ST ALBANS AND WELWYN METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales · Charity number 1134370

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2010-02-17
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Hatfield Road Methodist Church 133B Hatfield Road St Albans AL1 4JX
Phone	01727854211
Email	admin@midhertsmethodists.org.uk
Website	www.midhertsmethodists.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE PURPOSES OF THE METHODIST CHURCH ARE AND SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE BEEN SINCE THE DATE OF UNION THE ADVANCEMENT OF -(A) THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DOCTRINAL STANDARDS AND THE DISCIPLINE OF THE METHODIST CHURCH;(B) ANY CHARITABLE PURPOSE FOR THE TIME BEING OF ANY CONNEXIONAL, DISTRICT, CIRCUIT, LOCAL OR OTHER ORGANISATION OF THE METHODIST CHURCH;(C) ANY CHARITABLE PURPOSE FOR THE TIME BEING OF ANY SOCIETY OR INSTITUTION SUBSIDIARY OR ANCILLARY TO THE METHODIST CHURCH;(D) ANY PURPOSE FOR THE TIME BEING OF ANY CHARITY BEING A CHARITY SUBSIDIARY OR ANCILLARY TO THE METHODIST CHURCH.

Activities: The Circuit seeks to strengthen and develop the spiritual life of its churches and the communities to which they belong through worship, mission, safeguarding, local ecumenical partnerships, grants to community and ecumenical projects and expending resources on circuit staff and property and educational and training purposes.

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Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Services, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Hertfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-08-31	£302,165	£303,453	-	-
2023-08-31	£289,543	£329,021	-	-
2022-08-31	£295,851	£324,408	-	-
2021-08-31	£298,812	£307,693	-	-
2020-08-31	£327,261	£305,705	-	-

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Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ANTHONY JOHN STUBBS		2016-09-01
Carl Meredith		2013-12-20
DAVID LAWRENCE CARTER		2024-09-01
DENISE MARGARET WILLINGHAM		2017-09-01
David Bowler		2018-09-01
Dr George Thomas Woods KStJ, DBA		2025-09-01
Dr John Sterland		2025-09-01
ERIC CHARLES BRIDGSTOCK		2018-09-01
Hazel Marian Laming		2013-12-20
Helen Jeckells		2024-09-01
Ian David Gilbert		2024-09-01
JAMES ANDREW JOHNSTONE		2024-09-01
JOHN NEIL ROBINSON		2024-09-01
Joanna Elisabeth Rose		2014-09-01
MBA FCIPD Addy Olubajo Mr		2024-09-01
MR BOB CAMERON		
Mary Burnside		2024-09-01
Peter Holt		2021-09-01
Pretty Nkiwane		2018-09-01
REV David Mullins		2017-09-01
REV John Churcher		2015-03-23
ROBERT HARVEY WARD		2014-09-01
Rev Alan Combes		2025-09-01
Rev David Jebb		2022-09-01
Rev Jervis Daniel Yovan		2023-09-01
Rev Nigel Perrott		2022-09-01
Rev Rosemary Mutopo		2024-09-01

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Name	Role	Appointed
Rosalind Ann Hancock		2023-09-01
Ruth Elizabeth Wallace		2025-09-01
STUART FINLAY JOHNSON		
TONY OSTLER		
Valerie Christine Parker		2018-09-01

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ST ALBANS AND WELWYN METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1134370

Accounts

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS
ACCRUALS BASIS

for the year ended 31 August 2024

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit

Registered Charity - Registration number	**1134370**

Beds, Essex and Herts	**District**	**Circuit no**	**34/13**

Ministers	**Rev David Jebb**
	Rev Daniel Yovan
	Rev Rosemary Mutopo
	Deacon Nigel Perrott
Circuit stewards	**Stuart Johnson - senior & finance**
	Val Parker
	Guy Fenner
Circuit treasurer	**Stuart Johnson**

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Introduction

We are in the Beds, Essex and Herts District which comprises 12 circuits in those 3 counties. Our circuit is called St. Albans and Welwyn and covers an area of mid-Hertfordshire, and has 9 churches: Hatfield Road and Marlborough Road in St. Albans; Birchwood and Oxlease in Hatfield, Digswell Village, Ludwick Way, Panshanger in the Welwyn Garden City area; and St John's Potters Bar and Radlett in the Hertsmere area. Shenley has become a 'class' of St John's Potters Bar and all financial and property matters are managed by St John's. Two of the circuit churches are part of ecumenical partnerships: Radlett (with the United Reformed Church) and Panshanger (with the Church of England, the United Reformed Church and Baptist Church).

Aims and organisation

The Mission of the St Albans and Welwyn circuit is to reveal the Kingdom of God through the Methodist people and their ecummenical partners across Central Hertfordshire. We aim to do this through the Holy Spirit in the worship of God, building up the church, making disciples of Jesus Christ and transforming society by working for justice , peace and unity.

Review of the year

The year began with the arrival of one new minister which meant that all four ministers now in post have arrived in the circuit within the last 2 years. This continues to generate some fresh approaches to the work of the circuit. During the year, the circuit continued to focus on the review and development of the vision and plans for growth of individual churches and the circuit as whole. All churches are working through their own plans and activities as they ask the question about what sort of church they expect or want to be in 5 years' time. The circuit has completed a full programme of safegarding training for all those individuals in roles connected with children and vulnerable adults and this continues for all new people taking up relevant positions. Services of worship continue at all churches, with the exception of Birchwood in Hatfield which followed a process of 'cease to meet' due to membership numbers remaining below the minimum figure required to sustain the church presence. The church closed on 31.08.2024 with all property and assets being transferred to the circuit on 01.09.2024.

