



**THE METHODIST CHURCH
REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
(ACCRUALS BASIS)
for the year ended 31 August 2024**

South Essex

Circuit

Registered Charity - Registration number

1134269

Beds, Essex, Herts

District No / Circuit No 34/01

Ministers

Rev F Al-Hassen

Rev M Agyam

Rev F Smith

Circuit Stewards

Mrs L Amber,

Mrs H Ashworth, Mrs S Stubbs

Mr G Hodgson

Mrs C Raven

Circuit Treasurer

Miss W A Crayden

**South Essex Circuit
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Introduction

This is the Trustees' Annual Report for the Methodist Church of South Essex Circuit covering the north part of the Thames Estuary from Basildon in the east to Grays in the west taking in Billericay in the northern part of the circuit.

The Methodist church South Essex Circuit is responsible for the ministerial oversight and pastoral care of eight churches in the circuit; the support of a ministry team of three presbyter Ministers, one full time lay employee and one part time lay employee and the maintenance of four circuit manses.

Aims and organisation

The South Essex Circuit is part of the Methodist Church and is committed to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in word and action.

The Circuit's role is to ensure the effective use of its resources to further the four dimensions of 'Our Calling' as Methodists.

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

Service – to be good neighbours to people in need and to challenge injustice;

Evangelism – to make more followers of Jesus;

Learning and Caring – to help people to learn and grow in faith through mutual support and care.

The Circuit caring policy is to:

Encourage everyone in our churches to care for one another, and maintain an established pastoral system where church members work in conjunction with staff.

Make it a requirement for an annual review of Safeguarding Policies and ensure necessary DBS checks are made and training attended.

Encourage churches to work alongside other agencies, as well as ecumenically to seek to alleviate social needs locally identified.

Be sensitive to people of other faiths and to face the challenge of being open to dialogue with them (emphasising what we have in common, rather than solely focussing on those issues on which we differ).

Family Ministry

Encourage and equip volunteers and leaders to build each church into a community for all generations.

Encourage and nurture relationships between God, church and families.

Nurture relationships across age groups within church.

Facilitate links between the church, families, the wider community and other organisations through outreach and church-based events including worship.

Hospitality

Encourage local churches to extend Christ-like hospitality and practice an active and generous love.

Invite, welcome, receive and care for those who are 'strangers', so they may find a spiritual home and the richness of Christ in our churches.

Express God's invitation to others.

Pray, plan, prepare and work toward helping others to receive Christ.

Inclusivity

Encourage and facilitate a sense of belonging together as one in the Body of Christ.

Acknowledge the uniqueness of individuals and foster inclusivity.

Encourage mutual concern, goodwill and respect for others regardless of ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability or opinion.

Acknowledge Christians hold different views on issues including faith and life-style, and encourage all exchanges of opinion to be within a framework of mutual respect, prayerfulness, grace and honesty.

Challenge discrimination and injustice.

Working Together

Encourage openness to change and a willingness to receive the talents of others.

Encourage people within church to work together as effectively as possible.

To be conscious and considerate of the well-being needs of those who serve/work in our churches: volunteers, lay workers, ordained ministers.

Business and Resources Policy (People)

The Circuit policy is to:

Maintain effective oversight of churches through the grouped responsibilities of staff and the location of manses.

Develop and support its ministerial staff and lay workers, who meet regularly for mutual support, encouragement and conversation about Circuit and church issues.

Train and authorise local preachers and worship leaders, who, together with ordained ministers, have the primary role in leading the worshipping life of the churches.

Seek appropriate people to join the Leadership Team as Circuit Stewards, offer induction and encouragement to take an interest in particular aspects of Circuit work.

Business and Resources Policy (Buildings)

The Circuit will:

Maintain and improve, where appropriate, those manses for which it is responsible.

Continue the independent quinquennial inspections of all Circuit property, supported by annual physical inspections by the relevant stewards, and will maintain a list of relevant maintenance and professional agencies.

Require churches to comply with the Safeguarding and Equality legislation and Connexional policy.

Require churches comply with current buildings Health and Safety legislation and undertake Annual Risk Assessments.

Seek to support and give advice on the improvement and maintenance of church premises.

Seek to support and provide resources towards energy efficiency, health and safety, accessibility and property improvements for outreach.

