

Annual Charity Commission report of the Wimbledon Circuit for the Year ending 31st August 2020

Introduction

Circuit life has, like everything else in recent months, been dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic. Prior to (what would prove to be) the first national lockdown in March 2020, we thought we had understood what the pattern of life was going to look like for some time to come. We had moved to a model of four Circuit meetings per year, each taking one of the aspects of *Our Calling*¹ as a focus, hoping that this would lead to a renewed energy for this work within the lives of our local churches. With lockdown and the instruction to close our premises, our churches had to respond quickly – identifying priorities for the journey ahead. They did so by focusing on worship and people; exploring new ways of facilitating the former and caring for the latter. The road ahead will see us need to recover and reconstruct. It will be challenging, of course, but it could also be exciting.

We have stated before that, at any time of change, we have an opportunity to pause, reflect and ask some questions about who we are and what we are being called by God to be and do. We now need to do this with an even greater sense of urgency. As ever, whilst we continue to seek to discern God's hopes and dreams for us, so too do we continue to ensure that those resources that we have been blessed with —people, property and money — are well cared for and utilised for the building up of the body of Christ and for the furtherance of God's kingdom. The report that you are about to read focusses on these aspects of our life together as Wimbledon Circuit. I thank those who have shaped it and commend it to you.

Revd Paul Timmis

Aims and organisation

Our objective as a Circuit is to act as a Resource provider within the area around Wimbledon 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

¹ <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-church/our-calling/>

"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.

Our aims and objectives are perhaps best expressed by our Circuit Mission Statement:

The Wimbledon Circuit of the Methodist Church exists to advance the work of God and to foster the growth of its constituent churches by:

1. Supporting and encouraging the local churches in their ministry and mission
2. Deploying and sharing the varied human and material resources of the Circuit, particularly in areas of growth and special need
3. Facilitating and encouraging training and development within the Circuit, including training available from the District and elsewhere
4. Enabling issues of mutual concern to be shared and explored,

Brief financial review of the year

The year has seen major work to one of the manses within the circuit.

53 Chestnut Avenue after an electrical inspection required rewiring, repairs to the roof and an upgrade to the shower room.

Martin Way Methodist Church was forced to defer their August 2019 assessment payment which was paid during this year. This accounts for the surplus in this year's Circuit Accounts.

Income trends

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment paid by the circuit churches. Due to financial problems in some of the churches in the circuit, the amount of the assessments paid were reduced.

The rental income relates to the rental of the Poplar Road manse and a small amount of interest from money deposited with the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church.

Expenditure trends

Stipend expenditure has increased each financial year in line with conference approved increases. 14% 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 of approximately £44.6k in this year included £35.5k on expenditure relating to the manses and £6.3k on administration and insurance,

Fund balances

As at 31 August 2020 the net current assets of the Circuit were £57k, giving approximately 3.8 months cover for expenditure. Due to the exceptional expenditure on the manses in a previous year and ongoing Manse expenditure this year the fund balances are below that required by the reserves policy.

Plans for 2020/21

Circuit financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that circuit staffing level remains at 3 full time ordained staff with anticipated cost of living stipend increases. Only small changes in the assessment paid to the district. When the budget was set no significant expenditure had been identified on the manses so the assessment to be paid by the churches was reduced to £156k. £4k of the reduction was specifically to assist Martin Way Church.

Analysis of the Quinquennial inspections carried out on all the circuit manses during July 2019 has identified about £100k of work required to be implemented over the next 5 years. A review of the budget has been carried out to maximise the funds available for work on the manses without reducing the current reserves of the circuit or impacting finances of the Churches in the Circuit who have been impacted by the COVID19 pandemic.

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2019 have been prepared in accordance with The Charities SORP: Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (the FRSSE) (effective 1 January 2015).

Full Name of Charity: Wimbledon Circuit (The Methodist Church)

Registration Charity Number: 1134284

Date of registration 15 February 2010

Main communication address: The Wimbledon Circuit,
c/o Christ Church with St Philip
Ruskin Drive
Worcester Park
Surrey
KT4 8LG

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

Circuit Ministers and officers

Active Circuit Ministers	Rev Paul Timmis
	Rev Emma Cusack (formerly Aikins)
	Deacon Dawn Canham

Circuit Stewards	Mrs Wendy Siemaszko
	Mr Tom Turner
	Mrs Valerie Ashcroft
	Mr Richard Charlton

Administrator:	N/A
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Name of treasurer acted as the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the circuit during the year.

Mr Roy Newitt

Independent examiner	Mr G Knapper A.C.I.I
	105 Sandringham Road
	Worcester Park
	Surrey
	KT4 8UH

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

A full list of trustees is attached.

Aims and organisation

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"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.