Income trends

Church membership numbers have fallen in some of the churches, partly a reflection of an ageing profile but also because of limited new growth. This has affected the level of giving and all churches are significantly reliant on letting income to maintain their financial position. One church was given specific financial support through the reduction of their assessment contributions. The letting of the Allandale manse in St Albans was renewed for a further 12 months in February and continues to provide additional income.

Expenditure trends

Stipends increase each financial year as directed by Conference.

The circuit contribution to District and Connexion to fund the wider work of the Methodist church was 19% of circuit expenditure.

Reserves

As at 31 August 2024 the net assets of the Circuit, excluding property, represented approximately 5 months cover for budgeted expenditure in terms of the Circuit's reserve policy set out later in this report.

Plans for 2024/25

The 2024/25 budget has been prepared on the basis of 3 presbyters, a deacon and a part-time administrator, with inflationary cost increases. Assessments from churches have been adjusted from the figures previously agreed in 2019/20, with increases and decreases with effect from 01 September 2024 to reflect the changes in membership and financial position in recent years.

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit

Trustee's Annual Report on Finance and Governance

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's annual report and accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to the FRS102.

Full Name of Charity: St Albans and Welwyn Methodist Circuit

Registration Charity Number: 1134370

Main communication address: 133B Hatfield Road St Albans AL1 4JX

The members of the St Albans and Welwyn 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 at Appendix A.

Circuit Ministers and Officers

Active Circuit Ministers	Rev David Jebb Rev Daniel Yovan Rev Rosemary Mutopo Deacon Nigel Perrott
Circuit Stewards	Stuart Johnson Val Parker Guy Fenner
Administrator	Chris Hancock

Stuart Johnson acted as the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the circuit during the year.

Auditor	George Arthur Limited
Investment Bankers	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church Trustees for the Methodist Church purposes

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit

Aims and organisation

Charity objective is to act as a resource provider within the area around St Albans and Welwyn 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

The circuit confirms that the circuit members have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The circuit provides public benefit through educational resources available to both church members and the general public, supporting circuit staff and churches in providing public worship and the promotion of charitable giving at both circuit and national level.

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 Beds Essex & Herts District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference. The following Methodist Churches are linked to the circuit: Marlborough Road, Hatfield Road, Birchwood, Oxlease, Radlett Free, St Johns Potters Bar, Ludwick Way, Digswell and Panshanger. There are no other specific organisations with specific linkage.

Risk Management

The Circuit Leadership Team and other circuit members raise any risks they have identified with the Circuit Superintendent and /or the Circuit meeting. Risks are mitigated where appropriate by trustee and property insurance.
Income and Expenditure is monitored and is compared with the approved annual budget on a regular basis to identify trends and mitigate any unforseen call 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 St Albans and Welwyn 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 St Albans and Welwyn Circuit commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people and this objective is delivered through the appointment of a Circuit Safeguarding Officer supported by the District Safeguarding team and Safeguarding Officers at each church. This 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 Circuit policy is to hold a minimum of 6 months' average expenditure, to meet unforeseen major expenditure on manses and to be able to continue, in the short term, the circuit's planned activities in the event of shortfall the assessment from churches.

STATEMENT OF CIRCUIT MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The circuit members are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the circuit members are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The circuit members are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity Accounting Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed/constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In relation to the financial statements set out on pages 7 to 11:

- The Trustees approve these financial statements and confirm that they are responsible for them, including selecting the appropriate accounting policies, applying them consistently and making, on a reasonable and prudent basis, the judgements underlying them. They have been prepared on the going concern basis on the grounds that St Albans & Welwyn Circuit will continue in operation.
- The Trustees confirm that they have made available to the auditors, George Arthur, all of the accounting records of St Albans & Welwyn Circuit and provided the auditors with all the information necessary for the compilation of the financial statements.
- The Trustees confirm that to the best of their knowledge and belief, the accounting records reflect all transactions of St Albans & Welwyn Circuit for the year ended 31st August 2024.

Signed for and on behalf of St Albans & Welwyn Circuit on 23/06/2025

David Jebb and Stuart Johnson....Trustees of St Albans & Welwyn Circuit

Name of Circuit St Albans and Welwyn **St Albans and Welwyn Circuit** **Number** 34/13