Business and Resources Policy (Finance)

The Circuit policy is to:

Encourage each church to maximise the use of regular, tax-efficient giving.

Consider and approve an annual budget, together with two forecast years.

Consider and review future Circuit finance.

Consider and approve the annual church contributions, in the knowledge that giving is one response we can make to God's constant love.

Business and Resources Policy (Business)

The Circuit policy is to:

Plan and discharge its responsibilities in an efficient and effective manner.

Encourage churches to plan and discharge their responsibilities efficiently and effectively.

Review of the year

The Circuit has provided support to all nine churches to comply with the above policy by encouraging training, financing scheme to encourage outreach and maintaining church buildings.

In February a reserves policy is drawn up for discussion in the circuit leadership team for the next connexional year and approved at the February Circuit Meeting. This gives us a vision of what we plan to do in the next year. In addition we also prepare a budget. We are happy to report for 2023/24 that there were no major differences between actual and budgeted figures.

Income trends

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment paid by the circuit churches.

Interest from accounts held with recognised Banks and Central Finance Board.

We have investments valued at £219,578 which generated dividends. This investment is re-valued each year and the movement is included in the financial statements.

The rental income relates to the rental of Meadow Rise Billericay a redundant manse.

During the year Stanford Methodist Church was sold and the funds are included in the accounts.

St Andrew's in Herongate closed during the year and is in the process of being sold.

Expenditure trends

Stipend expenditure has increased each financial year in line with conference approved increases.

17.47% of expenditure is the Circuit contribution to the District and Connexion, of which a significant part is used to fund the work of the wider Methodist Church.

The other expenditure in the General fund is in respect of living expenses of the ordained employees and reimbursement of various expenses incurred in carrying out their duties.

Fund balances

The current assets of the circuit equal £505,864 and represents a general reserve to cover six months of expenditure and the balance is allocated to specified reserves which are detailed later in this report.

Plans for 2024/25

Circuit financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that there remains 3 full time ordained staff with anticipated cost of living stipend increases combined with an increase in the assessment paid to the district such that I have not requested an increase in the assessment from the circuit churches.

South Essex Circuit
Trustee's Annual Report on Finance and Governance

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the 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 2015 - (Charities SORP FRS 102)

Full Name of Charity: SOUTH ESSEX METHODIST CHURCH CIRCUIT

Registration Charity Number: 1134269.

Date of registration 11th February 2010

Main communication address (Circuit office) Langdon Hills Methodist Church, High Road, Langdon Hills, Basildon, Essex.

The members of the South Essex Methodist Circuit meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches.

Full membership is shown as Appendix A to this report.

Circuit Ministers and officers

Active Circuit Ministers	Rev F Al-Hassan Rev M Aygam Rev F Smith.
Circuit Lay Workers	Mrs C Owens
Circuit Stewards	Mrs S Stubbs, Mrs L Amber, Mrs H Ashworth, Mr G Hodgson, Mrs C Raven

Administrator: Mrs H Harris

Miss W A Crayden acted as the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the circuit during the year.

Independent examiner Mayor Cuttle & Co, Suite 7B Aquarium 101 Lower Anchor Street, Chelmsford, CM2 0AU

Investment Bankers Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
Trustees for Methodist Church purposes
Santander Bank PLC

South Essex Circuit

Aims and organisation

Charity objective is to act as a Resource provider within the area around South Essex for the Methodist Church:

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

- a) The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and 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

The organisation and resourcing of regular public acts of worship open to members of the church and non members alike.

The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.

The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.

Taking religious assemblies in local schools.

Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services.

Provision of chaplaincy services to the local university and other institutions.

Public Benefit

We confirm the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document for the circuit is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976)

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD).

Day to day management of the circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team along with the Local Preachers meeting, the Circuit Finance and Property Committee and the Circuit Policy Committee.

Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the circuit, specifically the leaflet 'The Role of a Trustee in The Methodist Church' is given to all new Circuit meeting members as induction to their role as trustees.

Related Parties

The Circuit is part of the Beds, Essex and Herts District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The following Methodist Churches are linked to the circuit Billericay, Grays, St Andrews, Horndon on the Hill, Langdon Hills, Linford, St Paul's, Trinity, Wickford Christ Church.