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 London District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The following Methodist Churches are linked to the circuit:-

Christ Church with St Philip LEP (Worcester Park)

Martin Way Methodist Church

The Lantern Methodist Church of Wimbledon & Raynes Park

Stoneleigh Methodist Church

Ruxley Church (LEP)

Risk Management

The Circuit Leadership team takes reports at its meetings on the state of all property for which the circuit acts as managing trustees and also reviews the financial report provided by the Circuit

Treasurer. The quarterly circuit meeting also receives reports from the Circuit Property Secretary. If major risks have been identified they are recorded by the in the Circuit Leadership team notes and the Circuit Meeting Minutes. Professional advice is taken as required.

The Methodist online reporting schedules are completed to record the state of the property and financial returns.

Income and Expenditure is being monitored at the quarterly Circuit Meeting where progress against the approved annual budget is reviewed. The treasurer provides a report along which includes details of any anticipated deviation from the budget.

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 Wimbledon 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 Wimbledon 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 6 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.

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Wimbledon	Circuit
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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2020**

London	District	Circuit no	35/26
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1134284

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

(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Ministers:

Rev Paul Timmis
Rev Emma Cusack
Deacon Dawn Canham

Circuit Stewards:

Richard Charlton
Chris Meineck
Wendy Siemaszko
Tom Turner
Valerie Ashcroft

Treasurer:

Roy Newitt

SECTION A			Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
	RECEIPTS	Note	£	£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS						
a2	Assessment/Share		165,235	✓		165,235	157,518
a3	Capital receipts						
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		349	✓	12	361	294
a5	Grants						23,048
a6	Other receipts		26,858	✓		26,858	
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS		192,442	12		192,454 (a8)	180,860

SECTION B							
	PAYMENTS						
b1	PAYMENTS						
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs		110,118	✓		110,118	107,735
b3	Manse Costs		35,506	✓		35,506	43,865
b4	Administration etc		6,325	✓		6,325	7,509
b5	District Assessment		24,884	?		24,884	25,659
b6	Grants & donations						
b7							
b8	Other payments		2,690	✓	38	2,728	2,203
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS		179,523	38		179,561 (b9)	186,971

SECTION C							
	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR						
c1		(a7-b9)	12,919	(26)		12,893	(6,111)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		54,154	✓		54,154 (c6)	60,265
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	67,073	(26)		67,047	54,154
c4	Transfers and adjustments					(c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	67,073	(26)		67,047 (c8)	54,154 (c6)

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

SECTION E

Summary of the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Circuit Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross receipts and payments totals of the Circuit. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold of £250,000, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the Circuit and connected Circuit Organisations.

SECTION F

CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2020

SECTION G

At	At
1 September 2019	31 August 2020
1,484,824	1,530,866

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

Name of Circuit WIMBLEDON No. 35/26

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2020 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit meeting.

Signature of treasurer Date 1/11/2020

Name and address of treasurer Mr R C Newitt, 21 Sandringham Road,
..... Worcester Park, Surrey Post Code...KT4 8XW

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 were/will be* presented to the Circuit meeting held on 2/12/2020

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Name of the Chair of the meeting Lord Paul Timmins Date 2/12/2020 .

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

WIMBLEDON Circuit

Charity Number 35/26

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the WIMBLEDON Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2020 set out on pages 2 to 3. As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Circuit WIMBLEDON No 35/26

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

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

I have/have not* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner

Name of independent examiner J. G. KNAPPER

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner A.C.I.I.

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 105 Sandringham Road
..... Worcester Park Surrey Post Code KT4 8UH

Date 25/11/20

* delete or circle as appropriate

Sep-20

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2020**

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Roy Newitt

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SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATION REPORTING TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING**SECTION E** Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Circuit Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross receipts and payments totals of the Circuit. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold of £250,000, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the Circuit and connected Circuit Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1						
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds				(e11)	(e12)
e9	Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)					
	192,454 (a8)	179,561 (b9)	12,893	(c7)	54,154 (c6)	67,047 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT					
	192,454	179,561	12,893		54,154 (x)	67,047 (y)
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward						
	TOTAL RECEIPTS		TOTAL PAYMENTS			

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2020**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	2,095 ✓	2,477 ✓
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	50,667 ✓	63,203 ✓
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	1,392 ✓	1,367 ✓
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL	54,154 (c6)	67,047 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance totals above) (e12)	(e11)	(e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	54,154 (x)	67,047 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2019	At 31 August 2020
g1 Investments (include Endowments)		
g2 Land and Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	1,484,824	1,530,866 ✓
g3 Other Assets		
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5 Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

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

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

Name of Circuit WIMBLEDON No. 35/26

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2020 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit meeting.

Signature of treasurer Date 1/11/2020

Name and address of treasurer Mr R C Newitt, 21 Sandringham Road,
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Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Name of the Chair of the meeting Lord Paul Timmins Date 2/12/2020 .

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Charity Number 35/26

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Signature of independent examiner 

Name of independent examiner J. G. KNAPPER

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner A.C.I.I.

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 105 Sandingham Road
..... Worcester Park Surrey Post Code KT4 8UH

Date 25/11/20

* delete or circle as appropriate

Sep-20