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

	Notes to the accounts	Unrestricted funds	CMTF (Unrestricted)	Designated Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	2	125				125	250
Charitable activities						0	0
Assessments or share	3	265,740				265,740	270,474
Other trading activities							
- Lettings	4	28,714				28,714	11,119
Investments	5	7,035	551			7,586	5,430
Other	6					0	2,270
Total		**301,614**	**551**	**0**	**0**	**302,165**	**289,543**
Expenditure on:							
Stipends, salaries, NIC & Pension costs	7	173,763				173,763	161,616
District Assessment		56,756				56,756	53,644
Telephone & travel		13,505				13,505	11,606
Insurance, utilities, etc		19,526				19,526	19,746
Maintenance on manses		13,842				13,842	20,193
Expenditure on other Circuit property	12					0	33,081
Other Expenditure		16,419	198			16,617	20,607
Grants and Donations	8	7,700				7,700	6,700
Contributions to District Advance Fund			1,744			1,744	1,828
Total		**301,511**	**1,942**	**0**	**0**	**303,453**	**329,021**
Net income/(expenditure)		**103**	**-1,391**	**0**	**0**	-1,288	**-39,478**
Transfers between funds		-2,673	2,673			0	**0**
		-2,570	1,282	0	0	-1,288	-39,478
Other recognised gains / (losses):							
Gains/(Losses) on revaluation of fixed assets						0	77,197
Gains/(Losses) on investment assets		3,114				3,114	-3,302
Net movement in funds		544	1,282	0	0	1,826	34,417
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		4,733,689	10,874	489	0	4,745,052	4,710,635
Total funds carried forward		**4,734,233**	**12,156**	**489**	**0**	**4,746,878**	**4,745,052**

For information only Money received and passed on to External Organisations

Balance brought forward from last year	**0**	**0**
Offerings/Gifts - received for External Organisations	**105**	320
Offerings/Gifts - passed to External Organisations	**105**	320
Balance carried forward	**0**	**0**

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit
Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated £	Restricted £	Totals this year £	Totals last year £
Tangible Fixed Assets							
Land & Buildings	11	3,755,781				3,755,781	3,755,781
Equipment						0	0
Investment properties	12	862,416				862,416	862,416
Investments	13	61,987				61,987	58,874
Total fixed assets		4,680,184	0	0	0	4,680,184	4,677,071
Current Assets							
Debtors and Prepayments	14	13,763				13,763	14,977
Loans by Circuit						0	0
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes deposits			12156			12,156	10,874
Central Finance Board Deposits		81,562				81,562	103,209
Cash at Bank and in hand		10,314		489		10,803	14,163
Total current assets		105,639	12,156	489	0	118,284	143,223
Creditors and Accruals (due in under 1 yr)	15	41,590				41,590	60,242
Net current assets (liabilities)		64,049	12,156	489	0	76,694	82,981
liabilities		4,744,233	12,156	489	0	4,756,878	4,760,052
Loans and creditors due after 1 year							
Provisions for liabilities and charges	16	10,000	0	0	0	10,000	15,000
Net assets		4,734,233	12,156	489	0	4,746,878	4,745,052
Funds of the Circuit	17						
Unrestricted funds		4,734,233				4,734,233	4,733,689
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			12,156			12,156	10,874
Restricted funds				489	0	489	489
Endowment funds						-	-
Total Funds		4,734,233	12,156	489	-	4,746,878	4,745,052

There are no internal organisations that report to the Circuit Meeting.

2. Donations and legacies	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Designated	Restricted	2024 Total	2023 Total
Donations	125			0	125	250
3. Assessments						
Marlborough Road St Albans					74,000	79,834
Hatfield Road, St Albans					52,800	52,800
Radlett					16,000	16,000
St John's Potters Bar					65,400	65,400
Birchwood					3,240	3,240
Ludwick Way Welwyn Garden City					19,200	19,200
Oxlease Hatfield					14,000	13,000
Digswell Village					20,400	20,400
Panshanger [LEP]					700	600
					265,740	270,474
4 Lettings						
Allandale - rent less costs					28,714	11,119
5 Investment income						
CFB funds	2,672				2,672	1,636
Interest	4,363	551			4,914	3,794
	7,035	551	0	0	7,586	5,430
6. Other income						
District grant - work at St Albans manse					0	2,270
					0	2,270
7. Paid employees						
Gross salaries and benefits in kind					119,791	111,158
Administrator salary					10,609	10,266
Employer's national insurance cost					11,517	10,658
Pension costs					31,247	28,975
Apprentice levy					599	559
Total staff cost					173,763	161,616
Average number of staff					**4.0**	**4.0**
8. Grants and donations						
Hatfield Road -building alterations						8,000
Hatfield Road - buildng alterations - provision not required					-1,300	
Hatfield Road - childrens worker - excess written back						-1,300
Oxlease					7,000	
Ludwick Way					2,000	
					7,700	6,700
9. Payment to Trustees						
Payments to trustees for administration services provided to the Circuit by agreement with the Circuit Meeting.					10,609	10,266
Number of trustees paid travel expenses and other sundry items					1	1
Total amount paid					10,609	10,266
10. Fees for examination of the accounts						
Audit 2023/24					6,000	
Audit 2022/23						4,800
Audit 2021/22 underprovision						800
					6,000	5,600
Other fees					NIL	NIL

11 Land & buildings	**2023**	Costs	Revaluation*	**2024**
Manses, at estimated open market value				
41 Cubitts Close, Digswell, AL6 0DZ	681,390			681,390
16 Gainsborough Avenue, St Albans, AL1 4NL	1,230,570			1,230,570
67 Baker Street, Potters Bar	1,124,802			1,124,802
8 Chipmunk Chase, Hatfield, AL10 9GH	719,019			719,019
	3,755,781	0	0	3,755,781

Revaluation* For 2023/24, we have reviewed house price valuations using data available from four sources, namely Land Registry UK Price Index Hertfordshire 2023/24, Land Registry July 24, Plumpot Hertfordshire and Nationwide BS HPI for Outer South East 2023/24. On the premise that two of these indexes are showing increase and two are showingdecrease in value, it is our view that it will be prudent to go for no change in value for all four properties this year.