Any other specific organisations with specific linkage.

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Finance and Property Committee with professional advice taken as required.

There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

Income and Expenditure is being monitored in total and is compared with the approved annual budget on a half yearly basis to detect trends as part of the risk management process to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults
- the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
- We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.
- We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice

The South Essex Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.

The South Essex Circuit commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy for the Circuit is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to six months' average expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on manses and / or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full Circuit Assessment from churches. In addition the circuit also holds reserves in respect of Manse Maintenance, Training and Learning, Equipment and mission outreach, worker with young people, improving church premises.

These are as follows

Manse Capital Expenditure £101,335

Training and Learning £5,000

Equipment and Mission £5,000

Mission work £25,000

Improving Church Premises £57,000

Pastoral Support £5,000

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

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2023-24 £
Income							
1 Donations and legacies							0
2 Income from monetary investments		22,583					22,583
3 Income from investment properties	3	13,500					13,500
4 Assessments on Churches	4	182,833					182,833
5 Capital Receipts	5	445,920					445,920
6 Grants received		0					0
7 Other charitable income		0					0
8 Total income		664,836	0	0	0	0	664,836
Expenditure							
9 Grants and donations							0
10 Salaries and associated costs	6	133,958					133,958
11 Property maintenance	8	54,692					54,692
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy		8,455					8,455
13 District Assessment & Levy		38,912					38,912
14 Depreciation							0
15 Office expenses	11	6,573					6,573
16 Other outgoings	12	13,445					13,445
17 Total charitable expenditure		256,035	0	0	0	0	256,035
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments			15,768				15,768
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties							
20 Net income/(expenditure)		408,801	15,768	0	0	0	424,569
21 Transfers between funds							0
22 Other gains/(losses)							
23 Net movement in funds		408,801	15,768	0	0	0	424,569
24 Total funds brought forward		2,662,063	(97,287)				2,564,776
25 Total funds carried forward		3,070,864	(81,519)	0	0	0	2,989,345

Name of Circuit

Circuit No

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

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 23	2022- 23
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income								
1 Donations and legacies								0
2 Income from monetary investments		1,436	8,422					9,858
3 Income from investment properties	3	13,508						13,508
4 Assessments on Churches	4	188,396						188,396
5 Capital Receipts								0
6 Grants received								0
7 Other charitable income								
8 Total income		203,340	8,422	-	-	-		211,762
Expenditure								
9 Grants and donations								0
10 Salaries and associated costs	6	124,325						124,325
11 Property maintenance	8	98,422						98,422
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy								0
13 District Assessment & Levy		56,545						56,545
14 Depreciation								0
15 Office expenses	11	6,668						6,668
16 Other outgoings	12	22,780						22,780
17 Total charitable expenditure		308,740	0	0	0	0		308,740
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		-	10,709					-10,709
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties								
20 Net income/(expenditure)		-105,400	-2,287	0	0	0		-107,687
21 Transfers between funds		95,000	-	95,000				0
22 Other gains/(losses)								
23 Net movement in funds		-10,400	-97,287	0	0	0		-107,687
24 Total funds brought forward		2,672,463						2,672,463
25 Total funds carried forward		2,662,063	97,287	-	-	-		2,564,776

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024

	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Totals 2023/2024 £	2022/23 £
Fixed Assets								
Circuit Manses & Equipment	14	1,880,000					1,880,000	1,880,000
Investment properties	14	425,000					425,000	425,000
Investments			219,578				219,578	203,810
Total fixed assets		2,305,000	219,578	0	0	0	2,524,578	2,508,810
Current Assets								
Debtors	17	10,362					10,362	10,920
Loans by the Circuit							0	0
Investments with TMCP	18	335,353					335,353	3,481
Central Finance Board Deposits	18	100,514					100,514	24,662
Cash at Bank and in hand	18	59,635					59,635	55,759
Total current assets		505,864	0	0	0	0	505,864	94,822
Current liabilities								
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	18	41,098					41,098	38,857
Grants payable within 2021-22							0	0
Total current liabilities		41,098	0	0	0	0	41,098	38,857
Net current assets/liabilities		464,766	0	0	0	0	464,766	55,966
Total assets less current liabilities		2,769,766	219,578	0	0	0	2,989,344	2,564,776
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)								
Grants payable after 2021-22							0	
Loans to the Circuit							0	
Net assets		2,769,766	219,578	0	0	0	2,989,344	2,564,776
Funds of the Circuit								
General Fund (Unrestricted)		2,769,766					2,769,766	2,362,942
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			219,578				219,578	309,520
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)				0			0	
Total Unrestricted Funds							2,989,344	2,672,462
Restricted Funds					0		0	
Endowment Funds						0	0	
Total Funds		2,769,766	219,578	0	0	0	2,989,344	2,672,462

