.

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 District'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 accruals method
- made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- followed applicable accounting standards including the FRSSE
- prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis
- prepared accounts to comply with the Charities SORP 2015

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the District and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the District 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 included on the District's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

4.1 Risk

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

There has been a continual reduction in the availability of ministers to serve in circuits and this, along with the reduction in the number of lay people available to serve as office holders is a cause for concern for the whole District. Several circuits are also known to be struggling financially and this could pose a risk for the District if those circuits are not able to contribute to the running costs of the District via the assessment. Other risks include reputational risks, operational risks such as failure of IT systems and risks arising from safeguarding cases.

Steps taken to mitigate against such risks include relevant training, engagement of a professional IT company, review of policies and procedures and purchase of insurance. These are detailed in the risk register which is currently under review.

5. Structure, Governance and Management

The District 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 9th 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 or ratified by the half yearly circuit meeting. A district is the coordinating charity for a group of contiguous circuits and makes its decisions at the half yearly synods. The Methodist Conference meets once each year as the governing body for all Methodist churches.

1. Overall control rests with the Methodist Conference.
2. 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.
3. Connexional decisions are passed to the Chair of the District and the appropriate officers of the District for implementation.
4. The District looks to the circuits for implementation of District policy and Connexional initiatives with authority delegated to the circuit meeting for certain matters.
5. The circuit meeting looks to church councils for local implementation by the presbyter, the church stewards, and other officers, and authority is delegated to church councils as managing trustees.

5.2 Purpose of the District

The District is an expression, over a wider geographical area than any circuit, of the Connexional character of the church.

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

- the Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church, and
- any charitable purposes for the time being of any Connexional, district, circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church, and
- any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church, and
- any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary of the Methodist Church.

The primary purpose of this District is to advance the mission of the church in Lincolnshire:

- By providing support for circuits in matters of mission, administration or ministry
- By offering to circuits resources of finance (grants), personnel and expertise
- By facilitating District-wide initiatives (such as chaplaincies), events, worship and training opportunities.

5.3 Governance

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

The members of the district policy committee (known in this District as District Council) are appointed as trustees annually by a vote of the synod for a continuous term not normally exceeding six years. The Chair of District is ex-officio Chair of the District Council. Nominations to fill vacant positions are brought to synod for approval. Trustees may be either ministers or lay people attending churches in the area covered by the District.

There were ten trustee meetings (District Council), held via Zoom, during 2021-2022.. The group's remit includes the oversight of the work of the District Resourcing Mission Group, finance, property, safeguarding, authorisations to preside at communion, chaplaincy projects, sabbaticals, manses, lay employment, district youth and children's work and appointments. It also links with the Eastern Region of the Methodist Church Learning Network; one of the Learning Network's officers attends meetings of the District Council.

5.4 Responsibility of the District Council

The responsibility of the District Council is:

1. to formulate and promote policies which will advance the mission of the Church in the circuits and local churches and, in particular, to supervise the use of resources of personnel, property and finance and to assist local churches and circuits having exceptional problems
2. to encourage inter-circuit and ecumenical co-operation
3. to act in an executive capacity in matters remitted to the council by the synod
4. to keep within its purview all District concerns not dealt with elsewhere
5. 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 to carry out its other responsibilities with any such development in mind
6. to be aware that the stipend of the Chair of the District is set by the Methodist Conference with all expenses met by the District
7. constantly to be aware of the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission

6. Reference and Administrative Details

6.1 Name of the Charity

Lincolnshire Methodist District

6.2 Charity Registration Number

1134228, Registered in England and Wales

6.3 Principal Office

Methodist District Office
Office 5, 72a Newark Road

Lincoln
LN5 8PY

6.4 Chair of the District

Rev Bruce D Thompson

6.5 Secretary of the Synod

Mrs Sue Brumpton

6.6 Assistant Secretary of the Synod (Presbyteral)

Rev Angela Long

6.7 District Treasurer

Vacancy

6.8 Chair's PA and District Officer

Mrs Alison Godfrey

6.9 Independent Examiner

Capella Bookkeeping Ltd (2021 accounts), Keith May Accountancy Services Ltd (2022 accounts)

6.10 Bookkeepers:

Forrester Boyd, Grimsby

6.11 Names of Trustees

The following served as trustees throughout part or all of the year 2021-2022 or were trustees at the time of this report being approved:

Rev Bruce Thompson (Chair)
Rev Jade Bath
Mr Paul Boucher (appointed 13.12.22)
Mrs Sue Brumpton
Rev Angela Long
Mrs Sally-Ann Robinson
Rev Mark Sherman
Rev Luke Smith (appointed 21.3.22)
Rev Alan Swann
Mr Richard Wills (resigned 21.3.22)

6.11 Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
9 Bonhill Street
London
EC2A 4PE

6.12 Investment Managers and Custodian Trustees

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

Approvals

The Trustees' Report and the Financial Statements were approved by the District Council on 2nd February 2023 and will be reported to the Synod on 25th March 2023.

Signed on behalf of the District Council, as authorised

Rev Bruce Thompson
District Chair

Date:

Rev Jade Bath
Assistant Chair

Date:



**District
Accruals Accounts
2021-22**

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS
ACCRUALS BASIS
for the year ended 31 August 2022**

LINCOLNSHIRE	District	District no	17
Registered Charity - Registration number			1134228

District Chairs

Rev. Bruce Thompson - Chair
Rev Jade Bath - Assistant Chair

Synod Secretary

Mrs. Susan Brumpton

Treasurer

--

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2022

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	District Advance Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021-22 £
Income from						
1 Donations and legacies						0
2 Connexional Advance & Priority Fund			55,319			55,319
3 Income from investments		252	809	27	174	1,262
Income from charitable activities						
4 Assessments on circuits	2	93,764				93,764
5 From Circuit Model Trust Funds			66,732			66,732
6 Contribution to the cost of the Chair	3	42,740				42,740
7 Other charitable activities					1,500	1,500
8 Income from other trading activities						0
9 Other income						0
Total income		136,756	122,860	27	1,674	261,317
Expenditure						
9 Grants and donations	5	2,280	86,035		1,200	89,515
10 Salaries and associated costs	6	49,920				49,920
11 Cost of the Chair	3	45,455				45,455
12 Property Maintenance	7	14,648				14,648
13 Office expenses	8	52,903	364			53,267
14 Synods, committees, Conference	9	11,520				11,520
15 Training		1,223			908	2,131
16 Professional fees		5,071				5,071
17 Other outgoings	10				2,731	2,731
Total expenditure		183,019	86,399	0	4,839	274,258
Net income/(expenditure) before gains and losses on investments						
		-46,263	36,461	27	-3,165	-12,940
18 Net gains/(losses) on investments						0
Net income/(expenditure)		-46,263	36,461	27	-3,165	-12,940
19 Transfers between funds		36,637	-34,600	-2,500	463	0
20 Other gains/(losses)						0
Net movement in funds		-9,626	1,861	-2,473	-2,702	-12,940
Total funds brought forward		297,239	6,627	6,416	43,874	354,155
Total funds carried forward		287,613	8,487	3,943	41,171	341,215

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2021

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	District Advance Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020-21 £
Income from						
1 Donations and legacies						0
2 Connexional Advance & Property Fund			37,722			37,722
3 Income from investments		92	493	21	58	663
Income from charitable activities						
4 Assessments on circuits	2	95,424				95,424
5 From Circuit Model Trust Funds			57,230		10,000	67,230
6 Contribution to the cost of the Chair	3	42,151				42,151
7 Other charitable activities						0
8 Income from other trading activities						0
9 Other income						0
Total income		137,667	95,445	21	10,058	243,191
Expenditure						
9 Grants and donations	5	2,533	59,750		1,000	63,283
10 Salaries and associated costs	6	48,650				48,650
11 Cost of the Chair	3	45,113				45,113
12 Property Maintenance	7	14,665				14,665
13 Office expenses	8	39,145	226			39,371
14 Synods, committees, Conference	9	5,367				5,367
15 Training		2,364			300	2,664
16 Professional fees		3,750				3,750
17 Other outgoings	10				3,713	3,713
Total expenditure		161,588	59,976	0	5,013	226,577
Net income/(expenditure) before gains and losses on investments						
		-23,921	35,469	21	5,045	16,614
18 Net gains/(losses) on investments						0
Net income/(expenditure)		-23,921	35,469	21	5,045	16,614
19 Transfers between funds		41,733	-30,000	-9,000	-2,733	0
20 Other gains/(losses)						0
Net movement in funds		17,812	5,469	-8,979	2,312	16,613
Total funds brought forward						
		279,427	1,158	15,395	41,562	337,541
Total funds carried forward		297,239	6,627	6,416	43,874	354,155

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2022

Notes to the
Accounts

General Fund (Unrestricted)	District Advance Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Totals 2021
£	£	£	£	£

Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets	11	230,360				230,360
Investment properties						0
Investments						0
Total fixed assets		230,360	0	0	0	230,360

Current Assets

Debtors	12	2,754				2,754
Loans by the District						0
Trustee Investment Fund with TMCP	13		147,009			147,009
Central Finance Board Deposits	14	52,253		3,943	41,171	97,367
Cash at Bank and in hand	14	6,282				6,282
Total current assets		61,289	147,009	3,943	41,171	253,412

Current liabilities

Creditors (due in under 1 year)	15	4,036				4,036
Grants payable in 2022-23			114,521			114,521
Total current liabilities		4,036	114,521	0	0	118,557
Net current assets/liabilities		57,253	32,488	3,943	41,171	134,855

Total assets less current liabilities		287,613	32,488	3,943	41,171	365,215
--	--	----------------	---------------	--------------	---------------	----------------

Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)						
Grants payable in 2022-23			24,000			24,000
Loans to the District						0
						0
Net assets		287,613	8,488	3,943	41,171	341,215

Funds of the District

General Fund (Unrestricted)	16	287,613				287,613
District Advance Fund (Unrestricted)			8,488			8,488
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	16			3,943		3,943
Total Unrestricted Funds						300,044
Restricted Funds	17				41,171	41,171
Total Funds		287,613	8,488	3,943	41,171	341,215

Signed

District Treasurer

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2021

Notes to the
Accounts

General Fund (Unrestricted)	District Advance Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Totals 2020
£	£	£	£	£

Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets	11	230,360				230,360
Investment properties						0
Investments						0
Total fixed assets		230,360	0	0	0	230,360

Current Assets

Debtors	12	6,881				6,881
Loans by the District						0
Trustee Investment Fund with TMCP	13		127,868			127,868
Central Finance Board Deposits	14	64,208		6,416	43,873	114,497
Cash at Bank and in hand	14	2,092				2,092
Total current assets		73,181	127,868	6,416	43,873	251,338

Current liabilities

Creditors (due in under 1 year)	15	6,302				6,302
Grants payable in 2021-22			73,241			73,241
Total current liabilities		6,302	73,241	0	0	79,543
Net current assets/liabilities		66,879	54,627	6,416	43,873	171,795

Total assets less current liabilities		297,239	54,627	6,416	43,873	402,155
--	--	----------------	---------------	--------------	---------------	----------------

Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)						
Grants payable in 2021-22			48,000			48,000
Loans to the District						0
						0
Net assets		297,239	6,627	6,416	43,873	354,155

Funds of the District

General Fund (Unrestricted)	16	297,239				297,239
District Advance Fund (Unrestricted)			6,627			6,627
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	16			6,416		6,416
Total Unrestricted Funds						310,282
Restricted Funds	17				43,873	43,873
Total Funds		297,239	6,627	6,416	43,873	354,155

Signed

District Treasurer

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

1 Accounting framework and accounting policies

i Accounting framework

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2019 version of *Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP)* applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective from 1 January 2019) – (the Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

ii Public benefit entity

The Lincolnshire District (hereinafter referred to as "District") meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s) below.

iii Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost on the accruals basis to show a true and fair view of the District's financial position and activities.

iv Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

v Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2022, the trustees believe that the District is a going concern.

vi FRS102 SORP2019

These accounts are compliant with FRS102 and with the FRS102 SORP 2019.

vii Consolidation

The District oversees the work of ministers and lay workers in Churches and Circuits within the District but does not have control over those Churches or Circuits, ministers or lay workers except in extreme circumstances, none of which were applicable. For this reason, the financial statements of the Churches and Circuits within the District are not consolidated into these financial statements.

viii Income recognition

Income is brought into account when it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will accrue to the District. No attempt is made to measure the value of services donated by volunteers. Details of how the contribution to the cost of the Chair of District has been determined appears in Note 3. A similar figure appears in the Expenditure section of the SOFA.

Individual amounts categorised as *Other income* in the SOFA will be shown separately if they are considered material.

The District acts as agent in three matters:

1. the collection of quarterly assessments from circuits which are paid to the Methodist Church Fund (MCF)
2. the payment of expenses of delegates from the District to the Methodist Conference
3. the collection taken at the spring synod on behalf of the Methodist Ministers' Children's Relief Fund

In all these matters the transactions are not reflected in the SOFA because there is no obligation on the District to make up any shortfall in assessments from Circuits. Sums received as Circuit assessments cannot be recognised as income in the District as they are the income of the MCF.

In accordance with the Charities SORP, the time of volunteers is not recognised.

ix Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the District to pay out resources.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

x Grants

Grants are recognised in full when the award is made once the District accepts that there is a legal or constructive obligation to make the payment and that such payment is probable.

xi VAT

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

xii Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000. The freehold property is shown in the accounts at cost in 2011, of which the land component is deemed to be £90,000. No depreciation is provided on the building because the trustees consider the current residual fair value of the manse building (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year -end) to be not less than its cost to date. The property has been reviewed for impairment.

xiii Debtors and creditors; bank and cash

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the District or prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any trade discounts, where normal credit terms apply, or amount advanced to the District. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds of bank balances and deposit account balances are shown at the realisable values.

xiv Methodist Church Fund (MCF)

The District acts as agent for the MCF by collecting its assessments on Circuits and does not, therefore, include the assessments in the SOFA. If a Circuit is late in paying its MCF assessment to the District but such sum is received before the quarterly transfer to the MCF, the amount paid late will be shown as a debtor in the District's accounts.

xv Manse costs

The District is required to provide accommodation for the Chair of District and his family. The District bears the cost of repairs, maintenance, building insurance, Council Tax and water charges. These costs are not shown separately as benefits-in-kind for the Chair as HMRC does not seek to tax these receipts in the hands of the Chair. In addition, since February 2017, the District has made a contribution towards the cost of the Manse occupied by the part-time Chaplain, which is provided by the Lincoln Circuit with which the appointment is shared.

2 Assessment on Circuits

All Circuits (see list given below in this note) paid their assessments to the District and to the MCF during the year. An assessment on Circuits is determined annually by the District by reference to offers made by each Circuit towards meeting the financial requirements of the District.