12. Investment property

At estimated open market value		Opening	Transfer	Costs	Revaluation	Closing
9 Allandale, St Albans, AL3 4NG	2024	862,416	-	-	-	862,416
9 Allandale, St Albans, AL3 4NG	2023	-	848,000	33,081	-18,665	862,416

Notes 11 and 12. If a manse or investment property is sold a significant part of the proceeds may have to be paid to other bodies within the wider Methodist church.
During 2019/20 the circuit received a district grant of £20,000 towards the cost of alterations at Chipmunk Chase.
During 2022/23 the circuit received a district grant of £2,270 towards the cost of alterations at Gainsborough Avenue.
These grants may be repayable if the manse is sold.

	2024	**2023**
13 Investments		
Central Finance Board Fixed Interest Fund - 35,180 units at market value	61,987	
Central Finance Board Corporate Bond Fund - 50,797 units at market value		58,874
14. Current assets		
Debtors and prepayments		
Prepaid stipends	13,763	13,477
Other	0	1,500
	13,763	14,977
15. Current liabilities		
Assessments in advance	18,933	19,586
Grants accrued - due 2024/25	15,000	23,000
Other accruals (see separate listing)	7,657	17,656
	41,590	60,242
16. Loans and creditors due after 1 year		
Grants due after 1 year		
MRMC/HRMC Salisbury Village mission - 2 years from 1.9.25	10,000	15,000
	10,000	15,000

17. Detailed analysis of individual fund movements

Unrestricted Funds	**Opening Balance**	**Expenditure**	**Revaluations**	**Transfers**	**Closing Balance**	**Purpose**
General	4,733,689	301,511	3,114	-2,673	#REF!	General circuit purposes
Circuit model trust fund	10,874	1,942	0	2,673	#REF!	Unrestricted
Totals	4,744,563	303,453	3,114	0	#REF!	
Designated Fund						
In memory of H Roberts	489	0	0	0	#REF!	To be used "for the Ludwick Way Methodist Church, if appropriate"

18. Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities
The circuit has no capital commitments or contingent liabilities except as disclosed in the accounts

19 Related party transactions
Related party transactions are as disclosed in the accounts and notes.
The circuit also pays Hatfield Road MC £1,200 per year [2022/23 £1,200] for the use of an office
The circuit made a short term loan of £7,000 to Radlett UFC to assist in the refurbishment of the URC manse. This loan was repaid within the financial year

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit

Appendix A

CIRCUIT MEETING MEMBERSHIP

MINISTERS

Revd David Jebb
Revd Daniel Yovan
Revd Rosemary Mutopo
Deacon Nigel Perrott

ASSOCIATE MINISTERS

~~Revd Sue Stilwell~~
Revd Paul Seymour

SUPERNUMERARY MINISTERS

Revd John Churcher
Revd Peter Hudson
Revd David Mullins
Revd Colin Rowe *

LAYWORKERS

None

CIRCUIT STEWARDS

Stuart Johnson
Val Parker
Guy Fenner *

Circuit Local Preachers & Worship Leaders representatives

Rosalind Hancock
Chris Hancock *

Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinator

George Woods

Circuit Manses

Vacant

Methodist Women in Britain Secretary / Easter Offering

Pat Maziane

CIRCUIT CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES

Birchwood Methodist Church
Gill Demianyk *
Valerie Chapman *

Digswell Village Church
Diana Holt *
Peter Holt
Mike Peacock *
Jane Lewis *
John Robinson **
Mary Burnside **

Hatfield Road Methodist Church
Denise Willingham
Eric Bridgstock
Joanna Rose

Ludwick Way Methodist Church
Tony Stubbs
Bob Cameron

Marlborough Road Methodist Church
Carl Meredith
Ann Scorer *
Janis Gilbert

Oxlease Methodist Church
Hazel Laming
Pretty Nkiwane
Addy Olubajo

Panshanger Church
Stuart Johnson
Louise Bowman

Radlett Free Church
Tony Ostler
Shirley Herbert *

St John's Methodist Church
Myra Sloper *
Robert Ward
David Bowler
David Carter **
Helen Jeckells **

Shenley Methodist Church
Yvonne Perry *
Louise Bourton

NOTES

* denotes stood down from Circuit Meeting on 31.08.2024
** denotes appointed to Circuit Meeting with effect from 01.09.2024

Name of Circuit: St Albans and Welwyn No 34/13

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 ..... Date 23/06/2025

Name and address of treasurer : Stuart Johnson
27 Sylvandale, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 2HS

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

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

Signature of the Chair of the meeting .....

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev. D. Jebb. Date 29/06/2025

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of St Albans & Welwyn Circuit
Opinion
We have audited the financial statements of St Albans & Welwyn Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:
•give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;

•have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and

•have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of St Albans & Welwyn Circuit in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Charity's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Discussions with and enquiries of management and those charged with governance were held with a view to identifying those laws and regulations that could be expected to have a material impact on the financial statements.

No laws and regulations were identified as being of such significance to the entity that they might be considered as 'showstoppers'.

Those laws and regulations considered to have a direct effect on the financial statements include UK financial reporting standards, Charities Act 2011, Tax and Pensions legislation.

Those laws and regulations for which non-compliance may be fundamental to the operating aspects of the business and therefore may have a material effect on the financial statements include, environmental regulations, health and safety legislation.