BUDGET 2024-25

		2024/25 BUDGET £
Stipends		99,740
Pensions		23,435
National Insurance Contributions		9,009
Telephones and I.T.		3,800
Travel		4,500
Postage		300
Manse Maintenance		-
Council Tax		11,000
Water Rates		2,800
Insurance		3,800
Advertising		
Web site Design and Maintenance		850
Quinquennial Inspections		2,500
Methodist Church Fund Including District Expenses		18,000
District Levy		43,000
Preachers Expenses		750
Stationery, Publicity, Plans Etc.		750
Circuit Accounting Fee		2,700
Interest on Loan		-
Circuit Office/Administration		6,900
Contingency & Miscellaneous		2,000
SUB TOTAL	£	235,834
interest and dividends		9,500
Rent from Meadow Rise		11,500
Proposed offering by Church (as at 31.1.2023)		173,096
		194,096
		-
Deficit from reserves.	£	41,738.00

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of accounting and accounting policies

i Accounting standard

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the 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 2015 - (Charities SORP FRS 102)

ii Public benefit entry

The Methodist Church South Essex Circuit 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 except that investments (including properties) are shown at their market value at the end of each year. The accruals basis has been used and trustees present accounts that show a true and fair view of the Circuit'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 FRS102 SORP 2015

These accounts are compliant with FRS102 and with FRS102 SORP. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable charity law in England, this being the Charities Act 2011 and SI 2008/629 (Charities accounting and Reporting regulations) and, pending the making of replacement Regulations specific to SORP 2015 in accordance with Reg.8 (4) (d) of SI 2008/629, the Charity trustees have departed from the requirements of Reg.8 (5) by following SORP (FRS102) instead of SORP 2005 to extent necessary to give a true and fair view in the circumstance.

Vi Going Concern

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

Vii Consolidation

The Circuit has denominational regulatory oversight in respect of work of the Churches within the Circuit but has no legal or operational control of these churches and their governing bodies except in extreme circumstance. For this reason, the financial statements of Churches within the Circuit are not consolidated into these financial statements.

Viii Income recognition

Income is brought into accounts when there is entitlement and the amount is reliably measurable once it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will be forthcoming. Individual amounts categorised as Other Income in the SOFA will be shown separately if they are considered material.

The Circuit acts as an agent in two matters:-

- The Collection from churches and payments over of their contributions to various funds controlled and administrated by the Methodist Church- "Connexional Funds"
- The Administration (application, collection and disbursement) of grants requested by Churches within the Circuit from but not limited to the District and Connexion.

In all these matters the transactions are not reflected in the SOFA because they are income of either the Connexion or Churches as appropriate. Instead the transactions are disclosed in the notes to the Accounts as required by SORP (FRS 102) module 19, 12.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102), the time of volunteers is not recognised. Further information on this matter is provided in the Trustees' Annual Report. If goods are donated, a value will be shown in the SOFA or Notes where the value is considered material.

ix Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, where the amount is reliably measurable and it is considered more likely than not that there will be an outflow of economic benefit.

X Grants

Grants made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement to make the grant **without** performance conditions or as and when the circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment if it is subject to performance conditions. When the grant to be accrued is recurrent over more than one year the balance payable in future years, discounted to net present value where the difference is material is treated as a provision being released in future years in accordance with the originally agreed terms. In the cases where the grant has been charged to one fund but for ease of payment has been transferred to another fund any future payment provision is applied to the fund from which the grant will ultimately be paid.