The District is made up of the following Circuits:

Circuit No	Circuit Name
17/1	Epworth and Scunthorpe
17/2	Lincoln
17/4	Mid Lincolnshire
17/5	Grimsby and Cleethorpes
17/6	East Lincolnshire
17/7	Wolds and Trent
17/11	Barton and Brigg
17/12	Sleaford
17/15	South Holland
17/22	Boston

Contribution to Methodist Church Fund (MCF)

In addition to the assessments on the Circuits to help defray the costs of running the District, the District acted as agent for the MCF which levied assessments on the Circuits in this District totalling £285,988 (2020-21: £276,364) all of which were collected and paid over to the MCF in the year. No balance was held at the end of the year; no fee is received for this service which is performed at nearly nil cost to the District. These sums collected for and remitted to the MCF do not appear elsewhere in these financial statements.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

3 Cost of Chair and trustees

The Chair of District chairs meetings of the District Council (DC). The members of the DC are the trustees of the District. The stipend, employer's NIC and employer's pension contributions of the Chair of District are paid by the Methodist Connexion. The Chair's other costs are met mostly by the District.

	2021-22	2020-21
	£	£
Stipend to Chair	32,451	32,074
Employer's National Insurance Contribution	3,343	3,211
Employer's pension contribution to the defined benefit scheme	6,947	6,866
Cash cost paid by the Connexion (see, SOFA, line 6)	42,740	42,151
Chair's expenses	2,715	2,961
Total cost	45,455	45,113

Since the stipend-related costs above (i.e., £42,740; 2020-21 £42,151) are borne by the Connexion, they appear both in the Income of the District (see SOFA line 6) and the Expenditure of the District (see SOFA line 11). It should be noted that the Chair is required to occupy the District manse. The manse is provided by the District and the District maintains the property. The costs of maintaining the manse for the year were £5,151 (2020-21 £5,082) - see Note 7 below. The Chair of District is the sole paid key management person but is supported by members of the DC.

No accrual is made for the Chair's entitlement to a sabbatical as his functions are undertaken by the Assistant Chairs at minimal extra cost to the District.

Payment to Trustees

It is District policy to offer to reimburse members of the District Council (DC) and others involved in the administration of District affairs for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties. The Chair of District undertakes the primary executive role within the District. Apart from the Chair of District and the lay Secretary of Synod, no member of the DC was in receipt of any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the District, although certain travelling and administration costs were reimbursed whenever this was requested.

Other than the lay Secretary of Synod, none of the trustees is an employee of the District. Due to meetings taking place on Zoom during 2021/22 no trustees claimed any expenses. (2020-21: No trustees claimed any expenses.)

4 Other income

The District does not undertake fundraising.

5 Grants, donations and related Support costs

Grants and donations totalling £120,635 were made during the year (2020 -21: £92,283) as shown below:

	2021-22	2020-21
	£	£
Unrestricted:		
- From General Fund		
- From Youth Activities Fund		
- From DAF	120,635	89,750
- To Ecumenical and New Communities	-	2,533
Sub total	120,635	92,283
Restricted:		
- From Emergency Welfare Fund	1,000	500
- From Youth Bursary		500
- From Benevolence Fund	200	
- From Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund		
Sub total	1,200	1,000
Total	121,835	93,283

Details of grants paid by the District during the year were reported to the District Council.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

5 Grants, donations and related Support costs (cont'd.....)

Expenditure on charitable activities through the District Advance Fund

This fund receives formulaically determined contributions from the Circuit Model Trust Funds held by Circuits within the District and, from time to time, a grant from the Connexional Priority Fund and redistributes the monies to grantees in the District through relevant grants as assessed by the District Resourcing Mission Group. During the year the following grants were awarded:

2021-22				
Given to	Amount in £		Analysis of amounts given by type of work	Amount in £
Churches	10,000		Projects	
Circuits	800		Ministry	58,600
.....			General	62,035
<i>Institutions</i>	10,800			
Individuals				
<i>Sub total</i>	10,800			
Ecumenical	5,235			
District	104,600			
Total	120,635			120,635
2020-21				
Given to	Amount in £		Analysis of amounts given by type of work	Amount in £
Churches			Projects	-
Circuits	9,000		Ministry	9,000
.....			General	80,750
<i>Institutions</i>	9,000			
Individuals				
<i>Sub total</i>	9,000			
Ecumenical	32,750			
District	48,000			
Total	89,750			89,750

The income of the fund was £122,496 (2020-21: £95,219) (net of costs) during the year, some £19,141 (2020-21: £14,885) short of the total paid out in grants in the year, £103,355 (2020-21: £80,334). This shortfall was drawn from reserves. A full list of the recipients of Grants will be presented to the April Synod. The Resourcing Mission Group is aware that grant applications must demonstrate public benefit.

6 Salaries and associated costs

Gross salaries paid to 3 (2020-21: 3) part time employees were as follows:

	2021-22 £	2020-21 £
Gross pay	40,842	39,868
Employer's National Insurance contribution	3,505	3,313
Employer's pension contribution to defined contribution scheme	5,573	5,469
Total cost for 3 (2020-21: 3) part time employees	49,920	48,650
Total weekly contractual hours of 3 (2020-21: 3) part time employees	64	64

No employees received employee benefits that totalled more than £60,000. There is no accrual for holiday pay as it is immaterial. All employees are paid at or above the Living Wage.

One of the part time employees was engaged as Secretary to Synod, another provided secretarial and administrative assistance to the District and to the Chair and acted as District Officer and the third is a Chaplain, whose ministerial appointment is shared with Lincoln Circuit

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

6 Salaries and associated costs (cont'd.....)

Pensions

Most ordained presbyters and deacons are members of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS). This is a defined benefit scheme. The Supreme Court held in 2014 that Methodist ministers (which term includes presbyters and deacons) are not employees of the Church. For simplicity, however, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions and pension contributions, the terms 'employer' and 'employee' are used as they would be in an employing body.

On the other hand lay employees are contractually employees. One of the part time employees was given, and turned down, the opportunity to join a defined contribution workplace pension scheme to which the District and the employee would contribute. The other part-time employee is a member of that scheme. The Chaplain is a member of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme.

The Connexion accounts for both the MMPS and the Pension and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church (PASLEMC) and shows the figures in the annual Methodist Church in Great Britain accounts. The MMPS is in deficit but a plan for removal of the deficit has been proposed and is being implemented. Details of the deficits on these schemes can be found in the Annual Report and Accounts of The Methodist Church at www.methodist.org.uk.

7 Property costs

	2021-22 £	2020-21 £
District office, rent and services	1,744	1,922
Contribution to Chaplain's manse	7,752	7,740
Chair's manse	5,151	5,003
Total	14,648	14,665

8 Office expenses

	2021-22 £	2020-21 £
Printing, postage and stationery	709	602
Telephone	230	343
Insurance	246	650
Safeguarding	37,229	35,024
Publicity	434	587
Computers and support	1,963	1,728
Other	12,090	211
Total charged to General Fund	52,903	39,145
Other - Designated Funds		-
TMCP charges - District Advance Fund	364	226
Total	53,267	39,371

None of the remaining individual amounts (aggregated as 'Other' above) is considered material and therefore none is listed separately.

9 Synods, Committees, Conference

	2021-22 £	2020-21 £
Synods	579	673
Conference		
Committees	2,299	166
Agricultural Chaplain expenses, including travel	5,157	4,528
Other	3,485	
Total	11,520	5,367

None of the remaining individual amounts (aggregated as 'Other' above) is considered material and therefore none is listed separately.

10 Other outgoings

	2021-22 £	2020-21 £
Provision for bad debts		
Sundry outgoings	-	-
Paid from LCHC grants	2,731	3,713
Total	2,731	3,713

None of the remaining individual amounts (aggregated as 'Sundry outgoings' above) is considered material and therefore none is listed separately.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

11 Manse and other property

The value of the District manse is greater than its historical cost in 2011 shown in the accounts. There is no depreciation on the manse as the Trustees believe that the current residual market value of the building is greater than the carrying value of that part of the asset's cost to date.

	Land	Buildings	Total
	£	£	£
Cost or valuation			
Balance brought forward at 1 September, at cost	90,000	140,360	230,360
Additions in the year			
Revaluations in the year			
Less: Disposals in the year			
Transfers between categories			
Balance carried forward at 31 August	90,000	140,360	230,360

12 Debtors and prepayments

All sums shown as Debtors at 31 Aug 2022 were received during the current year. All sums paid in advance at 31 Aug 2022 were for activities, (principally deposits for training courses). It is expected that payments in advance at 31 August 2022 will be expensed in 2022-23.

Debtors were made up as follows:

	2021-22 £	2020-21 £
Trade debtors		
Circuit assessments received late	-	615
Sundry outgoings	-	615
Prepayments and accrued income		
Payments in advance	2,754	6,266
	2,754	6,266
Other debtors		
	-	-
Total (net)	2,754	6,881

13 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP)

The funds that support the District Advance Fund are held by TMCP in Trustees Interest Funds, which is a cash deposit fund on which interest is credited to the account each month.

TMCP is the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds. Trust property is held for and on behalf of local Managing Trustees who are responsible for the day to day management of trust property. TMCP ensure that, through providing guidance and acting under their direction, the Managing Trustees comply with charity law and Methodist law and policy as determined by the Methodist Conference.

14 Central Finance Board (CFB) and cash at bank

The District has one current account at CAF Bank Ltd., an authorised institution. The sums held in that account are immediately available. In addition the District has 11 (2020-21: 10) deposit accounts at CFB, a common deposit fund. These accounts are one General Fund, 4 (2020-21: 4) Designated Funds and 6 (2020-21: 5) Restricted Funds. Interest is earned on these accounts and credited monthly; the sums deposited can be withdrawn without notice and without loss of interest. These sums are viewed as being liquid.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

15 Creditors and accrued expenses

	2021-22 £	2020-21 £
Creditors:		
Expenses reimbursement	-	-
Unpaid invoices	1,169	2,094
Subscriptions	-	-
Other	-	-
Total creditors	1,169	2,094
Accruals:		
PAYE, NI and Pensions contributions	- 12	2,708
Accountancy fees	2,880	1,500
Total accruals	2,868	4,208
Total of creditors and accrued expenses	4,036	6,302

Maturity analysis of basic financial instruments

	Accrued at 1st Sep 2021 £	Paid this year £	Accruals made this year £	Accrued at the end of 31 Aug 2022 £
Expenses	-	-	-	-
Unpaid Invoices	2,580	2,580	1,169	1,169
Subscriptions	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-
Accruals	1,500	1,500	2,880	2,880
Employers NIC	2,563	2,563	-	-
PAYE and pension	145	145	- 12	12
Total staff costs	6,788	6,788	4,037	4,037

All sums accrued at 31 Aug 2021 were paid during the year to 31 Aug 2022 and it is expected that all sums accrued at 31 Aug 2022 will be paid during the year to 31 Aug 2023.

16 Unrestricted Funds

16.1 General Fund

Balance of £287,613 at 31 Aug 2022 (2021: £292,239)

The purpose of the fund is for use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the District and which have not been designated for other purposes. About 78% of this fund is held as a freehold property, the District manse for the Chair of District. During the year £2,280 (2020-21: £2,533) was paid out as grants and donations from the General Fund.

16.2 Other Designated Funds

Balance of £3,943 at 31 Aug 2022 (2021: £6,416)

These funds are to serve specific purposes but are not restricted by any document or deed to that purpose alone. These funds comprise:

The Manse Fund - balance £14 (2021: £14) - is available to meet major repairs and renovations to the District manse.

The Chair's Removal Costs Fund - balance £3,554 (2021: £3,539) - is accumulating funds to meet the future removal costs on a change in Chair of District.

The District Office Fund - balance £202 (2021: £2,691) - is available to meet unexpected costs of the District Office and the District Officer or such other costs as the DC may decide.

The Training new Ministers Fund - balance £172 (2021: £172) - is held to meet costs of the training of new Ministers.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

17 Restricted Funds

Balance of £41,171 at 31 Aug 2022 (2021: £43,873)

The Benevolence Fund – balance £1,840 (2021: £2,032) - provides financial support to active and supernumerary ministers in the District at the discretion of the Chair of District.

The Youth and Children's Bursary Fund – balance £6,514 (2021: £6,487) - is used to assist financially:

1. individual leaders to attend a course or conference which will have some direct benefit to them and to their work amongst children and young people;
2. individual young people to attend a course, conference, or special youth event.
3. or by the provision of other resources, new and existing work amongst children and young people within the District, where little other support is available.

Agricultural Chaplaincy - balance £11,347 (2021: £10,838) - is earmarked to support the work of the Agricultural Chaplain.

Lincolnshire Community Healthcare Chaplaincy - balance £11,427 (2021: £15,015) - is earmarked to support the work of the Lincolnshire Community Healthcare Chaplaincy scheme.

Emergency Welfare Fund - balance £8,536 (2021: £9,501) - The purpose of this fund is to be able to respond quickly and flexibly, via churches, to situations of emergency need in the community.

Youth Activities fund - balance £1,506 (2021: £nil) - is earmarked to support youth group in attending future "3 Gen" Conferences.

18 Connected organisations and related parties

All of the District trustees are members of one or another Church and Circuit within the District and may be trustees in their Churches and/or Circuits.

Connected organisations include the Methodist Connexion, Circuits and Churches within the District, other Methodist Districts in Great Britain, the Methodist Ministers' Children's Relief Association, CFB and TMCP. All of these entities have their own trustees or directors and autonomous administration such that the District has no significant influence over any of them, nor they over the District. They are, therefore, not considered related parties.

Name of Connected Organisations	Receipts £	Payments £	Adjustments £
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District - To Methodist Church Fund	285,988	285,988	
Grant from Connexional Priority Fund	55,319		
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District (Levy on Circuit Model Trust Funds)	66,732		
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District (for District Expenses Fund)	93,764		
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District (contributions to cost of Retreats)	-		
To Churches within the Lincolnshire District (grants)		10,800	
Total 2021-22	501,803	296,788	-

Name of Connected Organisations	Receipts £	Payments £	Adjustments £
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District - To Methodist Church Fund	276,364	276,364	
Grant from Connexional Priority Fund	37,722		
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District (Levy on Circuit Model Trust Funds)	57,230		
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District (for District Expenses Fund)	95,424		
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District (contributions to cost of Retreats)	-		
To Churches within the Lincolnshire District (grants)		9,000	
Total 2020-21	466,740	285,364	-

There were no related party transactions.

19 Volunteer contributions

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit, Church) within the Methodist Church is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. Principally volunteer contributions to the District are by serving on committees of the District that deal with mission, manses, finance, policy, grants, training, development and safeguarding. The District is grateful to all volunteers for their help and commitment.

20 Capital commitments and contingent liabilities

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

There were no capital commitments or contingent liabilities at the year end (2020-21: nil).