Audit procedures undertaken in response to the potential risks relating to irregularities (which include fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations) comprised of: inquiries of management and those charged with governance as to whether the entity complies with such laws and regulations; enquiries with the same concerning any actual or potential litigation or claims; inspection of relevant legal correspondence; testing the appropriateness of journal entries; and the performance of analytical review to identify unexpected movements in account balances which may be indicative of fraud

No instances of material non-compliance were identified. However, the likelihood of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is limited by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of the entity's controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed. Irregularities that result from fraud might be inherently more difficult to detect than irregularities that result from error. As explained above, there is an unavoidable risk that material misstatements may not be detected, even though the audit has been planned and performed in accordance with ISAs (UK).

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities.

This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Signature of Auditor Peter P Rook Date 26-06-2025

Name of Auditor PETER P Rook

George Arthur Limited
Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors
Suite 6B Wentworth Lodge
Great North Road
Welwyn Garden City
AL8 7SR

ST ALBANS AND WELWYN METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1134370

Accounts

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS
ACCRUALS BASIS
for the year ended 31 August 2023

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit

Registered Charity - Registration number 1134370

Beds, Essex and Herts District Circuit no 34/13

Ministers	Rev David Jebb Rev Andrew Prout Rev Rosemary Mutopo Deacon Nigel Perrott
Circuit stewards	Stuart Johnson - senior & finance Peter Wallace Guy Fenner Val Parker
Circuit treasurer	Stuart Johnson

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Introduction

We are in the Beds, Essex and Herts District which comprises 12 circuits in those 3 counties. Our circuit is called St. Albans and Welwyn and covers an area of mid-Hertfordshire, and has 9 churches: Hatfield Road and Marlborough Road in St. Albans; Birchwood and Oxlease in Hatfield, Digswell Village, Ludwick Way, Panshanger in the Welwyn Garden City area; and St John's Potters Bar and Radlett in the Hertsmere area. Shenley has become a 'class' of St John's Potters Bar and all financial and property matters are managed by St John's. Two of the circuit churches are part of ecumenical partnerships: Radlett (with the United Reformed Church) and Panshanger (with the Church of England, the United Reformed Church and Baptist Church).

Aims and organisation

The Mission of the St Albans and Welwyn circuit is to reveal the Kingdom of God through the Methodist people and their ecummenical partners across Central Hertfordshire. We aim to do this through the Holy Spirit in the worship of God, building up the church, making disciples of Jesus Christ and transforming society by working for justice , peace and unity.

Review of the year

The year began with the arrival of three new ministers in the circuit which generated some fresh approaches to the work of the circuit. During the year, the circuit increased its focus on the review and development of the vision and plans for growth of individual churches and the circuit as whole. All churches have been encouraged to consider their current activities and ask the question about what sort of church they expect or want to be in 5 years' time. This includes an appraisal of people, property and financial resources. The circuit has also spent time planning a significant increase in safegarding training for all those individuals in roles connected with children and vulnerble adults and this training is expected to continue for some time. Services of worship continue at all churches, with three providing on-line access during worship and the option to view at a later time. Most church and circuit meetings are held in person, but appropriate use of zoom

Income trends

Church membership numbers have fallen in most churches, partly a reflection of an ageing profile but also because of limited new growth. This has affected the level of giving and all churches are significantly reliant on letting income to maintain their financial position. Two churches were given specific financial support through the reduction of their assessment contributions. The Allandale manse in St Albans was let in February on a 12 month tenancy and this provided additional income during the year.

Expenditure trends

Stipends increase each financial year as directed by Conference.
The circuit contribution to District and Connexion to fund the wider work of the Methodist church was 17% of circuit expenditure.
The Allandale manse was substantially refurbished at a cost of £33,000 and the Gainsborough manse in St Albans was prepared for the arrival of the new minister and family in August 2023.

Reserves

As at 31 August 2023 the net assets of the Circuit, excluding property, represented approximately 5 months cover for budgeted expenditure in terms of the Circuit's reserve policy set out later in this report.

Plans for 2023/24

The circuit staff reduced to 4 ministers from 01.09.22 and this staffing level is expected for the next few years.
The circuit property at Allandale is expected to be let for the forseeable future, and certainly throughout the year 23/24. This income will assist the ministry of the circuit and churches.
The 2023/24 budget has been prepared on the basis of 3 presbyters, a deacon and a part-time administrator, with inflationary cost increases. Assessments from churches have generally been held at 2019/20 levels but we have begun a review of the level and share of assessments to reflect an up to date position, with revised contribution figures expected to come into place in 2024/25

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit

Trustee's Annual Report on Finance and Governance

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's annual report and accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to the FRS102.

Full Name of Charity: St Albans and Welwyn Methodist Circuit

Registration Charity Number: 1134370

Main communication address: 133B Hatfield Road St Albans AL1 4JX

The members of the St Albans and Welwyn 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 at Appendix A.

Circuit Ministers and Officers

Active Circuit Ministers	Rev David Jebb
	Rev Andrew Prout
	Rev Rosemary Mutopo
	Deacon Nigel Perrott
Circuit Stewards	Stuart Johnson
	Peter Wallace
	Guy Fenner
	Val Parker
Administrator	Chris Hancock

Stuart Johnson acted as the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the circuit during the year.