Xi VAT

Since the circuit 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 residential properties are shown in the accounts at the revalued amount or cost if purchased within last two years. The all properties were revalued at 1st September 2020. A new policy has been introduced which re-values one property a year on a four year rotation. This year we had 93 Mountnessing Road, Billericay re-valued by John Cottis. No depreciation is being provided because the trustees consider the current residual value of the properties in their present condition to be not less than the historical cost and, in the absence of any impairment, any depreciation provision for the buildings component of the properties would be immaterial. The Circuit has made use of the deemed cost option on transitioning to FRS102 as outlined above.

Xiii Investment Property

From time to time the Circuit may hold residential property (formerly manses) which is surplus to its normal staffing requirements. Where this is the case and it anticipated that the property is unlikely to be used as a manse within a periods of two years, the property is classified as investment property (whether let or not) and any lets are at market rates unless there is a compelling reasons not to do so in furtherance of the Circuit's charitable objectives.

Xiv Receivables and payables: Bank and Cash (basic Financial Instruments)

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the Circuit or prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any trade discounts, where normal credit terms apply, or the amount advanced to the Circuit. 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 fund balances are shown at their reasonable values.

Xv Methodist Connexional Funds

The Methodist Church Connexion raises assessments against each Circuit and these are paid quarterly to their Districts. The Circuits raise assessments against Churches in the Circuit. The District remits quarterly to the Methodist Church Fund most of the sum it receives from Circuits. A small sum is retained by the District to meet its own costs. The Circuit may act as an agent for ad hoc collections for various funds controlled and administrated by the Methodist Church.

Xvi Funds

The Trustees have adopted a policy for all unrestricted reserves which is attached as a separate document.

Xvii Minsters' manse costs

The Circuit is required to provide accommodation for each minister and pastor in the Circuit and their families and this is seen as a benefit to the Church. Minister and pastors are expected to occupy the manse provided for them. The Circuit bears the cost of the repairs, maintenance, buildings insurance, council tax and water charges. These figures are not separately disclosed as benefits-in-kind for minsters or pastors as HMRC does not seek to tax these receipts in the hand of them.

2. Glossary of Terms

CFB: Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church manages a Common Deposit Fund and a series of pooled investment funds for the Methodist Church in Great Britain and provides investment advice to these entities.

Church: a group of members from fewer than 10 to more than 100.

Circuit: a group of Methodist Church near each other, typically between 10 and 20

Circuit Meeting: The trustees of the Circuit. Most of whom are appointed local churches and others by virtue of a role they undertake for the Circuit and/or their local churches.

CLT (Circuit Leadership Team): A Group (comprising mostly; but not exclusively) of Circuit trustees responsible for the day to day administration and policy formulation of the Circuit. Generally the CLT comprises the Presbyters (Ministers) and pastors stationed within the Circuit, the Circuit Stewards and the Circuit Treasurer.

CMTF : Circuit Model Trust Fund

Connexion: The designated and/or Restricted Funds held and administrated by the connexion in the furtherance of its charitable and mission objectives

District : a group of contiguous circuits, usually 15 and 30

DAF: District Advance Fund

FRS: Financial reporting standard

HMRC: His Majesty's Revenue and Customs

Lay Employees: Personal employed by the Circuit on generally accepted commercial employment terms.

MMPS; Methodist Ministers Pension Scheme

PASLEMC: Pensions and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church.

Pension Trust: The pension Trust, the organisation through which the Circuit arranges a pension's scheme for its lay employee.

Presbyters (including superintendent) Probationer or ordained Methodist Ministers who have pastoral and administrative responsibility for the Churches within the Circuit.

SOFA: Statement of Financial Activities

SORP: Statement of recommended practice

TMCP: Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, the legal owner and Custodian Trustees of all Methodist Model Trust Property, including legacies, endowments and accumulated Funds.

Funds

The funds held constitute: General Funds held for any purpose of the Circuit which are Unrestricted. The Circuit Model Trust Fund has wide purposes defined in Standing Orders and is categorised as unrestricted. Restricted funds which are held for a narrower purpose. There are no Endowment funds. Details of each material fund are disclosed in the final note to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

3 Income from investment Property

The trustees had determined that the properties listed below were unlikely to be returned to use as a manse in the foreseeable future and have therefore classified the same as an Investment Properties. Letting income is shown gross of fees and repairs

	General Fund	CMTF Designate	Total
	£	£	£
Meadow Rise	<u>13,500</u>		<u>13,500</u>
	13,500		13,500

4. Assessments on Churches

The Circuit comprises 8 Churches and each is assessed for a contribution to meet the overall net costs of the Circuit. In making its Assessment budgeted income from investment income including property letting, and conformed external grants are taken into account. The Circuit aims to cover all its net core costs from the assessment.