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT DECLARATIONS

Treasurer

I confirm that these accrual based accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 have been prepared from the records of the District and that they include all funds under the control of the District Council.

Signature of Treasurer

Date

Name of Treasurer

Address

Presentation to the District Council for approval.

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 were presented to the District Council at its meeting on and were approved.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Name of the Chair of the meeting

Rev. Bruce Thompson

Date

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

LINCOLNSHIRE

District

Charity No. 1134228

Responsibilities and basis of Report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Lincolnshire District for the year ended 31 August 2022. As the District'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 District'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.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

DECLARATIONS - cont'd

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or

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

the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts

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

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

** Please delete as appropriate*

Name

Keith May

Signature

Relevant Professional qualification of examiner

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Keith May Accounting Services Ltd

Address

Aura Business Centre, Heath Road, Skegness PE25 3SJ

Date

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT DECLARATIONS

Treasurer

I confirm that these accrual based accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 have been prepared from the records of the District and that they include all funds under the control of the District Council.

Signature of Treasurer

Date

Name of Treasurer

Address

Presentation to the District Council for approval.

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 were presented to the District Council at its meeting on
and were approved.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Name of the Chair of the meeting

Rev. Bruce Thompson

Date

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

LINCOLNSHIRE

District Charity No. 1134228

Responsibilities and basis of Report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Lincolnshire District for the year ended 31 August 2022. As the District'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 District'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.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT DECLARATIONS - cont'd

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or

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

the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts

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

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

** Please delete as appropriate*

Name Keith May

Signature 

Relevant Professional qualification of examiner ACMA CGMA

Name of firm (where appropriate) Keith May Accounting Services Ltd

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

Date 25/2/23

Accounts

Lincolnshire Methodist District Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2021

Objectives and Activities

Lincolnshire Methodist District (the District) exists to advance the mission of the Methodist Church throughout the majority of the geographic county of Lincolnshire and the areas of North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire (hereafter known as Lincolnshire) by providing support for the ten circuits in line with the Connexional priorities. The District comprises 128 local Methodist churches grouped into ten circuits served by a ministerial team of some 28 ordained ministers plus a number of part time active retired ministers, lay workers and volunteers.

The District is led by a full time District Chair working with a personal assistant, a safeguarding officer, synod secretary and district officer. In addition, a large number of voluntary officers, including a district steward, support the work of the district.

The District Synod, which met twice during the year, sets the policy for the District, serving as a link between the Methodist Conference and the Connexional team on the one hand and the circuits and local churches on the other. It has oversight of all District affairs, formulating and promoting policies, through its various officers and committees to assist the mission of the Church, to give inspiration to the leaders in the circuits and to ensure the interrelation of all aspects of the Church's life throughout the District.

The day to day work of the Synod is carried out by the District Council who are the trustees of the charity registered with the Charity Commission. As a registered charity, the District takes seriously its responsibilities to the Charity Commissioners and adheres to their guidance concerning public benefit in relation to charitable objectives.

2. Achievements and Performance

The year 2020/2021 will be remembered for the Covid 19 pandemic. Churches experienced periods of closure and the cessation of all activities in person followed by a gradual return to more familiar ways of meeting and working. The District responded by changing to online meetings, events and worship, and in many instances these have proved to be very fruitful, engaging greater numbers of people than would usually meet face to face and benefiting from input from guest speakers from around the country and even the globe!

The launch of the District's new vision statement "Faithful and True – Beyond 2020 Vision" was delayed until September 2021. Despite being drafted in a different context prior to the pandemic the eight priorities are still highly appropriate and relevant.

The following activities took place during the year:

- Three new ministers were welcomed to the District in September 2021 with their induction to the District taking place online. A further three new ministers were identified in the stationing process in the autumn of 2020 ready for arrival in the District in September 2021
- The local church pastor scheme underwent a thorough review. A new training course was delivered by ministers and lay staff resulting in the commissioning of one new local church pastor. Others took part in the course to support the candidate and to benefit from continuing training and development.
- The Lincolnshire Community Healthcare Chaplaincy project re-started with chaplaincy volunteers starting to take appointments via telephone calls instead of in person at the GP Surgery. The chaplaincy volunteers were provided with some

training on listening skills to help equip them for this new experience. Not all chaplaincy volunteers were able to re-start via the telephone. A further training session took place on responding well to bereavement.

- The President of the Methodist Conference paid a “virtual” visit to the District in November taking part in online meetings with chaplains in agriculture and healthcare and the local church pastors. He led a district service which was broadcast live online.
- An extensive programme of safeguarding practice workshops took place over two weeks in October engaging with over 100 people in 33 workshops on 19 topics. Total attendance was 541. Another programme of topical safeguarding sessions took place in March. Over 120 people attended a total of 597 sessions on 13 different topics. The workshop programme resulted in the development of new District policies and good practice guidance on topics such as lone working, dementia, loneliness, giving references and how to report incidents to the Charity Commission.
- Building work finished at the Little Retreat at Lea.
- District worship services were broadcast live online for Christmas and Holy Week and to celebrate the contribution of local preachers.
- A consultation on the topic of marriage and relationships, postponed from last year, took place online in preparation for debates and votes at Synod and Methodist Conference.
- The two District synods met online and included the above debate and vote and also a vote to reappoint the Chair of District for a further period after the current period of appointment.
- District representatives attended a series of meetings with their counterparts in neighbouring districts to start to explore how closer working across the region might work.
- In response to serious concerns about food poverty and particularly availability of food for children in school holidays an emergency welfare fund was set up. Churches can apply for small grants for emergency purposes with a quick turnaround time between application and receipt of a grant.
- It was with regret that District Council approved the closure of 7 local churches during the year.
- Retreats for ministers and lay people were unable to take place in person due to Covid 19 lockdowns so alternative arrangements were made online.
- Circuit representatives met to start to consider how they can work more closely together in the future.
- The District agricultural chaplain was joined by three part-time, ecumenical, chaplains to minister to the agricultural community. District representatives took part in an ecumenical group set up to provide an endowment fund to secure the future of the chaplaincy into the future.
- A programme of topical talks/discussions took place under the title of “60 minutes at noon” drawing in national and international speakers.
- Monthly Insight meetings for study and fellowship took place on line and attracted larger numbers of people who were able to attend as they didn’t have to travel. Others are looking forward to meeting in person again.
- A “digital church working group” was set up.
- Each church was provided with a poster to display at Advent and Easter. These contained a message for the season.
- The Deacon appointed as youth enabler for the District undertook a survey of youth work, became the District Ambassador for 3 Generate and the Messy Church regional co-ordinator. A youth work strategy was adopted at the Synod in September 2021. A vision day was planned.
- Grants for property, projects and personnel in churches or circuits were agreed by the District Resourcing Mission Group.

- The Safeguarding Officer supported many individuals and churches with various safeguarding cases. Sadly the number of safeguarding cases has increased during the pandemic

2.1 Plans for future years

The new statement "*Faithful and True: Beyond 2020 vision*" was launched at Synod in September 2021. The eight priorities will be the focus of work and funding in the coming years.

3. Financial Review

During the year the District received total income of £243,191 (2019-2020: £211,176) and dispersed £227,063 (2019-2020: £238,053), resulting in a surplus of £16,128 (2019-2020 deficit of £27k). Total reserves carried forward are £353,669 (£230k in 2011) and, as a result, the unrestricted readily available reserves total £72,809k (2019-2020: £65k) and restricted reserves total £43,873 (2019-2020: £42k) excluding the restricted District Advance Fund.

The trustees of the District have every reason to believe that the District is a going concern, principally because Circuits continue to meet their assessments and the District has adequate reserves to cover any shortfall in anticipated income. There are no subsidiary undertakings. Trustees do not foresee any factors that will significantly affect the financial performance or position in the next few years however some circuits may struggle to meet their assessments due to the reduction in giving at church level as a result of Covid 19 and so this will be kept under review.

The District continues to hold one freehold property which is the Chair's Manse in Lincoln.

The District has the following principal sources of income:

- Assessments on Circuits within the District.
- Distribution from the Connexional Priority Fund
- Levies on the Circuit Model Trust Funds of Circuits within the District
- Interest on funds invested

These sums are used to administer the District and to provide grants to circuits, churches and individuals in the District so that they may embark on or continue with projects that fulfil the mission of the District.

Methodist Ministers' Pension Fund

Trustees are aware that the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme is treated as a group defined benefit plan. The net defined benefit cost is recognised by the sponsoring entity, The Methodist Church in Great Britain, as there is no contractual agreement or stated policy for charging the net defined benefit cost to individual entities, such as the District. The District recognises a cost equal to its contributions payable for the period. Further details in respect of these pension arrangements are disclosed in the accounts of The Methodist Church in Great Britain.

3.1 Investment Policy and Performance

To comply with Methodist Standing Orders, monies for long term 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 districts. These sums are invested in unitised investments or held on deposit. The investment returns are close to tracking the movements in the FTSE100 index. The deposit income mirrors the deposit rates available elsewhere. The District Trustees' investment policy is aligned with that of the Central Finance Board (CFB) and TMCP because these organisations take into consideration the social, environmental and ethical considerations, both negatively and positively in establishing investment policy.

Short term deposits are lodged directly with the CFB and attract rates of interest comparable to the rest of the market.

There are no bench marks for the expected returns at TMCP and CFB. It is the District's policy to manage the cash and investment resources of the District 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 District's low appetite for risk. The total return achieved on the funds invested with the CFB was between 0.01% and 0.7% with an average monthly rate of 0.13% for the year.

3.2 Reserves Policy

This Reserves policy relates to the funds operated by the Trustees of the Lincolnshire Methodist District (the District). A bank current account is operated for the District expenses fund, and money not immediately required is placed on deposit with the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church (CFB).

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

General (District Expenses) Fund

This Fund receives income from Circuit assessments and bank interest and is used for general expenses of the District. The aim of the Trustees is to hold sufficient readily available funds to cover at least two quarters expenditure (2021-2022: approx. £50,000), in case circuits fail to pay their assessments on time. Accordingly, the Trustees consider that the balance of £68,289 in hand at 31st August 2021 is adequate.

District Advance Fund - Trust No.16017

This Fund is held with The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes in its Trustee Interest Fund. The use of the Fund is regulated by Standing Order (SO) 963 of the Methodist Church, where its purposes are restricted to the support of personnel serving in the District or any of its circuits, for property schemes approved under SO 93 and where applicable SO 931, and for ecumenical work. The District has also decided that grants should only be given if the relevant scheme is shown to be for, or to assist, mission work and is in accordance with its vision statement.

The Fund is administered on behalf of Synod by the District Resourcing Mission Group, and derives its income from an annual levy on Circuit Model Trust Funds within the District, an annual allocation from the Connexional Priority Fund and interest on funds held awaiting distribution. The aim is to hold sufficient reserves to cover grants already awarded for payment in subsequent years in order to comply with "The Statement of Recommended Practice" relative thereto. At 31st August 2021 the balance in hand was £127,868, an excess of £6,627 over contingent liabilities for grants promised for future years of £121,241.

DESIGNATED FUNDS

Chair's Manse Fund

This fund, held on deposit with CFB, receives transfers from the General Fund and interest on the funds deposited and is designed to meet exceptional expenditure incurred on the Chair's manse. The balance of £14 is considered inadequate and should be built up to a target of £15,000 in order to be available for planned maintenance in coming years.

Relocation Fund

This fund, held on deposit with CFB, receives transfers from the General Fund and interest on the funds deposited and is designed to accumulate funds towards the future cost of relocating a new Chair of District. The cost of the next relocation of a District Chair is unknown however it is considered prudent to increase the current balance of £3,535 to a target reserve of £4,500.

District Officer Fund

During the year 2020-2021 £10,000 was transferred to the general fund to meet general running costs. The balance of £2,691 as at 31st August 2021 is held on deposit with CFB and receives interest on the funds deposited. The costs relating to the District Officer are now part of the general budget and so it is not considered necessary to keep this fund. The fund will therefore be expended during the year 2021/22 and closed.

Training New Ministers

This fund, held on deposit with CFB and receiving interest on the funds deposited, is to be used for training new ministers. At 31st August 2021 the balance in hand was £172. It is not considered necessary to fix a reserve.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

District Benevolence Fund (Wellbeing)

This fund, which receives interest on funds held on deposit with CFB, is used to support active and supernumerary ministers and widows at the discretion of the Chair of the District. There was no expenditure during the year. The balance of £2,032 at 31st August 2021 is considered low and so the fund should be built up over the coming years. Circuits are to be asked to contribute to this fund in the future in order to support the ongoing wellbeing of ministers and lay officers. The target is £5,000.

Youth and Children's Bursary Fund

The terms of this fund were amended slightly at the Synod in April 2021. The purpose of this fund, which receives interest on funds held on deposit with CFB, is to assist financially:-

- a) individual leaders to attend a courses or conference which will have some direct benefit to them and to their work amongst children and young people;
- b) individual young people to attend a course, conference, or special youth event.
- c) or by the provision of other resources, new and existing work amongst children and young people within the District, where little other support is available.

It is not considered necessary to fix a reserve, as the balance of £6,487 at 31st August 2021 is considered sufficient for the foreseeable future.

Agricultural Chaplaincy

This fund is specifically for the work of the Agricultural Chaplaincy and is held within a District Central Finance Board deposit account. It was received following the closure of another related organisation. The balance at 31st August 2021 was £10,838 and this will be used over the next few years alongside internal and external grants which will need to be sought to fund the agricultural chaplaincy annual costs.

Lincolnshire Community Healthcare Chaplaincy

Funds within this reserve held with the Central Finance Board are used to fund the work of the Lincolnshire Community Healthcare Chaplaincy. The balance on this fund on 31st August 2021 was £15,015. A reserve has not been set however the budget for this project will determine the fundraising needed to increase the available funds to support this work.

Emergency Welfare Fund

This fund was created during 2020-2021 using a grant of £10,000 from the District Advance Fund. The purpose of the fund is to be able to respond quickly and flexibly, via churches, to situations of emergency need in the community. The balance at 31st August 2021 was £9,500 and it is not considered necessary to fix a reserve.

Summary

We have considered the District Mission Policy and have decided that we have sufficient reserves in hand. Should our reserves fall below expectations we would firstly seek to reduce expenditure and, failing that, would seek to increase income from other sources to restore the reserves to an acceptable level.

This Reserves Policy was adopted by the District Trustees on 13th December 2021

3.3 Collaborative arrangements with connected charities

The District's main source of funding was the assessments obtained from each Circuit within the District. Assessments are determined annually by the District in consultation with circuits. Offers are made by each circuit in order to meet the financial requirements of the District. This sum amounted to £95,424 (2019-2020: £62,661).