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

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit

Aims and organisation

Charity objective is to act as a resource provider within the area around St Albans and Welwyn 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

The circuit confirms that the circuit members have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The circuit provides public benefit through educational resources available to both church members and the general public, supporting circuit staff and churches in providing public worship and the promotion of charitable giving at both circuit and national level.

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 Beds Essex & Herts District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.
The following Methodist Churches are linked to the circuit: Marlborough Road, Hatfield Road, Birchwood, Oxlease, Radlett Free, St Johns Potters Bar, Ludwick Way, Digswell and Panshanger

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit

Risk Management

The Circuit Leadership Team and other circuit members raise any risks they have identified with the Circuit Superintendent and /or the Circuit meeting. Risks are mitigated where appropriate by trustee and property insurance.
Income and Expenditure is monitored and is compared with the approved annual budget on a regular basis to identify trends and mitigate any unforseen call 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 St Albans and Welwyn 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 St Albans and Welwyn Circuit commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people and this objective is delivered through the appointment of a Circuit Safeguarding Officer supported by the District Safeguarding team and Safeguarding Officers at each church. This 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 Circuit policy is to hold a minimum of 6 months' average expenditure, to meet unforeseen major expenditure on manses and to be able to continue, in the short term, the circuit's planned activities in the event of shortfall the assessment from churches. In 2021 the Circuit Meeting resolved to hold additional reserves of £20,000 to ensure funds are available for grants to churches.

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit

STATEMENT OF CIRCUIT MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The circuit members are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the circuit members are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The circuit members are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity Accounting Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed/constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In relation to the financial statements set out on pages 7 to 11:

- The Trustees approve these financial statements and confirm that they are responsible for them, including selecting the appropriate accounting policies, applying them consistently and making, on a reasonable and prudent basis, the judgements underlying them. They have been prepared on the going concern basis on the grounds that St Albans & Welwyn Circuit will continue in operation.
- The Trustees confirm that they have made available to the auditors, Newman Morris Ltd, all of the accounting records of St Albans & Welwyn Circuit and provided the auditors with all the information necessary for the compilation of the financial statements.
- The Trustees confirm that to the best of their knowledge and belief, the accounting records reflect all transactions of St Albans & Welwyn Circuit for the year ended 31st August 2023.

Signed for and on behalf of St Albans & Welwyn Circuit on 10/06/2024

David Jebb & Stuart Johnson.....Trustees of St Alban & Welwyn Circuit

Name of Circuit St Albans and Welwyn | St Albans and Welwyn Circuit | Number 34/13

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

	Notes to the accounts	Unrestricted funds	CMTF (Unrestricted)	Designated Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	2	250				250	660
Charitable activities						0	0
Assessments or share	3	270,474				270,474	276,890
Other						0	0
Other trading activities							
- Lettings	4	11,119				11,119	7,500
- Miscellaneous						0	0
Investments	5	5,116	314			5,430	1,801
Other	6	2,270				2,270	9,000
Total		**289,229**	**314**	**0**	**0**	**289,543**	**295,851**
Expenditure on:							
Stipends, salaries, NIC & Pension costs	7	161,616				161,616	165,766
District Assessment		53,644				53,644	57,068
Methodist Church Fund						0	0
Telephone & travel		11,606				11,606	9,796
Insurance, utilities, etc		19,746				19,746	17,232
Maintenance on manses		20,193				20,193	47,280
Expenditure on other Circuit property		33,081				33,081	0
Depreciation						0	0
Provisions						0	0
Other Expenditure		20,399	208			20,607	23,767
Grants and Donations	8	6,700				6,700	344
Contributions to District Advance Fund			1,828			1,828	3,155
Total		**326,985**	**2,036**	**0**	**0**	**329,021**	**324,408**
Net income/(expenditure)		**-37,756**	**-1,722**	**0**	**0**	**-39,478**	**-28,557**
Transfers between funds		-1,634	1,634			0	0
		-39,390	-88	0	0	-39,478	-28,557
Other recognised gains / (losses):							
Gains/(Losses) on revaluation of fixed assets		77,197				77,197	336,000
Gains/(Losses) on investment assets		-3,302				-3,302	-12,647
Actuarial gains /(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes						0	0
Net movement in funds		34,505	-88	0	0	34,417	294,796
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		4,699,184	10,962	489	0	4,710,635	4,415,839
Total funds carried forward		**4,733,689**	**10,874**	**489**	**0**	**4,745,052**	**4,710,635**

For information only Money received and passed on to External Organisations

Balance brought forward from last year	**0**	**0**
Offerings/Gifts - received for External Organisations	**320**	0
Offerings/Gifts - passed to External Organisations	**320**	0
Balance carried forward	**0**	**0**

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated £	Restricted £	Totals this year £	Totals last year £
Tangible Fixed Assets							
Land & Buildings	11	3,755,781				3,755,781	4,541,000
Equipment						0	0
Investment properties	12	862,416				862,416	0
Investments	13	58,874				58,874	62,176
Total fixed assets		4,677,071	0	0	0	4,677,071	4,603,176
Current Assets							
Debtors and Prepayments	14	14,977				14,977	13,432
Loans by Circuit						0	0
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes deposits			10874			10,874	10,962
Central Finance Board Deposits		103,209				103,209	132,163
Cash at Bank and in hand		13,674		489		14,163	17,532
Total current assets		131,860	10,874	489	0	143,223	174,089
Creditors and Accruals (due in under 1 yr)	15	60,242				60,242	45,980
Net current assets (liabilities)		71,618	10,874	489	0	82,981	128,109
liabilities		4,748,689	10,874	489	0	4,760,052	4,731,285
Loans and creditors due after 1 year							
Provisions for liabilities and charges	16	15,000	0	0	0	15,000	20,650
Net assets		4,733,689	10,874	489	0	4,745,052	4,710,635
Funds of the Circuit	17						
Unrestricted funds		4,733,689				4,733,689	4,699,184
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			10,874			10,874	10,962
Restricted funds				489	0	489	489
Endowment funds						-	-
Total Funds		4,733,689	10,874	489	-	4,745,052	4,710,635

There are no internal organisations that report to the Circuit Meeting.