The assessment on Churches is determined annually and is based upon the purchase of shares being equal to £250.00 for each share. The Churches voluntary to buy the shares but are requested to consider the Circuit requirements and their own churches finances. The assessment is paid on a quarterly basis in advance and is treated as creditors in the Balance Sheet.

Assessments received are shown below:-

	General £	CMTF £	Total £
BILLERICAY	70,000		70,000
GRAYS	16,838		16,838
HORNDON-ON-THE-HILL	7,000		7,000
LANGDON HILLS	17,000		17,000
LINFORD	7,000		7,000
ST. PAUL'S	21,586		21,586
STANFORD-LE-HOPE (sold)	11,000		11,000
TRINITY	21,210		21,210
WICKFORD	<u>11,200</u>		<u>11,200</u>
	182,833		182,833

5. Capital Receipts

During the year to 31st August 2024 Stanford Le Hope church was sold. After deduction of the levy by the Methodist Church the circuit received £445,920.

6. Stipends, Salaries and associated costs

Stipends

Stipends were paid to 3 Presbyters (2023/24) as follows

	General £	CMTF £	Total
Stipends	90,605		90,605
National Insurance	8,943		8,943
Pension Fund Contribution	23,435		23,435
Travel	2,300		2,300

The Circuit employs lay staff involved in administration work, The costs of these staff are shown below:

Administration Staff

	General £	CMTF £	Total £
Stipends	7510		7,510
National Insurance	61		61
Pension	49		49
Bureau charges	<u>1,055</u>		<u>1,055</u>
Stipends & Salaries Total	133,958		133,958

Pension

All presbyters are members of the Methodist Ministers Pension Scheme (MMPS). This is a defined benefit scheme. The Supreme Court held in 2014 stated that Methodist Ministers (which term includes presbyters) 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.

Lay employees are contractually employees and have the option of joining a pension scheme which the circuit has arranged with Nest Pensions. This is a defined benefit scheme and the circuit contributes as employer to the scheme.

The Connexional accounts for both pensions' schemes show the figure in the annual Methodist Church in Great Britain accounts. The MMPS is in deficit but a plan for removal of this deficit has been proposed and is being implemented.

7. Costs of Superintendents, Presbyters and Trustees

The Superintendent of the Circuit, the Presbyters and the remaining members of the CLT are considered as Key Management Personal. The Superintendent chairs meeting of the CLT and Circuit Meetings. The members of the Circuit meeting are the trustees of the Circuit. The stipends, employers NIC and employer's pension contributions and other expenses of the Presbyters of the Circuit are paid by the Circuit.

The manses are provided by the Circuit and the Circuit maintains the property. The value of the Council Tax and water charges paid by the Circuit is not disclosed here as HMRC does not regard this as a benefit in kind in the hands of the minister.

Payments to Trustees

The Circuit policy is to reimburse members of the CLT and other trustees for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties, including where appropriate travelling expenses, or where they have been requested to undertake certain activities for the Circuit. The Superintendent Minister and other presbyters undertake the primary executive roles within the Circuit. None of the trustees is an employee of the Circuit nor was in receipt of any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the Circuit other than reimbursements of appropriate expenses.

8. Property Expenses

The Circuit is Managing Trustees for three manses and one investment property which is let on an assured shorthold tenancy. With the exception of the let property the circuit is responsible for the payment of Council Tax, water rates. In addition the Circuit is responsible for insurance and maintenance on all properties.

Expenditure on properties is as follows:

	General	CMTF	Total
	£	£	£
Council tax	8,722		8,722
Water Supply	2,808		2,808
Insurance	4,042		4,042
Maintenance	32,684		32,684
Management Fees	1,296		1,296
Telephone	<u>5,140</u>		<u>5,140</u>
Property Total	<u>54,692</u>		<u>54,692</u>
 Manse	 36,557		 36,557
Investment Properties	<u>18,135</u>		<u>18,135</u>
Property Total	54,692		54,692

9. Connexional assessments and levy

The Connexional Assessment is calculated relative to the proportion of Church Members, and staffing (Presbyters and Mission staff only) of all the Circuits in the Beds, Essex & Herts District 50% of the overall cost is calculated using the relative membership proportions and 50% using relative staffing proportions.