The District also obtained from each Circuit with a reserve, known as a Circuit Model Trust Fund (CMTF), a levy based on the size of the Circuit's CMTF at the start of the Connexional year (1st September). In 2020-2021 this sum was £57,230 (2019-2020: £63,172) and was credited to the District Advance Fund. A Connexional contribution from the Connexional Advance and Priority Fund of £37,722 (2019-2020: £21,077) was also received into the District Advance Fund for distribution via grants.

The District holds no funds as custodian trustee. It does, however, receive each quarter from Circuits within the District the Circuits' contributions to the Methodist Church Fund (MCF). These sums are collected as agent for the MCF and are passed to the MCF later in the same quarter. Funds received by the District as agent are not recognised as income or as an asset in the financial statements because the funds are not within its control. No fee is earned in respect of this agency arrangement and the District incurs no cost through this arrangement.

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 District'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 accruals method
- made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- followed applicable accounting standards including the FRSSE
- prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis
- prepared accounts to comply with the Charities SORP 2015

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the District and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the District 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 included on the District's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

4.1 Risk

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

The Risk Register wasn't reviewed during the year 2020-2021 so this will be brought to a forthcoming meeting. Informal risk assessment is ongoing in conversation as we consider reducing staffing levels across the district or circuits facing financial difficulties.

5. Structure, Governance and Management

The District 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 9th 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 or ratified by the half yearly circuit meeting. A district is the coordinating charity for a group of contiguous circuits and makes its decisions at the half yearly synods. The Methodist Conference meets once each year as the governing body for all Methodist churches.

1. Overall control rests with the Methodist Conference.
2. 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.
3. Connexional decisions are passed to the Chair of the District and the appropriate officers of the District for implementation.
4. The District looks to the circuits for implementation of district policy and Connexional initiatives with authority delegated to the circuit meeting for certain matters.
5. The circuit meeting looks to church councils for local implementation by the presbyter, the church stewards, and other officers, and authority is delegated to church councils as managing trustees.

5.2 Purpose of the District

The District is an expression, over a wider geographical area than any circuit, of the Connexional character of the church.

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

- the Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church, and
- any charitable purposes for the time being of any Connexional, district, circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church, and
- any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church, and
- any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary of the Methodist Church.

The primary purpose of this District is to advance the mission of the church in Lincolnshire:

- By providing support for circuits in matters of mission, administration or ministry
- By offering to circuits resources of finance (grants), personnel and expertise
- By facilitating District-wide initiatives, events, worship and training opportunities.

5.3 Governance

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

The members of the district policy committee (known in this District as District Council) are appointed as trustees annually by a vote of the synod for a continuous term not normally exceeding six years. The Chair of District is ex-officio Chair of the District Council. Nominations to fill vacant positions are brought to synod for approval. Trustees may be either ministers or lay people attending churches in the area covered by the District.

The District Council traditionally met four times a year in person however since March 2020 and the introduction of Zoom facilities it has met much more frequently but for shorter amounts of time. There were eleven meetings during 2020-2021 enabling the District Council to make more timely responses. Its remit includes the oversight of the work of the District Resourcing Mission Group, finance, property, safeguarding, authorisations to preside at communion, extensions to local preacher training, chaplaincy projects, sabbaticals, manses, lay employment, district youth and children's work and appointments. It also links with the Eastern Region of the Methodist Church Learning Network; one of the Learning Network's officers attends meetings of the District Council.

5.4 Responsibility of the District Council

The responsibility of the District Council is:

1. to formulate and promote policies which will advance the mission of the Church in the circuits and local churches and, in particular, to supervise the use of resources of personnel, property and finance and to assist local churches and circuits having exceptional problems
2. to encourage inter-circuit and ecumenical co-operation
3. to act in an executive capacity in matters remitted to the council by the synod
4. to keep within its purview all District concerns not dealt with elsewhere
5. 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 to carry out its other responsibilities with any such development in mind
6. to be aware that the stipend of the Chair of the District is set by the Methodist Conference with all expenses met by the District
7. constantly to be aware of the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission

6. Reference and Administrative Details

6.1 Name of the Charity

Lincolnshire Methodist District

6.2 Charity Registration Number

1134228, Registered in England and Wales

6.3 Principal Office

Methodist District Office
Office 6, 72a Newark Road
Lincoln
LN5 8PY

6.4 Chair of the District

Rev Bruce D Thompson

6.5 Secretary of the Synod

Mrs Sue Brumpton

6.6 Assistant Secretary of the Synod (Presbyteral)

Rev Angela Long

6.7 Acting District Treasurer

Mr Richard Wills

6.8 Chair's PA and District Officer

Mrs Alison Godfrey

6.9 Independent Examiner

Capella Bookkeeping Ltd

6.10 Names of Trustees

The following served as trustees throughout part or all of the year 2020-2021 or were trustees at the time of this report being approved:

Rev Bruce Thompson (Chair)
Rev Jade Bath (appointed 1.9.2021)
Mrs Sue Brumpton
Rev Louise Carr (stepped down 31.8.2021)
Rev Paul Cockburn (stepped down 31.8.2021)
Rev Helen Hooley (stepped down 31.8.2021)
Rev Angela Long
Mrs Sally-Ann Robinson
Rev Mark Sherman
Rev Alan Swann
Mr Richard Wills

6.11 Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
9 Bonhill Street
London
EC2A 4PE

6.12 Investment Managers and Custodian Trustees

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

Approvals

The Trustees' Report and the Financial Statements were approved by the District Council on 13th December 2021 and will be reported to the Synod on 23rd April 2022

Signed on behalf of the District Council, as authorised



Rev Bruce Thompson
District Chair
Date 13th December 2021

Mr Richard Wills
District Trustee
Date: 13th December 2021



District
Accruals Accounts
2020-21

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS
ACCRUALS BASIS
for the year ended 31 August 2021

LINCOLNSHIRE	District	District no	17
---------------------	-----------------	--------------------	-----------

Registered Charity - Registration number

1134228

District Chairs

Rev. Bruce Thompson - Chair

Rev Jade Bath - Assistant Chair
--

Synod Secretary

Mrs. Susan Brumpton

Treasurer

--

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2021

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	District Advance Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Total 2020-21
		£	£	£	£	£
Income from						
1 Donations and legacies						0
2 Connexional Advance & Priority Fund			37,722			37,722
3 Income from investments		92	493	21	58	663
Income from charitable activities						
4 Assessments on circuits	2	95,424				95,424
5 From Circuit Model Trust Funds			57,230		10,000	67,230
6 Contribution to the cost of the Chair	3	42,151				42,151
7 Other charitable activities						0
8 Income from other trading activities						0
9 Other income	17					0
Total income		137,667	95,445	21	10,058	243,191
Expenditure						
9 Grants and donations	5	2,533	59,750		1,000	63,283
10 Salaries and associated costs	6	48,650				48,650
11 Cost of the Chair	3	45,113				45,113
12 Property Maintenance	7	14,665				14,665
13 Office expenses	8	39,145	226			39,371
14 Synods, committees, Conference	9	5,367				5,367
15 Training		2,364			300	2,664
16 Professional fees		3,750				3,750
17 Other outgoings	10				3,713	3,713
Total expenditure		161,588	59,976	0	5,013	226,577
Net income/(expenditure) before gains and losses on investments						
		-23,921	35,469	21	5,045	16,614
18 Net gains/(losses) on investments						0
Net income/(expenditure)		-23,921	35,469	21	5,045	16,614
19 Transfers between funds		41,733	-30,000	-9,000	-2,733	0
20 Other gains/(losses)						0
Net movement in funds		17,812	5,469	-8,979	2,312	16,614
Total funds brought forward		279,427	1,158	15,395	41,562	337,541
Total funds carried forward		297,239	6,627	6,416	43,873	354,155

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

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	District Advance Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2018-19 £
Income from						
1 Donations and legacies		0	0	0	0	0
2 Connexional Advance & Property Fund			21,077			21,077
3 Income from investments		453	1,346	240	266	2,305
Income from charitable activities						
4 Assessments on circuits	2	62,661				62,661
5 From Circuit Model Trust Funds			63,172		20,000	83,172
6 Contribution to the cost of the Chair	3	41,962				41,962
7 Other charitable activities						0
8 Income from other trading activities						0
9 Other income						0
Total income		105,076	85,595	240	20,266	211,176
Expenditure						
9 Grants and donations	5	3,182	56,890	976	3,500	64,548
10 Salaries and associated costs	6	48,031				48,031
11 Cost of the Chair	3	46,930				46,930
12 Property Maintenance	7	14,446				14,446
13 Office expenses	8	34,827	256			35,083
14 Synods, committees, Conference	9	7,781				7,781
15 Training		7,232			3,148	10,380
16 Professional fees		4,194				4,194
17 Other outgoings	10				6,661	6,661
Total expenditure		166,623	57,146	976	13,309	238,053
Net income/(expenditure) before gains and losses on investments						
		-61,547	28,449	-736	6,957	-26,877
18 Net gains/(losses) on investments						0
Net income/(expenditure)		-61,547	28,449	-736	6,957	-26,877
19 Transfers between funds		51,931	-28,000	-20,000	-3,931	0
20 Other gains/(losses)						0
Net movement in funds		-9,616	449	-20,736	3,026	-26,877
Total funds brought forward		289,043	709	36,130	38,535	364,418
Total funds carried forward		279,427	1,158	15,395	41,562	337,541

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2021

Notes to the
Accounts

General Fund (Unrestricted)	District Advance Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Totals 2021
£	£	£	£	£

Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets	11	230,360				230,360
Investment properties						0
Investments						0
Total fixed assets		230,360	0	0	0	230,360

Current Assets

Debtors	12	6,881				6,881
Loans by the District						0
Trustee Investment Fund with TMCP	13		127,868			127,868
Central Finance Board Deposits	14	64,208		6,416	43,873	114,497
Cash at Bank and in hand	14	2,092				2,092
Total current assets		73,181	127,868	6,416	43,873	251,338

Current liabilities

Creditors (due in under 1 year)	15	6,302				6,302
Grants payable in 2021-22			73,241			73,241
Total current liabilities		6,302	73,241	0	0	79,543
Net current assets/liabilities		66,879	54,627	6,416	43,873	171,795

Total assets less current liabilities		297,239	54,627	6,416	43,873	402,155
--	--	----------------	---------------	--------------	---------------	----------------

Long term liabilities
(due after more than one year)

Grants payable in 2021-22			48,000			48,000
Loans to the District						0
						0
Net assets		297,239	6,627	6,416	43,873	354,155

Funds of the District

General Fund (Unrestricted)	16	297,239				297,239
District Advance Fund (Unrestricted)			6,627			6,627
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	16			6,416		6,416
Total Unrestricted Funds						310,282
Restricted Funds	17				43,873	43,873
Total Funds		297,239	6,627	6,416	43,873	354,155

Signed

District Treasurer

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2020

Notes to the
Accounts

General Fund (Unrestricted)	District Advance Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Totals 2020
£	£	£	£	£

Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets	11	230,360				230,360
Investment properties		0				0
Investments		0	0	0	0	0
Total fixed assets		230,360	0	0	0	230,360

Current Assets

Debtors	12	7,218				7,218
Loans by the District						0
Trustee Investment Fund with TMCP	13		112,984			112,984
Central Finance Board Deposits	14	47,637		15,395	41,562	104,594
Cash at Bank and in hand	14	2,662				2,662
Total current assets		57,517	112,984	15,395	41,562	227,457

Current liabilities

Creditors (due in under 1 year)	15	8,450				8,450
Grants payable in 2020-21			111,825			111,825
Total current liabilities		8,450	111,825	0	0	120,275
Net current assets/liabilities		49,067	1,158	15,395	41,562	107,182

Total assets less current liabilities		279,427	1,158	15,395	41,562	337,542
--	--	----------------	--------------	---------------	---------------	----------------

Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)						
Grants payable in 2020-21						0
Loans to the District						0
						0
Net assets		279,427	1,158	15,395	41,562	337,542

Funds of the District

General Fund (Unrestricted)	16	279,427				279,427
District Advance Fund (Unrestricted)			1,158			1,158
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	16			15,395		15,395
Total Unrestricted Funds						295,980
Restricted Funds	17				41,562	41,562
Total Funds		279,427	1,158	15,395	41,562	337,542

Signed

District Treasurer

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1 Accounting framework and accounting policies

i Accounting framework

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2019 version of *Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP)* applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective from 1 January 2019) – (the Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

ii Public benefit entity

The Lincolnshire District (hereinafter referred to as "District") meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s) below.

iii Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost on the accruals basis to show a true and fair view of the District's financial position and activities.

iv Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

v Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2020, the trustees believe that the District is a going concern.

vi FRS102 SORP2019

These accounts are compliant with FRS102 and with the FRS102 SORP 2019.

vii Consolidation

The District oversees the work of ministers and lay workers in Churches and Circuits within the District but does not have control over those Churches or Circuits, ministers or lay workers except in extreme circumstances, none of which were applicable. For this reason, the financial statements of the Churches and Circuits within the District are not consolidated into these financial statements.

viii Income recognition

Income is brought into account when it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will accrue to the District. No attempt is made to measure the value of services donated by volunteers. Details of how the contribution to the cost of the Chair of District has been determined appears in Note 3. A similar figure appears in the Expenditure section of the SOFA.

Individual amounts categorised as *Other income* in the SOFA will be shown separately if they are considered material.

The District acts as agent in three matters:

1. the collection of quarterly assessments from circuits which are paid to the Methodist Church Fund (MCF)
2. the payment of expenses of delegates from the District to the Methodist Conference
3. the collection taken at the spring synod on behalf of the Methodist Ministers' Children's Relief Fund

In all these matters the transactions are not reflected in the SOFA because there is no obligation on the District to make up any shortfall in assessments from Circuits. Sums received as Circuit assessments cannot be recognised as income in the District as they are the income of the MCF.

In accordance with the Charities SORP, the time of volunteers is not recognised.

ix Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the District to pay out resources.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

x Grants

Grants are recognised in full when the award is made once the District accepts that there is a legal or constructive obligation to make the payment and that such payment is probable.

xi VAT

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

xii Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000. The freehold property is shown in the accounts at cost in 2011, of which the land component is deemed to be £90,000. No depreciation is provided on the building because the trustees consider the current residual fair value of the manse building (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year-end) to be not less than its cost to date. The property has been reviewed for impairment.

xiii Debtors and creditors; bank and cash

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the District or prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any trade discounts, where normal credit terms apply, or amount advanced to the District. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds of bank balances and deposit account balances are shown at the realisable values.

xiv Methodist Church Fund (MCF)

The District acts as agent for the MCF by collecting its assessments on Circuits and does not, therefore, include the assessments in the SOFA. If a Circuit is late in paying its MCF assessment to the District but such sum is received before the quarterly transfer to the MCF, the amount paid late will be shown as a debtor in the District's accounts.

xv Manse costs

The District is required to provide accommodation for the Chair of District and his family. The District bears the cost of repairs, maintenance, building insurance, Council Tax and water charges. These costs are not shown separately as benefits-in-kind for the Chair as HMRC does not seek to tax these receipts in the hands of the Chair. In addition, since February 2017, the District has made a contribution towards the cost of the Manse occupied by the part-time Chaplain, which is provided by the Circuit with which the appointment is shared.