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit

Notes to the Accounts

1 Accounting policies

The Circuit's annual report and accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)'. St Albans and Welwyn Circuit is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS102.

Basis

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and investments at fair value in accordance with FRS102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

Going Concern

These financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis. The trustees hyave concluded that the Circuit has sufficient resources to continue in operational existence for the forseeable future and consequently it is appropriate to continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

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. Designated funds, held at the Circuit's discretion but designated for specific purposes. Restricted funds may be held for a narrower purpose. Details of each material fund are disclosed in the notes to these accounts.

Income *recognition*

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Circuit becomes entitled to the resources, the trustees are reasonably certain they will receive the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Resources expended

Expenses are recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of resources is considered more likely than not under a legal or constructive obligation.

VAT

The Circuit is not VAT registered. Input VAT is charged with the expense to which it refers.

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Circuit

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £5,000.
The freehold property is initially recognised at cost, which includes the purchase cost. Subsequently it is measured at fair value and is shown in the accounts at estimated value at the reporting end date. The surplus or deficit on revaluation is recognised in profit or loss. No depreciation is provided on the buildings because the trustees consider the current residual fair value of each building (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year-end) to be not less than its current value. The property has been reviewed for impairment. It should be noted that if a manses were to be sold a significant part of the proceeds may have to be paid to other bodies within the wider Methodist church.

Investments

Investments are revalued to market value at the reporting date. The surplus or deficit on revaluation is recognised in profit or loss.

Debtors and prepayments

Debtors include the pre-payment by the churches of the September stipend in August.

Creditors and accruals

Creditors include sundry expenses and the first month's assessment of the following year received in August.

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit

2. Donations and legacies	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Designated	Restricted	2023 Total	2022 Total
Donations	250			0	250	660
3. Assessments						
Marlborough Road St Albans					79,854	84,000
Hatfield Road, St Albans					52,800	52,800
Redlett					16,000	16,000
St John's Potters Bar					65,400	65,400
Birchwood					3,240	3,240
Ludwick Way Welwyn Garden City					19,200	16,000
Odosse Hatfield					13,000	18,450
Digswell Village					20,400	20,400
Panshanger [LEP]					600	600
					270,474	276,890
4 Lettings						
Allandale - rent less costs					11,119	0
Baker Street - temporary - in vacancy					0	7,500
					11,119	7,500
5 Investment income						
CFB Corporate bond fund	1,636				1,636	1,118
Interest	3,480	314			3,794	683
	5,116	314	0	0	5,430	1,801
6. Other income						
District grant - work at St Albans manse					2,270	0
District 25% of Deacon's stipend					0	9,000
					2,270	9,000
7. Paid employees						
Gross salaries and benefits in kind					121,424	126,134
Employer's national insurance cost					10,658	10,382
Pension costs					28,975	28,751
Apprentice levy					559	499
Total staff cost					161,616	165,766
Average number of staff					4.0	4.6
Administrative assistance is included in employment costs.						
8. Grants and donations						
Benevolent fund					0	1,000
Hatfield Road -building alterations					8,000	0
Hatfield Road - a/v equipment - excess written back					0	-1,070
Hatfield Road - childrens woker - excess written back					-1,300	0
Unrestricted funds					6,700	-70
Designated fund in memory of Helen Roberts						
Church bible and contribution to mission costs					0	414
					6,700	344
9. Payment to Trustees						
Payments to trustees for administration services provided to the Circuit by agreement with the Circuit Meeting.					10,266	11,376
Number of trustees paid travel expenses and other sundry items					1	1
Total amount paid					10,266	11,376
10. Fees for examination of the accounts						
Audit 2022/23					4,800	0
Audit 2021/22 underprovision					800	0
Audit 2021/22					0	4,000
Audit 2020/21 overprovision					0	-500
Provision for audits for 2016/17 to 2019/20 not required					0	-1,000
					5,600	2,500
Other fees					NIL	NIL

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit

11 Land & buildings	2022	Transfer	Costs	Revaluation	2023
Manses, at estimated open market value					
41 Cubitts Close, Digswell	670,000			11,390	681,390
9 Allandale, St Albans	848,000	-848,000			0
16 Gainsborough Avenue, St Albans	1,210,000			20,570	1,230,570
67 Baker Street, Potters Bar	1,106,000			18,802	1,124,802
8 Chipmunk Chase, Hatfield	707,000			12,019	719,019
	4,541,000	-848,000	0	62,781	3,755,781

12. Investment property					
At estimated open market value					
9 Allandale, St Albans	0	848,000	33,081	-18,665	862,416

Notes 11 and 12. If a manse or investment property is sold a significant part of the proceeds may have to be paid to other bodies within the wider Methodist church.
During 2019/20 the circuit received a district grant of £20,000 towards the cost of alterations at Chipmunk Chase.
During 2022/23 the circuit received a district grant of £2,270 towards the cost of alterations at Gainsborough Avenue.
These grants may be repayable if the manse is sold.