10. District Assessment and Levy

The District Assessment is calculated relative to the proportion of Church Members, and staffing (Presbyters and Mission staff only) of all the Circuits in the Beds, Essex & Herts District 50% of the overall cost is calculated using the relative membership proportions and 50% using relative staffing proportions.

The levy is calculated on a sliding scale percentage of the Circuit's CMTF Accounts balance as at 31st August for the previous accounting period.

11. Office and Administration Cost

	General	CMTF	Total
	£	£	£
Rent	3,720		3,720
Software	80		80
Hire of Photocopier	<u>2,773</u>		<u>2,773</u>
	<u>6,573</u>		<u>6,573</u>

12. Other Outgoings

General	CMTF	Total
	£	£
Accountancy Fees	2,266	2,266
Independent Examiner	640	640
Postage and Stationery	593	593
Training	900	900
Mission Work	1,083	1,083
Expenses Stanford Le Hope	-3,578	-3,578
Expenses – Herongate	8,952	8,952
Web Site	1,442	1,442
Pulpit Expenses	194	194
General Expenses	<u>949</u>	<u>949</u>
	13,445	13,445

During 2023 it was found that the church in Stanford Le Hope was uninhabitable and therefore the General Church Council decided to sell this and the local church handed over the control to the Circuit in addition St Andrew's at Herongate ceased meeting and is to be sold. .

13. Investment Management

During the year Circuit paid TMCP, the custodians of the Circuit's investments (Circuit Model Trust Fund and Restricted Funds) management charges based on 0.2% of the value of the individual funds at the beginning of the year. The amount was £590. (2022-23 £994).

14. Manses and Other Properties

There are three Manses located in Basildon, Billericay and Stanford Le Hope. The investment property is located in Billericay. These properties were revalued at 31 August 2020 by Smith Lachter but a new policy has been introduced this year to re-value one property on a rotation basis. This year 93 Mountnessing Road was valued at £800,000.

There is no Office equipment or Assets as these are charged to the General Fund when purchased.

15.1 Cost or Valuation

	Investment Properties	Manses	Total
	£	£	£
Balance Brought Forward	425,000	1,880,000	2,305,000
	425,000	1,880,000	2,305,000

Schedules of Manse and Investment Property

15.2 Property	Type	Valuation £
93 Mountnessing Rd- Billericay	Manse	800,000
86 Meadow Rise- Billericay	Investment	425,000
61 Vowler Road	Manse	560,000
198 Southend Road	Manse	<u>520,000</u>
		2,305,000

16. Investment Assets and Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP)

The funds that support the Circuit Model Trust Fund and the Circuit's other funds (as listed below) are held by TMCP in the Trustees Interest Fund on which interest is credited to the accounts each month. These are regarded as medium-term investments.

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 agents who are responsible for the day to day management of trust property. TMCP ensures 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.

17 Debtors and Prepayments

All sums shown as Debtors at 1 September 2023 were received during the year 2023-24. All sums paid in advance at 1 September 2024 were for activities that have been held during 2023/24. It is expected that payments in advance at 31 August 2024 will be expensed during 2024-25.

	General	CMTF	Total	2023
	£		£	£
Debtors and Prepayments				
Stipends	10,362		10,362	10,383
St Paul's MC	0		0	537

In 2023 St Paul's Methodist Church is changing signatories on their Bank account and we were awaiting that confirmation that this is done meanwhile the Circuit draw cheques on their behalf.

18. - Central Finance Board (CFB) and Bank Balances

Monetary balances held at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and at Santander are all available on demand without loss of interest. Deposits with the CFB are specifically designated to the appropriate funds.

	General Fund	CMTF	2023
	£	£	£
Central Finance Board	100,514		24,662
TMCP Trustees Interest Account	335,353		3,481
Santander	<u>59,635</u>	<u></u>	<u>55,579</u>
	495,502		83,902

19. Creditors, Accruals and Income in Advance

It is expected that all sums accrued at 31 August 2024 will be paid during the year to 31 August 2025.