2 Assessment on Circuits

All Circuits (see list given below in this note) paid their assessments to the District and to the MCF during the year. An assessment on Circuits is determined annually by the District by reference to offers made by each Circuit towards meeting the financial requirements of the District.

The District is made up of the following Circuits:

Circuit No	Circuit Name
17/1	Epworth and Scunthorpe
17/2	Lincoln
17/4	Mid Lincolnshire
17/5	Grimsby and Cleethorpes
17/6	East Lincolnshire
17/7	Wolds and Trent
17/11	Barton and Brigg
17/12	Sleaford
17/15	South Holland
17/22	Boston

Contribution to Methodist Church Fund (MCF)

In addition to the assessments on the Circuits to help defray the costs of running the District, the District acted as agent for the MCF which levied assessments on the Circuits in this District totalling £276,364 (2019-20: £282,328) all of which were collected and paid over to the MCF in the year. No balance was held at the end of the year; no fee is received for this service which is performed at nearly nil cost to the District. These sums collected for and remitted to the MCF do not appear elsewhere in these financial statements.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

3 Cost of Chair and trustees

The Chair of District chairs meetings of the District Council (DC). The members of the DC are the trustees of the District. The stipend, employer's NIC and employer's pension contributions of the Chair of District are paid by the Methodist Connexion. The Chair's other costs are met mostly by the District.

	2020-21	2019-20
	£	£
Stipend to Chair	32,074	31,905
Employer's National Insurance Contribution	3,211	3,191
Employer's pension contribution to the defined benefit scheme	6,866	6,866
Cash cost paid by the Connexion (see, SOFA, line 6)	42,151	41,962
Chair's expenses	2,961	4,968
Total cost	45,113	46,930

Since the stipend-related costs above (*i.e.*, £42,151; 2019-20 £41,962) are borne by the Connexion, they appear both in the Income of the District (see SOFA line 6) and the Expenditure of the District (see SOFA line 11). It should be noted that the Chair is required to occupy the District manse. The manse is provided by the District and the District maintains the property. The costs of maintaining the manse for the year were £5,489 (2019-20 £5,082) - see Note 7 below. The Chair of District is the sole paid key management person but is supported by members of the DC.

No accrual is made for the Chair's entitlement to a sabbatical as his functions are undertaken by the Assistant Chairs at minimal extra cost to the District.

Payment to Trustees

It is District policy to offer to reimburse members of the District Council (DC) and others involved in the administration of District affairs for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties. The Chair of District undertakes the primary executive role within the District. Apart from the Chair of District and the lay Secretary of Synod, no member of the DC was in receipt of any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the District, although certain travelling and administration costs were reimbursed whenever this was requested.

Other than the lay Secretary of Synod, none of the trustees is an employee of the District. Due to meetings taking place on Zoom during 2020/21 no trustees claimed any expenses. (2019-20: 4 trustees claimed £145)

4 Other income

The District does not undertake fundraising.

5 Grants, donations and related Support costs

Grants and donations totalling £93,283 were made during the year (2019-20: £92,548) as shown below:

	2020-21	2019-20
	£	£
Unrestricted:		
- From General Fund		1,157
- From Youth Activities Fund		976
- From DAF	89,750	84,890
- To Ecumenical and New Communities	2,533	2,025
Sub total	92,283	89,048
Restricted:		
- From Emergency Welfare Fund	500	
- From Youth Bursary	500	
- From Benevolence Fund		1,500
- From Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund		2,000
Sub total	1,000	3,500
Total	93,283	92,548

Details of grants paid by the District during the year were reported to the District Council.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

5 Grants, donations and related Support costs (cont'd.....)

Expenditure on charitable activities through the District Advance Fund

This fund receives formulaically determined contributions from the Circuit Model Trust Funds held by Circuits within the District and, from time to time, a grant from the Connexional Priority Fund and redistributes the monies to grantees in the District through relevant grants as assessed by the District Resourcing Mission Group. During the year the following grants were awarded:

2020-21				
Given to	Amount in £		Analysis of amounts given by type of work	Amount in £
Churches	-		Projects	
Circuits	9,000		Ministry	9,000
.....			General	80,750
<i>Institutions</i>	9,000			
Individuals				
<i>Sub total</i>	9,000			
Ecumenical	32,750			
District	48,000			
Total	89,750			89,750
2019-20				
Given to	Amount in £		Analysis of amounts given by type of work	Amount in £
Churches	34,834		Projects	34,834
Circuits	11,500		Ministry	11,500
.....			General	38,556
<i>Institutions</i>	46,334			
Individuals				
<i>Sub total</i>	46,334			
Ecumenical	1,250			
District	37,306			
Total	84,890			84,890

The income of the fund was £95,219 (2019-20: £85,338) (net of costs) during the year, some £14,885 (2019-20: £15,307) short of the total paid out in grants in the year, £80,334 (2019-20: £100,645). This shortfall was drawn from reserves. A full list of the recipients of Grants will be presented to the April Synod. The Resourcing Mission Group is aware that grant applications must demonstrate public benefit.

6 Salaries and associated costs

Gross salaries paid to 3 (2018-19 3) part time employees were as follows:

	2020-21	2019-20
	£	£
Gross pay	39,868	39,416
Employer's National Insurance contribution	3,313	3,271
Employer's pension contribution to defined contribution scheme	5,469	5,344
Total cost for 3 (2019-20: 3) part time employees	48,650	48,031
Total weekly contractual hours of 3 (2019-20: 3) part time employees	64	64

No employees received employee benefits that totalled more than £60,000. There is no accrual for holiday pay as it is immaterial. All employees are paid at or above the Living Wage.

One of the part time employees was engaged as Secretary to Synod, another provided secretarial and administrative assistance to the District and to the Chair and acted as District Officer and the third is a Chaplain, whose ministerial appointment is shared with one of the Circuits.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

6 Salaries and associated costs (cont'd.....)

Pensions

Most ordained presbyters and deacons are members of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS). This is a defined benefit scheme. The Supreme Court held in 2014 that Methodist ministers (which term includes presbyters and deacons) are not employees of the Church. For simplicity, however, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions and pension contributions, the terms 'employer' and 'employee' are used as they would be in an employing body.

On the other hand lay employees are contractually employees. One of the part time employees was given, and turned down, the opportunity to join a defined contribution workplace pension scheme to which the District and the employee would contribute. The other part-time employee is a member of that scheme. The Chaplain is a member of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme.

The Connexion accounts for both the MMPS and the Pension and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church (PASLEMC) and shows the figures in the annual Methodist Church in Great Britain accounts. The MMPS is in deficit but a plan for removal of the deficit has been proposed and is being implemented. Details of the deficits on these schemes can be found in the Annual Report and Accounts of The Methodist Church at www.methodist.org.uk.

7 Property costs

	2020-21 £	2019-20 £
District office, rent and services	1,922	1,623
Contribution to Chaplains's manse	7,740	7,740
Chair's manse	5,003	5,082
Total	14,665	14,446

8 Office expenses

	2020-21 £	2019-20 £
Printing, postage and stationery	602	1,419
Telephone	343	296
Insurance	650	244
Safeguarding	35,024	29,922
Publicity	587	-
Computers and support	1,728	2,284
Other	211	661
Total charged to General Fund	39,145	34,827
Other - Designated Funds		-
TMCP charges - District Advance Fund	226	256
Total	39,371	35,083

None of the remaining individual amounts (aggregated as 'Other' above) is considered material and therefore none is listed separately.

9 Synods, Committees, Conference

	2020-21 £	2019-20 £
Synods	673	1,181
Conference		
Committees	166	3,038
Agricultural Chaplain expenses, including travel	4,528	3,562
Other		-
Total	5,367	7,781

None of the remaining individual amounts (aggregated as 'Other' above) is considered material and therefore none is listed separately.

10 Other outgoings

	2020-21 £	2019-20 £
Provision for bad debts		
Sundry outgoings	-	-
Paid from EDEV and LCHC grants	3,713	6,661
Total	3,713	6,661

None of the remaining individual amounts (aggregated as 'Sundry outgoings' above) is considered material and therefore none is listed separately.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

11 Manse and other property

The value of the District manse is greater than its historical cost in 2011 shown in the accounts. There is no depreciation on the manse as the Trustees believe that the current residual market value of the building is greater than the carrying value of that part of the asset's cost to date.

	Land	Buildings	Total
	£	£	£
Cost or valuation			
Balance brought forward at 1 September, at cost	90,000	140,360	230,360
Additions in the year			
Revaluations in the year			
Less: Disposals in the year			
Transfers between categories			
Balance carried forward at 31 August	90,000	140,360	230,360

12 Debtors and prepayments

All sums shown as Debtors at 31 Aug 2020 were received during the current year. All sums paid in advance at 31 Aug 2020 were for activities, (principally deposits for training courses). Due to restrictions arising because of the Covid-19 pandemic, some events have not been held and the deposits are carried forward. It is expected that payments in advance at 31 August 2021 will be expensed in 2021-22.

Debtors were made up as follows:

	2020-21 £	2019-20 £
Trade debtors		
Circuit assessments received late	615	
Sundry outgoings	615	-
Prepayments and accrued income		
Payments in advance	6,266	7,218
	6,266	7,218
Other debtors		
	-	-
Total (net)	6,881	7,218

13 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP)

The funds that support the District Advance Fund are held by TMCP in Trustees Interest Funds, which is a cash deposit fund on which interest is credited to the account each month.

TMCP is the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds. Trust property is held for and on behalf of local Managing Trustees who are responsible for the day to day management of trust property. TMCP ensure that, through providing guidance and acting under their direction, the Managing Trustees comply with charity law and Methodist law and policy as determined by the Methodist Conference.

14 Central Finance Board (CFB) and cash at bank

The District has one current account at CAF Bank Ltd., an authorised institution. The sums held in that account are immediately available. In addition the District has 10 (2019-20: 10) deposit accounts at CFB, a common deposit fund. These accounts are one General Fund, 4 (2019-20: 5) Designated Funds and 5 (2019-20: 4) Restricted Funds. Interest is earned on these accounts and credited monthly; the sums deposited can be withdrawn without notice and without loss of interest. These sums are viewed as being liquid.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

15 Creditors and accrued expenses

	2020-21 £	2019-20 £
Creditors:		
Expenses reimbursement	-	-
Unpaid invoices	2,094	4,305
Subscriptions	-	-
Other	-	-
<i>Total creditors</i>	<i>2,094</i>	<i>4,305</i>
Accruals:		
PAYE, NI and Pensions contributions	2,708	3,545
Accountancy fees	1,500	600
<i>Total accruals</i>	<i>4,208</i>	<i>4,145</i>
Total of creditors and accrued expenses	6,302	8,450

Maturity analysis of basic financial instruments				
	Accrued at 1st Sep 2020 £	Paid this year £	Accruals made this year £	Accrued at the end of 31 Aug 2021 £
Expenses	-			
Unpaid Invoices	4,305	4,305	2,580	2,580
Subscriptions				
Other	-	-	-	-
Accruals	600	600	1,500	1,500
Employers NIC	3,400	837	-	2,563
PAYE and pension	145	145	145	145
Total staff costs	8,450	5,887	4,225	6,788

With the exception of Employers NIC, all sums accrued at 31 Aug 2020 were paid during the year to 31 Aug 2021 but it is expected that all sums accrued at 31 Aug 2021 will be paid during the year to 31 Aug 2022.

16 Unrestricted Funds

16.1 General Fund

Balance of £296,753 at 31 Aug 2021 (2020: £279,427)

The purpose of the fund is for use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the District and which have not been designated for other purposes. About 78% of this fund is held as a freehold property, the District manse for the Chair of District. During the year £2,533 (2019-20: £2,025) was paid out as grants and donations from the General Fund.

16.2 Other Designated Funds

Balance of £6,416 at 31 Aug 2021 (2020: £15,395)

These funds are to serve specific purposes but are not restricted by any document or deed to that purpose alone. These funds comprise:

The Manse Fund - balance £14 (2020: £14) - is available to meet major repairs and renovations to the District manse. Due to significant expenditure on the Manse last year, the Funds previously set aside were transferred back to the General Fund

The Chair's Removal Costs Fund - balance £3,539 (2020: £2,535) - is accumulating funds to meet the future removal costs on a change in Chair of District.

The District Office Fund - balance £2,691 (2020: £12,674) - is available to meet unexpected costs of the District Office and the District Officer or such other costs as the DC may decide.

The Training new Ministers Fund - balance £172 (2020: £172) - is held to meet costs of the training of new Ministers.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

17 Restricted Funds

Balance of £43,873 at 31 Aug 2021 (2020: £4,562)

The Benevolence Fund – balance £2,032 (2020: £2,029) - provides financial support to active and supernumerary ministers in the District at the discretion of the Chair of District.

The Youth and Children's Bursary Fund – balance £6,487 (2020: £6,977) - is used to assist financially:

1. individual leaders to attend a courses or conference which will have some direct benefit to them and to their work amongst children and young people;
2. individual young people to attend a course, conference, or special youth event.
3. or by the provision of other resources, new and existing work amongst children and young people within the District, where little other support is available.

Agricultural Chaplaincy - balance £10,838 (2020: £13,554) - is earmarked to support the work of the Agricultural Chaplain.

Lincolnshire Community Healthcare Chaplaincy - balance £15,015 (2020: £19,002) - is earmarked to support the work of the Lincolnshire Community Healthcare Chaplaincy scheme.

Emergency Welfare Fund - The purpose of this fund is to be able to respond quickly and flexibly, via churches, to situations of emergency need in the community.

18 Connected organisations and related parties

All of the District trustees are members of one or another Church and Circuit within the District and may be trustees in their Churches and/or Circuits.

Connected organisations include the Methodist Connexion, Circuits and Churches within the District, other Methodist Districts in Great Britain, the Methodist Ministers' Children's Relief Association, CFB and TMCP. All of these entities have their own trustees or directors and autonomous administration such that the District has no significant influence over any of them, nor they over the District. They are, therefore, not considered related parties.

Name of Connected Organisations	Receipts £	Payments £	Adjustments £
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District - To Methodist Church Fund	276,364	276,364	
Grant from Connexional Priority Fund	37,722		
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District (Levy on Circuit Model Trust Funds)	57,230		
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District (for District Expenses Fund)	95,424		
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District (contributions to cost of Retreats)	-		
To Churches within the Lincolnshire District (grants)		9,000	
Total 2020-21	466,740	285,364	-

Name of Connected Organisations	Receipts £	Payments £	Adjustments £
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District - To Methodist Church Fund	282,328	282,328	
Grant from Connexional Priority Fund	21,077		
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District (Levy on Circuit Model Trust Funds)	63,172		
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District (for District Expenses Fund)	45,113		
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District (contributions to cost of Retreats)	2,110		
To Churches within the Lincolnshire District (grants)		46,334	
Total 2019-20	413,799	328,662	-

There were no related party transactions.

