

Annual Charity Commission report of the Wimbledon Circuit for the Year ending 31st August 2023

Introduction

The past twelve months have seen the churches in the Wimbledon Methodist Circuit continue to engage with the *Everyone an Evangelist* course produced by the Methodist Church. Circuit-wide gatherings were held in November 2022 and February 2023, with each church working through material and on projects in between these sessions. As well as equipping us to share our faith with others more intentionally, the course has enabled us to come together as a Circuit. Our next steps will be to move towards doing some Mission Action Planning work across the next connexional year.

Taking seriously our desire to be as welcoming and as inclusive a Circuit as possible, we have taken seriously the *Justice, Dignity & Solidarity Strategy* of the Methodist Church. In December 2022 we agreed that our Managing Trustees should embark upon and completing Unconscious Bias and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion training within a year. Each local church is similarly invited to encourage its trustees to complete this training so that we will, as a Circuit and as local churches, be better placed to hold informed conversations around these matters and to work to embed this strategy in the life and structures of the church.

We are delighted to report that all three of our Methodist-only churches – Lantern, Martin Way and Stoneleigh – have now successfully registered their premises for same-sex marriages.

We are looking to arrange a Mental Health First Aid training course in the coming year.

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

"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 major expenditure of the Circuit is the payroll of Ministers and costs associated with the upkeep of the Manses. The main work carried out was replacement of a front door and replacement of a gas boiler at different manses.

The manse quinquennial inspections in 2019 had identified significant expenditure required on the manses, unfortunately availability of contractors to perform the repairs continues to delay expenditure.

The 2022/2023 accounts were in surplus by £8,350

Income trends

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment paid by the circuit churches. This was increased by £6,000. This increase was constrained by the impact of Cost-of-Living increases on the income and expenditure of churches within the circuit.

The rental income relates to the rental of the Poplar Road manse and 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 and is 65% of the Circuit Expenditure. 14% of expenditure is the Circuit contribution to the London District and Connexion, of which a significant part is used to fund the work of the wider Methodist Church

The other expenditure of approximately £38.2k in this year included £31.8k on expenditure relating to the manses and £4.4k on administration. The residual impacts COVID pandemic continued to affect the circuits pattern of expenditure.

Fund balances

As of 31 August 2023, the net current assets of the Circuit were £97k, giving approximately 6 months cover for expenditure. The fund balances are that required by the reserves policy.

Plans for 2023/24

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. The Circuit Assessment paid by the Churches in the Circuit will be increased by £9k to £174k.

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. Work on the manses will wipe out the surpluses of the previous two years. The reserves will be reduced to minimise the impact on the finances of the Churches in the Circuit who have been impacted by Cost of Living increases.

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 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.

Fully membership is shown as Appendix A to this report.

Circuit Ministers and officers

Active Circuit Ministers	Rev Paul Timmis
	Rev Emma Cusack
	Deacon Dawn Canham

Circuit Stewards	Mrs Wendy Siemaszko
	Mr Richard Charlton
	Mrs Denise Gould
	Mr Chris Meineck

Administrator:	Mr Richard Charlton
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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
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Investment Bankers	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church Trustees for Methodist Church purposes
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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 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 manse 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.

Appendix – A

Membership of the Circuit Meeting at 31st August 2022

Circuit Staff

Rev Paul Timmis

Rev Emma Cusack

Deacon Dawn Canham

Circuit Meeting Secretary

Dawn Downes

Circuit Stewards

Richard Charlton

Denise Gould

Chris Meineck

Wendy Siemaszko

Circuit Treasurer

Roy Newitt

Circuit Property Secretary

David Pickett

Local Preachers' Meeting Secretary

Valerie Ashcroft

Circuit Safeguarding Officers

Brenda Cannon.

Angela Linton-Smith

Connexional Funds Treasurer

Barbara Meineck

Christ Church with St Philip

Steve Carpenter (steward)

Alison Charlton (treasurer)

Gwenda Carpenter (elected rep)

Pam Slater (elected rep)

Stoneleigh

Vivienne Ridgway (steward)

Denise Gould (treasurer)

Marion Baker (elected rep)

Catherine Draper (elected rep)

Pat Petley (elected rep)

Ruxley

Val Proctor (steward)

Chris Meineck (treasurer)

Jacky Panter (steward)

Paula Bridger (elected rep)

Sue Grasby (elected rep)

Martin Way

Tony Loft (steward)

Tim Johnson (treasurer)

Moir Bailey (elected rep)

Mike Mortley (elected rep)

Lantern

Margaret Redway (steward)

Alan Brown (treasurer)

Rosemary Evans (elected rep)

Lorna Giraud (elected rep)

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Wimbledon	Circuit
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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2023**

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 Chalton
Chris Meineck
Wendy Siemaszko
Denise Gould
Caroline Johnson

Treasurer:

Roy Newitt

SECTION A			Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
	Note		£	£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS						
a2	Assessment/Share		167,250			167,250	161,250
a3	Capital receipts						
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		2,437	41		2,478	275
a5	Grants						
a6	Other receipts		22,293			22,293	22,370
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS		191,980	41		192,021 (a8)	183,895

SECTION B							
b1	PAYMENTS						
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs		119,648			119,648	114,160
b3	Manse Costs		31,813			31,813	27,539
b4	Administration etc		4,369	36		4,405	3,838
b5	District Assessment		25,828			25,828	24,724
b6	Grants & donations						
b7							
b8	Other payments		1,977			1,977	2,575
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS		183,635	36		183,671 (b9)	172,836

SECTION C							
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a7-b9)	8,345	5		8,350	11,059
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		87,689	1,303		88,992 (c6)	77,933
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	96,034	1,308		97,342	88,992
c4	Transfers and adjustments					(c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	96,034	1,308		97,342 (c8)	88,992 (c6)

SECTION D							
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)						

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 2023 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)	192,021 (a8)	183,671 (b9)	8,350	(c7)	88,992 (c6)	97,342 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	192,021	183,671	8,350		88,992 (x)	97,342 (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 2023**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	4,322	1,992
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	83,367	94,042
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	1,303	1,308
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL	88,992 (c6)	97,342 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance totals above) (e12)	(e11)	(e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	88,992 (x)	97,342 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2022	At 31 August 2023
g1 Investments (include Endowments)		
g2 Land and Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	1,762,112	2,103,991
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)

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2023 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit meeting.

Signature of treasurerSigned Date.....13/10/23.

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 2023 ~~were~~/will be* presented to the Circuit meeting held on7th December 2023

Signature of the Chair of the meetingSigned.....

Name of the Chair of the meetingRev Paul Timmis..... Date7th December 202

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Wimbledon Circuit

Charity Number . 1134284

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2023 set out on pages ... to As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of CircuitWimbledon..... 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 examinerSigned.....

Name of independent examinerMr J. G. Knapper.....

Relevant professional qualification of independent examinerA.C.I.I.....

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address105 Sandringham Road.....

.....Worcester Park, Surrey..... Post Code ...KT4 8UH...

Date22/11/2023.....

* delete or circle as appropriate

Form reviewed

May-23

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Signature of independent examinerSigned.....

Name of independent examinerMr J. G. Knapper.....

Relevant professional qualification of independent examinerA.C.I.I.....

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address105 Sandringham Road.....

.....Worcester Park, Surrey..... Post Code ...KT4 8UH...

Date22/11/2023.....

* delete or circle as appropriate

Form reviewed

May-23