Creditors and Accruals

	General	CMTF	Total	2023
	£	£	£	£
Assessments	40,458		40,458	38,237
Examiners Fees	<u>640</u>	<u></u>	<u>640</u>	<u>620</u>
	41,098		41,098	38,857

20. Unrestricted Funds

20.1 General Fund

The purpose of this fund is for use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the Circuit and which have not been designated for other purposes. Some 91% of this fund is held as a freehold property, being manses for ministers and investment property. Details of the grants and donations made from the General Fund during the year can be found in note 9.

20.2 Circuit Model Trust Fund

The purpose of this fund is for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Circuit. Its main source of income is legacies and formulaically determined contributions from the sale of manses and church buildings

in the Circuit. Although this is technically an Unrestricted Fund under the control of the Circuit Meeting, prior approval is still required from the District to utilise these funds. Methodist Standing Orders 930, 931 and 917 (2) are applicable.

21. Summary of Fund Movements

Fund	Balance at 1/9/2023	Income	Expenditure	31.8.2024
	£	£	£	
	2,564,776	680,603	256,035	2,989,344

	General Fund	CMTF	Designated	Restricted	Total	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets		2,305,000			2,305,000	2,305,000
Investments		219,578			219,578	203,810
Current Assets	505,864				505,864	94,822
Current liabilities	(41,098)				(41,098)	(38,857)
	464,766	2,524,578	-	-	2,989,344	2,564,776

Related Parties

None of the Circuit trustees made donations direct to the Circuit during the year or in the preceding year. All of the Circuit trustees are members of one or another Church within the Circuit and may be trustees of their Churches.

Related parties including the Methodist Conference, the BE & H District and Churches within the Circuit, other Methodist Districts in Great Britain, CFB and TMCP.

24 Volunteer Contribution

Every Entity (Connexion, District, Circuit and Church) within the Methodist Church in GB is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. In the Circuit the principal contribution is by serving on committees of the Circuit that deal with the mission, manses, finance, policy, grants, training and safeguarding. We are grateful to all of them for their help and commitment. No attempt has been made by this Circuit to value the non-monetary contributions to the Circuit in monetary terms.

25 Capital commitments and contingent liabilities

The Circuit has no contracts or obligations.

26 Lease commitments

The Circuit has no contracts or obligations.

27 Independent Examiner

The fees payable to the independent Examiner in the sum of £640 (2023 £624) have been provided for in these accounts.

The examiner has provided no additional services during the year.

List of Trustees at 31st August 2024

Rev F Al-Hassan

Mr G Hodgson

Mrs G Rogers

Mrs G Willcox

Mrs C Weedon

Mr S Nice

Mr S Burton

Rev M Kweku Agyam

Mr R Davison

Mr K Cowell

Mrs H Harris

Mrs L Harris

Rev F Smith

Mrs C Raven

Miss G N M Sutton

Miss C Key

Mrs S Stubbs

Mrs C Nice

Mrs B A Everett

Miss D Gilbert

Miss W Crayden

Miss T Sanger

Mrs J M Hylton-Thompson

Name of Circuit SOUTH ESSEX No. 34/01

Declarations and Scrutiny

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

Signature of treasurer *W. H. H.* Date 12/3/2025

Name and address of treasurer LUENDY CRYNDEY, 16 VOLVER ROAD,
..... LONDON HA11, BARNHURST, ESSEX Post Code SS16 6AA

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were/will * be presented to the Circuit meeting held on:

Signature of the Chair of the meeting: *F. Hassan*

Name of the Chair of the meeting: *Rev Felicity Al-Hassan* Date 18th March 2025



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

The Methodist Church - South Essex Circuit

On accounts for the year
ended

31 August 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1134269

Set out on pages

1 - 29

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended *31 / 08 / 2024*

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity'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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

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

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 gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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.

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.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

[Signature]

Date:

27/3/2025

Name:

JOANNE BRACE

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

FCCA

	Mayor Cuttle & Co
(if any):	Chartered Accountants
	Aquarium, Suite 7b
Address:	101 Lower Anchor Street
	Chelmsford
	Essex CM2 0AU
	Phone: 01245 258188
	Email: admin@mayorcuttle.co.uk

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

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