19 Volunteer contributions

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit, Church) within the Methodist Church is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. Principally volunteer contributions to the District are by serving on committees of the District that deal with mission, manses, finance, policy, grants, training, development and safeguarding. The District is grateful to all volunteers for their help and commitment.

20 Capital commitments and contingent liabilities

There were no capital commitments or contingent liabilities at the year end (2019-20: nil).

Name of District Lincolnshire No...17.....

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-based accounts for the year to 31 August 2021 have been prepared from the records of the District and that they include all funds under the control of the District Policy Committee.

Signature of treasurer*digital signature of Richard Mills*..... Date.....

Name and address of treasurer*c/o Office 5, 72a Newark Road, Lincoln*.....
..... Post Code...*LN5 8PY*

Presentation to the District Policy Committee

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 were/will be,* presented to the District Policy Committee held on ...*Accounts presented 13th December 2021*

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Name of the Chair of the meeting ...*Rev Bruce Thompson*..... Date ...*16.5.2022*

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Lincolnshire District

Charity Number 17

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Lincolnshire District for the year ended 31 August 2021 set out on pages ... to As the District'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 District'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

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
- the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts

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

I have 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 Karen Cain – Capella Accounting Ltd

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ...ICB FICB PM.Dip.....

Name of firm (where appropriate) Capella Accounting Ltd

Address ...33 Pavillion Gardens, Lincoln

..... Post Code LN6 8BD....

Date ...7th April 2022.....

* delete or circle as appropriate

September 2021

Accounts

Lincolnshire Methodist District
Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2020

Objectives and Activities

The Lincolnshire Methodist District (the District) exists to serve the mission of the Methodist Church of Great Britain. The District comprises 128 local Methodist churches grouped into 10 circuits that are served by a ministerial team of some 28 ordained ministers plus a number of part time “active retired” ministers and lay workers.

Activities during the year included supporting the work of the circuits through deployment of ministers, ministerial development, training of lay people, provision of retreats for all ministers and making grants to circuits and local churches in support of their mission and ministry.

The District was led by a full time District Chair supported by a Personal Assistant, a Safeguarding Officer, Synod Secretary and District Officer. In addition, a large number of voluntary officers, including a District Steward, supported the work of the district.

The District Synod met twice in the year to fulfil its governance and oversight responsibilities. As a registered charity, the District takes seriously its responsibilities to the Charity Commissioners and adheres to their guidance concerning public benefit in relation to charitable objectives.

2. Achievements and Performance

Given the emergence of the Covid 19 virus the year to which this report relates was a year of two halves with activities carried out after March 2020 largely moving on-line or being temporarily suspended. However much was achieved as detailed below.

Work on determining the priorities for the District beyond 2020 was drawn together in the first half of the year. The new vision statement was due to be launched at the Synod planned for April 2020 however this event was postponed due to not being able to meet together face to face. The statement which was called “Faithful and True – Beyond 2020 Vision” outlined eight priorities. It was decided to further delay the launch as it was felt that the impact of the virus may change our priorities going forward.

Despite national lockdown the following work has been carried out and achieved:

- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion training on the topic of unconscious bias took place on line
- Building work started on the Little Retreat at Lea in the Wolds and Trent Circuit; this is a joint project between church and district
- An event raising awareness of Islamophobia was held in October. Guest speakers included the local Imam and a survivor from Kosovo.
- Insight study meetings have taken place each month either face to face or over the internet.
- Four tea parties were held to show support to retired ministers and their spouses.
- Four new ministers were welcomed to the District in September and two others moved circuits within the District.
- Advanced Safeguarding Training was delivered to approximately 175 people face to face in 7 separate sessions for ministers, lay people and local preachers & worship leaders.
- Formal supervision for ministers was launched with Superintendent Ministers completing training and practicing their new skills.
- Booklets containing prayers and readings for Advent 2019 and Lent 2020 were published for use in the circuits.
- Young people and leaders from the district attended the national Methodist youth event “3 Generate” in November 2019. The District paid for the coach and for district hoodies for the young people. In the

summer a 3 Generate working group was formed with the aim of getting young people to participate in 3 Generate 365 during the next year.

- The work of the Agricultural Chaplain continued through provision of support to farmers and the agricultural community and strategic thinking.
- Representatives of the Lincolnshire Rural Support Network, Lincolnshire Agricultural Society, Diocese of Lincoln and the District have continued to work on an initiative to secure funding to ensure the continuation of the Agricultural Chaplaincy beyond the next few years.
- Two Representative Synods and one Presbyteral Synod took place with a variety of input from district officers and external speakers. These took place face to face in the first half of the year and then over the internet.
- A retreat for ministers took place but the Superintendents' retreat had to be cancelled due to Covid 19.
- Grants for property, projects and personnel in churches or circuits were agreed by the District Resourcing Mission Group.
- The Safeguarding Officer supported many individuals and churches with various safeguarding cases.
- Four sessions on mental health and the impact of the Corona Virus were held. These proved helpful on an individual basis and provided ideas for support of members.
- Two consultations were held on the topic of marriage and relationships in preparation for debates at Synod and Methodist Conference. Due to the virus the Synod and Conference debates were postponed to 2021.
- A new voluntary district chaplain was appointed prior to the previous chaplain moving away.
- Guidance for churches relating to how to respond during the pandemic was circulated
- The district council spent time considering the impact of the corona virus on churches and circuits expressing concern about the potential permanent closure of churches and the financial stress that churches are experiencing.
- Chaplaincy volunteers listened to patients face to face at GP surgeries prior to temporary enforced suspension of the service due to the pandemic. The Lincolnshire Community Healthcare Chaplaincy Executive took the opportunity to review all policies and procedures before launching a pilot telephone service in the summer. Training during the year included a two day course accredited Mental Health First Aid which was valued by all.
- A new Wellbeing Policy was approved highlighting the need to care for our staff.
- A part time Deacon started to support work with children and young people across the district.

2.1 Plans for future years

It was decided to progress with the development of *"Faithful and True: Beyond 2020 vision"* building upon the various work detailed in this document.

3. Financial Review

During the year the District received total income of £211k (2018-2019: £216k) and dispersed £238k (2018-2019: £234k), resulting in a deficit of £27k (2018-2019 deficit of £18k). Total reserves carried forward are £338k (2018-19: £364k). It should be noted that the unrestricted reserves funded the purchase cost of the manse (£230k in 2011) and, as a result, the unrestricted readily available reserves total £65k (2018-2019: £95k) and restricted reserves total £42k (2018-2019:£39k) excluding the restricted District Advance Fund.

The trustees of the District have every reason to believe that the District is a going concern, principally because Circuits continue to meet their assessments and the District has adequate reserves to cover any shortfall in anticipated income. There are no subsidiary undertakings. Trustees do not foresee any factors that will significantly affect the financial performance or position in the next few years however some circuits may struggle to meet their assessments due to the reduction in giving at church level as a result of Covid 19 and so this will be kept under review.

The District continues to hold one freehold property which is the Chair's Manse in Lincoln.

The District has the following principal sources of funds:

- Interest on funds invested
- Levies on the Circuit Model Trust Funds of Circuits within the District
- Distribution from the Connexional Priority Fund
- Assessments on Circuits within the District.

These sums are used to administer the District and to provide grants to Circuits, Churches and individuals in the District so that they may embark on or continue with projects that fulfil the mission of the District.

Methodist Ministers' Pension Fund

Trustees are aware that the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme is treated as a group defined benefit plan. The net defined benefit cost is recognised by the sponsoring entity, The Methodist Church in Great Britain, as there is no contractual agreement or stated policy for charging the net defined benefit cost to individual entities, such as the District. The District recognises a cost equal to its contributions payable for the period. Further details in respect of these pension arrangements are disclosed in the accounts of The Methodist Church in Great Britain.

3.1 Investment Policy and Performance

To comply with Methodist Standing Orders, monies for long term 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 Districts. These sums are invested in unitised investments or held on deposit. The investment returns are close to tracking the movements in the FTSE100 index. The deposit income mirrors the deposit rates available elsewhere. The District Trustees' investment policy is aligned with that of the Central Finance Board (CFB) and TMCP because these organisations take into consideration the social, environmental and ethical considerations, both negatively and positively in establishing investment policy.

Short term deposits are lodged directly with the CFB and attract good rates of interest compared to the rest of the market.

There are no bench marks for the expected returns at TMCP and CFB. It is the District's policy to manage the cash and investment resources of the District 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 District's low appetite for risk. The total return achieved on the invested funds of the District was between 0.5% and 1% for the year.

3.2 Reserves Policy

This Reserves policy relates to the funds operated by the Trustees of the Lincolnshire Methodist District (the District). A bank current account is operated for the District Expenses Fund, and money not immediately required is placed on deposit with the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church (CFB).

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

General (District Expenses) Fund

This Fund receives income from Circuit assessments and bank interest and is used for general expenses of the District. The aim of the Trustees is to hold sufficient funds to cover at least two quarters expenditure, in case circuits fail to pay their contributions on time. Accordingly, the Trustees consider that the balance of £50,299 in hand at 31st August 2020 is adequate.

District Advance Fund - Trust No.16017

This Fund is held with The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes in its Trustee Interest Fund. The use of the Fund is regulated by Standing Order (SO) 963 of the Methodist Church, where its purposes are restricted to the support of personnel serving in the District or any of its circuits, for property schemes approved under SO 93 and where applicable SO 931, and for ecumenical work. The District has also decided that grants should only be given if the relevant scheme is shown to be for, or to assist, mission work and is in accordance with its vision statement.

The Fund is administered on behalf of Synod by the District Resourcing Mission Group, and derives its income from an annual levy on Circuit Model Trust Funds within the District, an annual allocation from the Connexional Priority Fund and interest on funds held awaiting distribution. The aim is to hold sufficient reserves to cover grants already awarded for subsequent years in order to comply with "The Statement of Recommended Practice" relative thereto. At 31st August 2020 the balance in hand was £112,984, an excess of £1,159 over contingent liabilities for grants promised for future years of £111,825.

DESIGNATED FUNDS

Chair's Manse Fund

This fund, held on deposit with CFB, receives transfers from the General Fund and interest on the funds deposited and is designed to meet exceptional expenditure incurred on the Chair's manse. No transfers were made into this fund during the year. This fund should be built up in order to be available for planned maintenance in coming years.

Relocation Fund

This fund, held on deposit with CFB, receives transfers from the General Fund and interest on the funds deposited and is designed to accumulate funds towards the future cost of relocating a new Chair. No transfer was made during the year. It is not considered appropriate to fix a reserve as the cost of the next relocation of a District Chair is unknown however the balance of £2,535 is considered adequate.

Youth and Children's Fund

This fund is now closed following use of these funds during the year.

District Officer Fund

During the year £20,000 was transferred back to the general fund to meet general running costs. The balance of £12,674 as at 31st August 2020 is held on deposit with CFB and receives interest on the funds deposited. It is not considered necessary to fix a reserve.

Training New Ministers

This fund, held on deposit with CFB and receiving interest on the funds deposited, is to be used for training new ministers. At 31st August 2020 the balance in hand was £172. It is not considered necessary to fix a reserve.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

District Benevolence Fund (Wellbeing)

This fund, which receives interest on funds held on deposit with CFB, is used to support active and supernumerary ministers and widows at the discretion of the Chair of the District. Expenditure during the year related to benevolent care for active ministers and a lay person. It is not considered necessary to fix a reserve, as the balance of £2,029 at 31st August 2020 is considered sufficient for the next year. Circuits are to be asked to contribute to this fund in the future in order to support the ongoing wellbeing of ministers and lay officers.

Youth and Children's Bursary Fund

The purpose of this fund, which receives interest on funds held on deposit with CFB, is to assist financially:-

- a) individual leaders to attend courses or conferences which will have some direct benefit to them and to their work amongst children and young people;
- b) individual young people to attend courses, conferences, or special youth events, but not including National Weekends;
- c) or by the provision of other resources, new work amongst children and young people within the District, where little other support is available.

It is not considered necessary to fix a reserve, as the balance of £6,977 at 31st August 2020 is considered sufficient for the foreseeable future.

EDEV and DDE expenses

This fund is now closed following use of these funds during the year.

Agricultural Chaplaincy

This fund is specifically for the work of the Agricultural Chaplaincy and is held within a specific District Central Finance Board deposit account. It is not considered necessary to fix a reserve as once the funds are spent there will be no reimbursement.

Lincolnshire Community Healthcare Chaplaincy

Funds within this reserve held with the Central Finance Board are used to fund the work of the Lincolnshire Community Healthcare Chaplaincy. Following a receipt of £20,000 and expenditure during the year the balance on hand at 31st August 2020 is £19,002 and it is not considered necessary to fix a reserve as once the funds are spent there will be no reimbursement.

Summary

We have considered the District Mission Policy and have decided that we have sufficient reserves in hand. Should our reserves fall below expectations we would firstly seek to reduce expenditure and, failing that, would seek to increase income from other sources to restore the reserves to an acceptable level.

This Reserves Policy was adopted by the District Trustees on 15th October 2020

3.3 Collaborative arrangements with connected charities

The District's main source of funding was the assessments obtained from each Circuit within the District which are determined annually by the District by reference to offers made by each Circuit towards meeting the financial requirements of the District and this was used to defray the cost of administering the District. This sum amounted to £62,661 (2018-2019: £68,424).

The District also obtained from each Circuit with a reserve, known as a Circuit Model Trust Fund (CMTF), a levy based on the size of the Circuit's CMTF at the start of the Connexional year (1st September). In 2019-2020 this

sum was £63,172 (2018-2019: £104,958) and was credited to the District Advance Fund. A Connexional contribution from the Connexional Advance and Priority Fund of £21k was also received into the District Advance Fund for distribution via grants.

The District holds no funds as custodian trustee. It does, however, receive each quarter from Circuits within the District the Circuits' contributions to the Methodist Church Fund (MCF). These sums are collected as agent for the MCF and are passed to the MCF later in the same quarter. Funds received by the District as agent are not recognised as income or as an asset in the financial statements because the funds are not within its control. No fee is earned in respect of this agency arrangement and the District incurs no cost through this arrangement.

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 District'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 accruals method
- made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- followed applicable accounting standards including the FRSE
- prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis
- prepared accounts to comply with the Charities SORP 2015

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the District and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the District 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 included on the District's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

4.1 Risk

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

The Risk Register wasn't reviewed during the year 2019-2020 so this will be brought to a forthcoming meeting.

