

Annual Charity Commission report of the Wimbledon Circuit for the Year ending 31st August 2024

Introduction

Following conversations within the Circuit Leadership Team and subsequently with the Learning Network and Evangelism and Growth Teams of the Methodist Church, the churches in the Wimbledon Methodist Circuit agreed to embark upon a Circuit Review. This process will see the Circuit work to produce a Circuit Mission Plan. The first stage will be for each local church to conduct a community audit during the summer of 2024.

Taking seriously our desire to be as welcoming and as inclusive a Circuit as possible, we have continued to take seriously the Justice, Dignity & Solidarity Strategy of the Methodist Church. Across the year a high number of our Managing Trustees underwent and completed Unconscious Bias and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion training. Each local church continued 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.

Last year we reported that all three of our Methodist-only churches – Lantern, Martin Way and Stoneleigh – had successfully registered their premises for same-sex marriages. We can now add that Christ Church with St Philip, Worcester Park (An Anglican-Methodist Local Ecumenical Partnership) is at an advanced stage in its conversations with the Church of England which we hope will enable that church to register its premises for same-sex marriages according to the rites of the Methodist Church

Earlier this year a number of our members successfully completed a Mental Health First Aid training course.

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 focuses 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 the external redecoration of one manse. Other work included replacement / replacement of boundary fences at two manses.

The manse quinquennial inspections in 2024 identified significant expenditure required on the manses and these works are continuing to be addressed by receiving plans and quotations from contractors and scheduling the works when they have been agreed.

A delay in the collection of one church's August circuit assessment increased the amount of circuits deficit by £6,397.

The 2023/2024 accounts were in deficit by £15,759

Income trends

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment paid by the circuit churches. This was increased by £9,000. 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 60.4% of the Circuit Expenditure. 12.5% 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 £57.8k in this year included £43k on expenditure relating to the manses and £4.7k on administration. Two £1k grants were made to two churches in support of Mission Enabling projects, The circuit also funded Energy Audits on all church buildings at a cost of £5.2k. The residual impacts COVID pandemic continued to affect the circuits pattern of expenditure.

Fund balances

As of 31 August 2024, the net current assets of the Circuit were £81.6k, giving approximately 4.5 months cover for expenditure. The fund balances are below required by the reserves policy.

Plans for 2024/25

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. Changes in the way the assessment paid to the district is calculated has resulted in a £7k increase. The Circuit Assessment paid by the Churches in the Circuit will be increased by £16k to £190k.

Analysis of the Quinquennial inspections carried out on all the circuit manses during summer 2024 has identified about £100k of work required to be implemented over the next 5 years. £30k of the work has been identified as being required in 2024/25. A review of the budget has been carried out to maximise the funds available for work on the manses. The Circuit reserves will be reduced further on a temporary basis to reduce the impact on the finances of the Churches in the Circuit who have been impacted by Cost of Living increases. This will see the Circuit Reserves drop to 3 months cover of expenditure. The rental income from one manse is planned to be increased.

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 have been prepared in accordance with The Charities SORP: Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (the FRSE) (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 Chris Meineck
	Mr Richard Charlton
	Mrs Denise Gould
Administrator:	Mr Richard Charlton

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

Aims and organisation

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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 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 2023

Circuit Staff

Rev Paul Timmis

Rev Emma Cusack

Deacon Dawn Canham

Circuit Meeting Secretary Dawn Downes

Circuit Stewards

Richard Charlton

Denise Gould

Caroline Johnson

Chris Meineck

Wendy Siemaszko

Circuit Treasurer Roy Newitt

Circuit Property Secretary

David Pickett

Local Preachers' Meeting

Vacancy (secretary)

Valerie Ashcroft

Circuit Safeguarding Officers

Brenda Cannon.

Angela Linton-Smith

Connexional Funds Treasurer

Barbara Meineck

Christ Church with St Philip

Steve Carpenter (steward)

Chris Peaker (treasurer)

Gwenda Carpenter (elected rep)

Pam Slater (elected rep)

Alison Charlton (elected rep)

Stoneleigh

Vivienne Ridgway (steward)

Denise Gould (treasurer)

Marion Baker (elected rep)

Catherine Draper (elected rep)

Pat Petley (elected rep)

Ruxley

Sue Grasby (steward)

Julia Searle (steward)

Chris Meineck (treasurer)

Jacky Panter (elected rep)

Paula Bridger (elected rep)

Martin Way

Tony Loft (steward)

Tim Johnson (treasurer)

Alison Morgan (elected rep)

Vacancy (elected rep)

Vacancy (elected rep)

Lantern

Margaret Redway (steward)

Alan Brown (treasurer)

Vacancy (elected rep)

Vacancy (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 2024

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

1134284

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

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(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
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		171,170			171,170	167,250
a3	Capital receipts						
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		4,027	69		4,096	2,478
a5	Grants						
a6	Other receipts		22,200			22,200	22,293
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS		197,397	69		197,466 (a8)	192,021

SECTION B							
b1	PAYMENTS						
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs		128,837			128,837	119,648
b3	Manse Costs		42,986			42,986	31,813
b4	Administration etc		4,732	37		4,769	4,405
b5	District Assessment		26,604			26,604	25,828
b6	Grants & donations		2,000			2,000	
b7							
b8	Other payments		8,029			8,029	1,977
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS		213,188	37		213,225 (b9)	183,671

SECTION C							
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a7-b9)	(15,791)	32		(15,759)	8,350
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		96,034	1,308		97,342 (c6)	88,992
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	80,243	1,340		81,583	97,342
c4	Transfers and adjustments					(c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	80,243	1,340		81,583 (c8)	97,342 (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 2024 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)	197,466 (a8)	213,225 (b9)	(15,759)	(c7)	97,342 (c6)	81,583 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	197,466	213,225	(15,759)		97,342 (x)	81,583 (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 2024**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	1,992	7,439
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	94,042	72,804
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	1,308	1,340
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL	97,342 (c6)	81,583 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance totals above) (e12)	(e11)	(e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	97,342 (x)	81,583 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2023	At 31 August 2024
g1 Investments (include Endowments)		
g2 Land and Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	2,103,971	2,160,783
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 CircuitWimbledon..... No...35/26.....

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment 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 treasurerSigned Date.....13/9/24.....

Name and address of treasurerRoy 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 2024 ~~were~~/will be* presented to the Circuit meeting held on 3rd December 2024.

Signature of the Chair of the meetingSigned

Name of the Chair of the meeting ...Rev Paul Timmis..... Date ...3/12/24.....

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 2024 set out on pages 1 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 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 examiner*Signed*

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

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

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address105 Sandringham Road.....

Worcester Park, Surrey Post Code KT4 8UH

Date14/11/24.....

* delete or circle as appropriate

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED
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Denise Gould
Caroline Johnson

Treasurer:

Roy Newitt

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c4	Transfers and adjustments					(c7)	
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Signature of treasurer*Signed* Date.....13/9/24.....

Name and address of treasurerRoy Newitt.....

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Signature of the Chair of the meeting*Signed*

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Charity Number ...35/26.....

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Signature of independent examiner*Signed*

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

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

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Date14/11/24.....

* delete or circle as appropriate