5. Structure, Governance and Management

The District 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 9th 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 or ratified by the half yearly Circuit Meeting. A District is the coordinating charity for a group of contiguous Circuits and makes its decisions at the half yearly Synods. The Methodist Conference meets once each year as the governing body for all Methodist Churches.

1. Overall control rests with the Methodist Conference.
2. 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.
3. Connexional decisions are passed to the Chair of the District and the appropriate officers of the District for implementation.

4. The District looks to the circuits for implementation of district policy and Connexional initiatives with authority delegated to the Circuit Meeting for certain matters.
5. The Circuit Meeting looks to Church Councils for local implementation by the presbyter, the Church Stewards, and other officers, and authority is delegated to Church Councils as Managing Trustees.

5.2 Purpose of the District

The District is an expression, over a wider geographical area than any Circuit, of the Connexional character of the Church.

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

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

The primary purpose of this District is to advance the mission of the Church in Lincolnshire:

- By providing support for circuits in matters of mission, administration or ministry
- By offering to Circuits resources of finance (grants), personnel and expertise
- By facilitating District-wide initiatives, events, worship and training opportunities.

5.3 Governance

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

The members of the district policy committee (known in this District as District Council) are appointed as trustees annually by a vote of the Synod for a continuous term not normally exceeding six years. The Chair of District is ex-officio Chair of the District Council. Nominations to fill vacant positions are brought to Synod for approval. Trustees may be either ministers or lay people attending churches in the area covered by the District. Safer Recruitment procedures are followed for new trustees.

The District Council normally meets four times a year and deals with routine and exceptional matters. Its remit includes the oversight of the work of the District Resourcing Mission Group, finance, property, safeguarding, authorisations to preside at communion, extensions to local preacher training, sabbaticals, manses, lay employment, district youth and children's work and appointments. It also links with the East Central Region of the Methodist Church Learning Network.

5.4 Responsibility of the District Council

The responsibility of the District Council is:

1. to formulate and promote policies which will advance the mission of the Church in the Circuits and Local Churches and, in particular, to supervise the use of resources of personnel, property and finance and to assist Local Churches and Circuits having exceptional problems
2. to encourage inter-Circuit and ecumenical co-operation
3. to act in an executive capacity in matters remitted to the Council by the Synod
4. to keep within its purview all District concerns not dealt with elsewhere
5. 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 to carry out its other responsibilities with any such development in mind

6. to be aware that the stipend of the Chair of the District is set by the Methodist Conference with all expenses met by the District
7. constantly to be aware of the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission

6. Reference and Administrative Details

6.1 Name of the Charity

Lincolnshire Methodist District

6.2 Charity Registration Number

1134228, Registered in England and Wales

6.3 Principal Office

Methodist District Office
Office 6, 72a Newark Road
Lincoln
LN5 8PY

6.4 Chair of the District

Rev Bruce D Thompson

6.5 Secretary of the Synod

Mrs Sue Brumpton

6.6 Assistant Secretary of the Synod (Presbyteral)

Rev Angela Long

6.7 Acting District Treasurer

Mr Richard Wills

6.8 Chair's PA and District Officer

Mrs Alison Godfrey

6.9 Independent Examiner

Mrs Lucy Brown, Capella Bookkeeping Ltd

6.10 Names of Trustees

The following served as trustees throughout part or all of the year 2019-2020 or were trustees at the time of this report being approved:

Rev Bruce Thompson (Chair)
Mrs Sue Brumpton
Rev Louise Carr
Rev Paul Cockburn
Rev Helen Hooley
Rev Angela Long
Mrs Sally-Ann Robinson
Rev Mark Sherman (appointed 1.9.2020)
Rev Alan Swann
Rev Susan Wilkins
Mr Richard Wills

6.11 Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd

Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church

25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

9 Bonhill Street
London
EC2A 4PE

6.12 Investment Managers and Custodian Trustees

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

Approvals

The Trustees' Report and the Financial Statements were approved by the District Council on 7th December 2020 and will be reported to the Synod on 17th April 2021.

Signed on behalf of the District Council, as authorised

Signature on original

Rev Bruce Thompson
District Chair
Date 7th December 2020

signature on original

Mr Richard Wills
District Trustee
Date: 7th December 2020



**District
Accruals Accounts
2019-20**

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS
ACCRUALS BASIS
for the year ended 31 August 2020**

LINCOLNSHIRE	District	District no	17
Registered Charity - Registration number			1134228

District Chairs

Rev. Bruce Thompson - Chair

Rev Louise Carr - Assistant Chair

Rev Paul Cockburn - Assistant Chair

Synod Secretary

Mrs. Susan Brumpton

Treasurer

--

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

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	District Advance Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2019-20 £
Income from						
1 Donations and legacies						0
2 Connexional Advance & Priority Fund			21,077			21,077
3 Income from investments		453	1,346	240	266	2,305
Income from charitable activities						
4 Assessments on circuits	2	62,661				62,661
5 From Circuit Model Trust Funds			63,172		20,000	83,172
6 Contribution to the cost of the Chair	3	41,962				41,962
7 Other charitable activities						0
8 Income from other trading activities						0
9 Other income	17					0
Total income		105,076	85,595	240	20,266	211,176
Expenditure						
9 Grants and donations	5	3,182	56,890	976	3,500	64,548
10 Salaries and associated costs	6	48,031				48,031
11 Cost of the Chair	3	46,930				46,930
12 Property Maintenance	7	14,446				14,446
13 Office expenses	8	34,827	256			35,083
14 Synods, committees, Conference	9	7,781				7,781
15 Training		7,232			3,148	10,380
16 Professional fees		4,194				4,194
17 Other outgoings	10				6,661	6,661
Total expenditure		166,623	57,146	976	13,309	238,053
Net income/(expenditure) before gains and losses on investments						
		-61,547	28,449	-736	6,957	-26,877
18 Net gains/(losses) on investments						0
Net income/(expenditure)		-61,547	28,449	-736	6,957	-26,877
19 Transfers between funds		51,931	-28,000	-20,000	-3,931	0
20 Other gains/(losses)						0
Net movement in funds		-9,616	449	-20,736	3,026	-26,877
Total funds brought forward		289,043	709	36,130	38,535	364,418
Total funds carried forward		279,427	1,158	15,395	41,562	337,541

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

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	District Advance Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2018-19 £
Income from						
1 Donations and legacies		0	0	0	0	0
2 Connexional Advance & Property Fund		0	0	0	0	0
3 Income from investments		740	1,492	233	73	2,539
Income from charitable activities						
4 Assessments on circuits	2	68,424	0	0	0	68,424
5 From Circuit Model Trust Funds		0	104,958	0	0	104,958
6 Contribution to the cost of the Chair	3	39,918	0	0	0	39,918
7 Other charitable activities		0	0	0	0	0
8 Income from other trading activities		0	0	0	0	0
9 Other income		0	0	0	0	0
Total income		109,082	106,450	233	73	215,839
Expenditure						
9 Grants and donations	5	2,638	53,875	3,771	712	60,997
10 Salaries and associated costs	6	45,863	0	0	0	45,863
11 Cost of the Chair	3	46,351	0	0	0	46,351
12 Property Maintenance	7	23,304	0	0	0	23,304
13 Office expenses	8	36,458	260	0	0	36,718
14 Synods, committees, Conference	9	7,280	0	0	0	7,280
15 Training		7,067	0	0	0	7,067
16 Professional fees		0	0	0	0	0
17 Other outgoings	10	0	0	0	6,553	6,553
Total expenditure		168,961	54,136	3,771	7,265	234,133
Net income/(expenditure) before gains and losses on investments						
		-59,879	52,314	-3,538	-7,192	-18,294
18 Net gains/(losses) on investments						0
Net income/(expenditure)		-59,879	52,314	-3,538	-7,192	-18,294
19 Transfers between funds		49,260	-55,000	5,740	0	0
20 Other gains/(losses)						0
Net movement in funds		-10,619	-2,686	2,202	-7,192	-18,294
Total funds brought forward						
		299,662	3,395	33,928	45,727	382,712
Total funds carried forward		289,043	709	36,130	38,535	364,418

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2020

Notes to the
Accounts

General Fund (Unrestricted)	District Advance Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Totals 2020
£	£	£	£	£

Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets	11	230,360				230,360
Investment properties						0
Investments						0
Total fixed assets		230,360	0	0	0	230,360

Current Assets

Debtors	12	7,218				7,218
Loans by the District						0
Trustee Investment Fund with TMCP	13		112,984			112,984
Central Finance Board Deposits	14	47,637		15,395	41,562	104,594
Cash at Bank and in hand	14	2,662				2,662
Total current assets		57,517	112,984	15,395	41,562	227,457

Current liabilities

Creditors (due in under 1 year)	15	8,450				8,450
Grants payable in 2020-21			111,825			111,825
Total current liabilities		8,450	111,825	0	0	120,275
Net current assets/liabilities		49,067	1,158	15,395	41,562	107,182

Total assets less current liabilities		279,427	1,158	15,395	41,562	337,542
--	--	----------------	--------------	---------------	---------------	----------------

Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)						
Grants payable after 2020-21						0
Loans to the District						0
						0
Net assets		279,427	1,158	15,395	41,562	337,542

Funds of the District

General Fund (Unrestricted)	16	279,427				279,427
District Advance Fund (Unrestricted)			1,158			1,158
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	16			15,395		15,395
Total Unrestricted Funds						295,980
Restricted Funds	17				41,562	41,562
Total Funds		279,427	1,158	15,395	41,562	337,542
		0	0	0	0	0

Signed

District Treasurer

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2019

Notes to the
Accounts

General Fund (Unrestricted)	District Advance Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Totals 2019
£	£	£	£	£

Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets	11	230,360				230,360
Investment properties		0				0
Investments		0	0	0	0	0
Total fixed assets		230,360	0	0	0	230,360

Current Assets

Debtors	12	3,477	0	0	0	3,477
Loans by the District						0
Trustee Investment Fund with TMCP	13	0	128,290	0	0	128,290
Central Finance Board Deposits	14	62,068	0	36,130	38,536	136,733
Cash at Bank and in hand	14	713	0	0	0	713
Total current assets		66,257	128,290	36,130	38,536	269,213

Current liabilities

Creditors (due in under 1 year)	15	7,574	0	0	0	7,574
Grants payable in 2019-20		0	77,580	0	0	77,580
Total current liabilities		7,574	77,580	0	0	85,155
Net current assets/liabilities		58,683	50,710	36,130	38,536	184,058

Total assets less current liabilities		289,043	50,710	36,130	38,536	414,418
--	--	----------------	---------------	---------------	---------------	----------------

Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)						
Grants payable after 2019-20			50,000			50,000
Loans to the District						0
						0
Net assets		289,043	710	36,130	38,536	364,418

Funds of the District

General Fund (Unrestricted)	16	289,043				289,043
District Advance Fund (Unrestricted)			710			710
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	16			36,130		36,130
Total Unrestricted Funds						325,882
Restricted Funds	17				38,536	38,536
Total Funds		289,043	710	36,130	38,536	364,418

Signed

District Treasurer

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1 Accounting framework and accounting policies

i Accounting framework

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2019 version of *Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP)* applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective from 1 January 2019) – (the Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

ii Public benefit entity

The Lincolnshire District (hereinafter referred to as "District") meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s) below.

iii Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost on the accruals basis to show a true and fair view of the District's financial position and activities.

iv Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

v Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2020, the trustees believe that the District is a going concern.

vi FRS102 SORP2019

These accounts are compliant with FRS102 and with the FRS102 SORP 2019.

vii Consolidation

The District oversees the work of ministers and lay workers in Churches and Circuits within the District but does not have control over those Churches or Circuits, ministers or lay workers except in extreme circumstances, none of which were applicable. For this reason, the financial statements of the Churches and Circuits within the District are not consolidated into these financial statements.

viii Income recognition

Income is brought into account when it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will accrue to the District. No attempt is made to measure the value of services donated by volunteers. Details of how the contribution to the cost of the Chair of District has been determined appears in Note 3. A similar figure appears in the Expenditure section of the SOFA.

Individual amounts categorised as *Other income* in the SOFA will be shown separately if they are considered material.

The District acts as agent in three matters:

1. the collection of quarterly assessments from circuits which are paid to the Methodist Church Fund (MCF)
2. the payment of expenses of delegates from the District to the Methodist Conference
3. the collection taken at the spring synod on behalf of the Methodist Ministers' Children's Relief Fund

In all these matters the transactions are not reflected in the SOFA because there is no obligation on the District to make up any shortfall in assessments from Circuits. Sums received as Circuit assessments cannot be recognised as income in the District as they are the income of the MCF.

In accordance with the Charities SORP, the time of volunteers is not recognised.

ix Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the District to pay out resources.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

x Grants

Grants are recognised in full when the award is made once the District accepts that there is a legal or constructive obligation to make the payment and that such payment is probable.

xi VAT

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

xii Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000. The freehold property is shown in the accounts at cost in 2011, of which the land component is deemed to be £90,000. No depreciation is provided on the building because the trustees consider the current residual fair value of the manse building (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year-end) to be not less than its cost to date. The property has been reviewed for impairment.

xiii Debtors and creditors; bank and cash

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the District or prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any trade discounts, where normal credit terms apply, or amount advanced to the District. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds of bank balances and deposit account balances are shown at the realisable values.

xiv Methodist Church Fund (MCF)

The District acts as agent for the MCF by collecting its assessments on Circuits and does not, therefore, include the assessments in the SOFA. If a Circuit is late in paying its MCF assessment to the District but such sum is received before the quarterly transfer to the MCF, the amount paid late will be shown as a debtor in the District's accounts.

xv Manse costs

The District is required to provide accommodation for the Chair of District and his family. The District bears the cost of repairs, maintenance, building insurance, Council Tax and water charges. These costs are not shown separately as benefits-in-kind for the Chair as HMRC does not seek to tax these receipts in the hands of the Chair. In addition, since February 2017, the District has made a contribution towards the cost of the Manse occupied by the part-time Chaplain, which is provided by the Circuit with which the appointment is shared.

2 Assessment on Circuits

All Circuits (see list given below in this note) paid their assessments to the District and to the MCF during the year. An assessment on Circuits is determined annually by the District by reference to offers made by each Circuit towards

The District is made up of the following Circuits:

Circuit No	Circuit Name
17/1	Epworth and Scunthorpe
17/2	Lincoln
17/4	Mid Lincolnshire
17/5	Grimsby and Cleethorpes
17/6	East Lincolnshire
17/7	Wolds and Trent
17/11	Barton and Brigg
17/12	Sleaford
17/15	South Holland
17/22	Boston

Contribution to Methodist Church Fund (MCF)

In addition to the assessments on the Circuits to help defray the costs of running the District, the District acted as agent for the MCF which levied assessments on the Circuits in this District totalling £282,328 (2018-19: £288,704) all of which were collected and paid over to the MCF in the year. No balance was held at the end of the year; no fee is received for this service which is performed at nearly nil cost to the District. These sums collected for and remitted to the MCF do not appear elsewhere in these financial statements.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

3 Cost of Chair and trustees

The Chair of District chairs meetings of the District Council (DC). The members of the DC are the trustees of the District. The stipend, employer's NIC and employer's pension contributions of the Chair of District are paid by the Methodist Connexion. The Chair's other costs are met mostly by the District.

	2019-20	2018-19
	£	£
Stipend to Chair	31,905	30,371
Employer's National Insurance Contribution	3,191	3,011
Employer's pension contribution to the defined benefit scheme	6,866	6,536
Cash cost paid by the Connexion (see, SOFA, line 6)	41,962	39,918
Chair's expenses	4,968	6,433
Total cost	46,930	46,351

Since the stipend-related costs above (*i.e.*, £41,962; 2018-19 £39,918) are borne by the Connexion, they appear both in the Income of the District (see SOFA line 6) and the Expenditure of the District (see SOFA line 11). It should be noted that the Chair is required to occupy the District manse. The manse is provided by the District and the District maintains the property. The costs of maintaining the manse for the year were £5,082 (2018-19 £14,155) - see Note 7 below. The Chair of District is the sole paid key management person but is supported by members of the DC.

No accrual is made for the Chair's entitlement to a sabbatical as his functions are undertaken by the Assistant Chairs at minimal extra cost to the District.

Payment to Trustees

It is District policy to offer to reimburse members of the District Council (DC) and others involved in the administration of District affairs for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties. The Chair of District undertakes the primary executive role within the District. Apart from the Chair of District and the lay Secretary of Synod, no member of the DC was in receipt of any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the District, although certain travelling and administration costs were reimbursed whenever this was requested.

Other than the lay Secretary of Synod, none of the trustees is an employee of the District. Travel expenses have been reimbursed to 4 (2018-19: 6) trustees (members of the DC) who, in aggregate, have received the cost of travel incurred

4 Other income

The District does not undertake fundraising.

5 Grants, donations and related Support costs

Grants and donations totalling £92,548 were made during the year (2018-19: £115,997) as shown below:

	2019-20	2018-19
	£	£
Unrestricted:		
- From General Fund	1,157	-
- From Youth Activities Fund	976	3,771
- From DAF	84,890	108,875
- To Ecumenical and New Communities	2,025	2,638
Sub total	89,048	115,285
Restricted:		
- From Benevolence Fund	1,500	712
- From Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund	2,000	
Sub total	3,500	712
Total	92,548	115,997

Details of grants paid by the District during the year were reported to the District Council.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

5 Grants, donations and related Support costs (cont'd.....)

Expenditure on charitable activities through the District Advance Fund

This fund receives formulaically determined contributions from the Circuit Model Trust Funds held by Circuits within the District and, from time to time, a grant from the Connexional Priority Fund and redistributes the monies to grantees in the District through relevant grants as assessed by the District Resourcing Mission Group. During the year the following grants were awarded:

2019-20				
Given to	Amount in £		Analysis of amounts given by type of work	Amount in £
Churches	34,834		Projects	34,834
Circuits	11,500		Ministry	11,500
.....			General	38,556
<i>Institutions</i>	46,334			
Individuals				
<i>Sub total</i>	46,334			
Ecumenical	1,250			
District	37,306			
Total	84,890			84,890
2018-19				
Given to	Amount in £		Analysis of amounts given by type of work	Amount in £
Churches	14,200		Projects	26,700
Circuits	24,000		Ministry	24,000
.....			General	58,175
<i>Institutions</i>	38,200			
Individuals				
<i>Sub total</i>	38,200			
Ecumenical	27,750			
District	42,925			
Total	108,875			108,875

The income of the fund was £85,338 (2018-19: £106,190) (net of costs) during the year, some £15,307 (2018-19: £1,743) short of the total paid out in grants in the year, £100,645 (2018-19: £107,933). This shortfall was drawn from reserves. A full list of the recipients of Grants will be presented to the April Synod. The Resourcing Mission Group is aware that grant applications must demonstrate public benefit.

6 Salaries and associated costs

Gross salaries paid to 3 (2018-19: 3) part time employees were as follows:

	2019-20 £	2018-19 £
Gross pay	39,416	38,037
Employer's National Insurance contribution	3,271	3,074
Employer's pension contribution to defined contribution scheme	5,344	4,752
Total cost for 3 (2018-19: 3) part time employees	48,031	45,863
Total weekly contractual hours of 3 (2018-19: 3) part time employees	64	64

No employees received employee benefits that totalled more than £60,000. There is no accrual for holiday pay as it is immaterial. All employees are paid at or above the Living Wage.

One of the part time employees was engaged as Secretary to Synod, another provided secretarial and administrative assistance to the District and to the Chair and acted as District Officer and the third is a Chaplain, whose ministerial appointment is shared with one of the Circuits.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

6 Salaries and associated costs (cont'd.....)

Pensions

Most ordained presbyters and deacons are members of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS). This is a defined benefit scheme. The Supreme Court held in 2014 that Methodist ministers (which term includes presbyters and deacons) are not employees of the Church. For simplicity, however, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions and pension contributions, the terms 'employer' and 'employee' are used as they would be in an employing body.

On the other hand lay employees are contractually employees. One of the part time employees was given, and turned down, the opportunity to join a defined contribution workplace pension scheme to which the District and the employee would contribute. The other part-time employee is a member of that scheme. The Chaplain is a member of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme.

The Connexion accounts for both the MMPS and the Pension and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church (PASLEMC) and shows the figures in the annual Methodist Church in Great Britain accounts. The MMPS is in deficit but a plan for removal of the deficit has been proposed and is being implemented. Details of the deficits on these schemes can be found in the Annual Report and Accounts of The Methodist Church at www.methodist.org.uk.

7 Property costs

	2019-20 £	2018-19 £
District office, rent and services	1,623	1,529
Contribution to Chaplains's manse	7,740	7,620
Chair's manse	5,082	14,155
Total	14,446	23,304

8 Office expenses

	2019-20 £	2018-19 £
Printing, postage and stationery	1,419	1,138
Telephone	296	260
Insurance	244	175
Safeguarding	29,922	30,316
Publicity	-	184
Computers and support	2,284	2,910
Other	661	1,474
Total charged to General Fund	34,827	36,458
Other - Designated Funds		-
TMCP charges - District Advance Fund	256	260
Total	35,083	36,718

None of the remaining individual amounts (aggregated as 'Other' above) is considered material and therefore none is listed separately.

9 Synods, Committees, Conference

	2019-20 £	2018-19 £
Synods	1,181	997
Conference		81
Committees	3,038	4,485
Agricultural Chaplain expenses, including travel	3,562	1,717
Other		-
Total	7,781	7,280

None of the remaining individual amounts (aggregated as 'Other' above) is considered material and therefore none is listed separately.

10 Other outgoings

	2019-20 £	2018-19 £
Provision for bad debts		
Sundry outgoings	-	-
Paid from EDEV and LCHC grants	6,661	6,553
Total	6,661	6,553

None of the remaining individual amounts (aggregated as 'Sundry outgoings' above) is considered material and therefore none is listed separately.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

11 Manse and other property

The value of the District manse is greater than its historical cost in 2011 shown in the accounts. There is no depreciation on the manse as the Trustees believe that the current residual market value of the building is greater than the carrying

	Land	Buildings	Total
	£	£	£
Cost or valuation			
Balance brought forward at 1 September, at cost	90,000	140,360	230,360
Additions in the year			
Revaluations in the year			
Less: Disposals in the year			
Transfers between categories			
Balance carried forward at	90,000	140,360	230,360

12 Debtors and prepayments

All sums shown as Debtors at 31 Aug 2019 were received during the current year. All sums paid in advance at 31 Aug 2019 were for activities (principally deposits for training courses) that have been held during 2019-20.

Debtors were made up as follows:

	2019-20 £	2018-19 £
Trade debtors		
Circuit assessments received late		
Sundry outgoings	-	-
Prepayments and accrued income		
Payments in advance	7,218	3,477
	7,218	3,477
Other debtors		
	-	-
Total (net)	7,218	3,477

13 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP)

The funds that support the District Advance Fund are held by TMCP in Trustees Interest Funds, which is a cash deposit fund on which interest is credited to the account each month.

TMCP is the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds. Trust property is held for and on behalf of local Managing Trustees who are responsible for the day to day management of trust property. TMCP ensure that, through providing guidance and acting under their direction, the Managing Trustees comply with charity law and Methodist law and policy as determined by the Methodist Conference.

14 Central Finance Board (CFB) and cash at bank

The District has one current account at CAF Bank Ltd., an authorised institution. The sums held in that account are immediately available. In addition the District has 10 (2018-19: 8) deposit accounts at CFB, a common deposit fund. These accounts are one General Fund, 5 (2018-19: 5) Designated Funds and 4(2018-19: 2) Restricted Funds. Interest is earned on these accounts and credited monthly; the sums deposited can be withdrawn without notice and without loss of interest. These sums are viewed as being liquid.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

15 Creditors and accrued expenses

	2019-20 £	2018-19 £
Creditors:		
Expenses reimbursement		-
Unpaid invoices	4,305	12
Subscriptions		-
Other - £nil (2019: £3,686) deposits received in advance	-	3,686
Total creditors	4,305	3,698
Accruals:		
PAYE, NI and Pensions contributions	3,545	3,876
Accountancy fees	600	-
Total accruals	4,145	3,876
Total of creditors and accrued expenses	8,450	7,574

Maturity analysis of basic financial instruments

	Accrued at 1st Sep 2019	Paid this year	Accruals made this year	Accrued at the end of 31 Aug 2020
	£	£	£	£
Expenses	-			
Unpaid Invoices	12	12	4,305	4,305
Subscriptions	-			
Other	3,686	3,686	-	-
Accruals	-		600	600
Employers NIC	3,264		136	3,400
PAYE and pension	612	612	145	145
Total staff costs	7,574	4,310	5,186	8,450

With the exception of Employers NIC, all sums accrued at 31 Aug 2019 were paid during the year to 31 Aug 2020 but it is expected that all sums accrued at 31 Aug 2020 will be paid during the year to 31 Aug 2021.

16 Unrestricted Funds

16.1 General Fund

Balance of £279,427 at 31 Aug 2020 (2019: £289,043)

The purpose of the fund is for use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the District and which have not been designated for other purposes. About 82% of this fund is held as a freehold property, the District manse for the Chair of District. During the year £2,025 (2018-19: £2,638) was paid out as grants and

16.2 Other Designated Funds

Balance of £15,395 at 31 Aug 2020 (2019: £36,130)

These funds are to serve specific purposes but are not restricted by any document or deed to that purpose alone. These funds comprise:

The Manse Fund - balance £14 (2019: £14) - is available to meet major repairs and renovations to the District manse. Due to significant expenditure on the Manse last year, the Funds previously set aside were transferred back to the General Fund

The Chair's Removal Costs Fund - balance £2,535 (2019: £2,517) - is accumulating funds to meet the future removal costs on a change in Chair of District.

The Youth Activities Fund - balance £nil (2019: £975) - is available to finance District events for children, young people and those working with children and young people and attendance at National Methodist Church events for young people. This fund is now closed.

The District Office Fund - balance £12,674 (2019: £32,453) - is available to meet unexpected costs of the District Office and the District Officer or such other costs as the DC may decide.

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

17 Restricted Funds

Balance of £41,562 at 31 Aug 2020 (2019: £38,535)

The Benevolence Fund – balance £2,029 (2019: £3,710) - provides financial support to active and supernumerary ministers in the District at the discretion of the Chair of District.

The Youth and Children's Bursary Fund – balance £6,977 (2019: £6,928) - is used to assist financially:

1. individual leaders to attend courses or conferences which will have some direct benefit to them and to their work amongst children and young people,
2. individual young people to attend courses, conferences or special youth events but not including National Weekends, and
3. by the provision of other resources, new work amongst children and young people within the District, where little other support is available.

EDEV Grant and DDE Expenses - balance £nil (2019: £443) - is used to Extend Discipleship and Explore Vocation. This fund is now closed.

Agricultural Chaplaincy - balance £13,554 (2019: £19,000) - is earmarked to support the work of the Agricultural Chaplain.

18 Connected organisations and related parties

All of the District trustees are members of one or another Church and Circuit within the District and may be trustees in their Churches and/or Circuits.

Connected organisations include the Methodist Connexion, Circuits and Churches within the District, other Methodist Districts in Great Britain, the Methodist Ministers' Children's Relief Association, CFB and TMCP. All of these entities have their own trustees or directors and autonomous administration such that the District has no significant influence over any of them, nor they over the District. They are, therefore, not considered related parties.

Name of Connected Organisations	Receipts £	Payments £	Adjustments £
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District - To Methodist Church Fund	282,328	282,328	
Grant from Connexional Priority Fund	21,077		
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District (Levy on Circuit Model Trust Funds)	63,172		
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District (for District Expenses Fund)	62,661		
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District (contributions to cost of Retreats)	2,110		
To Churches within the Lincolnshire District (grants)		46,334	
Total 2019-20	431,348	328,662	-

Name of Connected Organisations	Receipts £	Payments £	Adjustments £
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District - To Methodist Church Fund	288,704	288,704	
Grant from Connexional Priority Fund	-		
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District (Levy on Circuit Model Trust Funds)	104,958		
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District (for District Expenses Fund)	68,424		
From Circuits within the Lincolnshire District (contributions to cost of Retreats)	3,219		
To Churches within the Lincolnshire District (grants)		38,200	
Total 2018-19	465,305	326,904	-

There were no related party transactions.

19 Volunteer contributions

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit, Church) within the Methodist Church is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. Principally volunteer contributions to the District are by serving on committees of the District that deal with mission, manses, finance, policy, grants, training, development and safeguarding. The District is grateful to all volunteers for their help and commitment.

20 Capital commitments and contingent liabilities

There were no capital commitments or contingent liabilities at the year end (2018-19: nil).

THE METHODIST CHURCH - LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT DECLARATIONS - cont'd

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or

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

the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts

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

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

* Please delete as appropriate

Name LUCY BROWN

Signature [Signature]

Relevant Professional qualification of examiner
FELLOW OF INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED
BOOKKEEPERS

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 2 POTTERCATE, LINCOLN LN2 1PH

Date 25.03.2021

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Methodist Church – Lincoln District

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

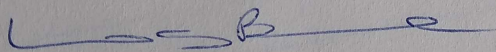
Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. 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.
4. The trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts

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

Signed:



Name: Lucy Brown

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies: Fellow of the Institute of Certified Bookkeepers, member number: 218039

Address: 2 Pottergate, Lincoln, LN2 1PH

Date: 25 March 2021