13 Investments		
Central Finance Board Corporate Bond Fund - 50,797 units at market value	58,874	62,176

14. Current assets		
Debtors and prepayments		
Prepaid stipends	13,477	12,699
Other	1,500	733
	14,977	13,432

15. Current liabilities		
Assessments in advance	19,586	20,420
Grants accrued - due 2023/24	23,000	11,580
Other accruals	17,656	13,980
	60,242	45,980

16. Loans and creditors due after 1 year		
Grants due after 1 year		
MRMC/HRMC Salisbury Village mission - 3 years from 1.9.24	15,000	20,000
Hatfield Road - family and youth worker due 2023/24	0	650
	15,000	20,650

16. Detailed analysis of individual fund movements

Unrestricted Funds	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Revaluations	Transfers	Closing Balance	Purpose
General	4,699,184	289,229	326,985	73,895	-1,634	4,733,689	General circuit purposes
Circuit model trust fund	10,962	314	2,036	0	1,634	10,874	Unrestricted
Totals	4,710,146	289,543	329,021	73,895	0	4,744,563	
Designated Fund							
In memory of H Roberts	489	0	0	0	0	489	To be used "for the Ludwick Way Methodist Church, if appropriate"

17. Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities
The circuit has no capital commitments or contingent liabilities except as disclosed in the accounts

18 Related party transactions
Related party transactions are as disclosed in the accounts and notes.
The circuit also pays Hatfield Road MC £ 1,200 per year [2021/22 £1,000] for the use of an office

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit

Appendix A

CIRCUIT MEETING MEMBERSHIP

MINISTERS

Revd David Jebb
Revd Andrew Prout
Revd Rosemary Mutopo
Deacon Nigel Perrott

ASSOCIATE MINISTERS

Revd Sue Stilwell
Revd Paul Seymour

SUPERNUMERARY MINISTERS

Revd John Churcher
Revd Peter Hudson
Revd David Mullins
Revd Colin Rowe

LAYWORKERS

None

CIRCUIT STEWARDS

Stuart Johnson
Val Parker
Guy Fenner
Peter Wallace

Circuit Local Preachers & Worship Leaders representatives

Rosalind Hancock
Chris Hancock

Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinator

George Woods

Circuit Manses

Vacant

Methodist Women in Britain Secretary / Easter Offering

Pat Maziane

CIRCUIT CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES

Birchwood Methodist Church
Gill Demianyk
Valerie Chapman

Digswell Village Church
Diana Holt
Mike Peacock
Jane Lewis

Hatfield Road Methodist Church
Denise Willingham
Eric Bridgstock
Joanna Rose

Ludwick Way Methodist Church
Tony Stubbs
Bob Cameron

Marlborough Road Methodist Church
Carl Meredith
Ann Scorer
Janis Gilbert

Oxlease Methodist Church
Hazel Laming
Pretty Nkiwane
Addy Olubajo

Panshanger Church
Louise Bowman
Stuart Johnson

Radlett Free Church
Tony Ostler
Shirley Herbert

St John's Methodist Church
Myra Sloper
Robert Ward
David Bowler

Shenley Methodist Church
Yvonne Perry
Louise Bourton

Journey Light
Chris Hancock

Name of Circuit St Albans and Welwyn No 34/13

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-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 Treasurer ..... Date 10.06.2024

Name and address of Treasurer: Stuart Johnson
27 Sylvandale, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 2HS

Presentation to the Circuit Meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 were presented to the Circuit Meeting held on Tuesday 19 March 2024

Signature of the Chair of the Meeting ..... Date: 10 /06/2024.

Name of the Chair of the meeting: Revd David Jebb

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of St Albans & Welwyn Circuit
Opinion
We have audited the financial statements of St Albans & Welwyn Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:
•give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;

•have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
•have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of St Albans & Welwyn Circuit in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Charity's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, including the trustees' report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters In relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Charity's responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing that St Albans & Welwyn Circuit's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

C G Morris, BA, ACA
For and on behalf of
Newman Morris Chartered Accountants

Date: 20/06/2024

ST ALBANS AND WELWYN METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1134370

Accounts

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS
ACCRUALS BASIS
for the year ended 31 August 2022

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit

Registered Charity - Registration number 1134370

Beds, Essex and Herts **District** **Circuit no** 34/13

Ministers	Rev Rosemary Fletcher
	Rev Bruce Anderson
	Rev Ali Facey to 31 Oct 2021
	Rev Andrew Prout
	Deacon Linda Kinchenton
Circuit stewards	Stuart Johnson - senior
	John Scott - finance
	Guy Fenner
	Peter Wallace
	Val Parker
Circuit treasurer	John Scott

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Introduction

We are in the Beds, Essex and Herts District which comprises 12 circuits in those 3 counties. Our circuit is called St. Albans and Welwyn and covers an area of mid-Hertfordshire, and has 10 churches: Hatfield Road and Marlborough Road in St. Albans; Birchwood and Oxlease in Hatfield, Digswell Village, Ludwick Way, Panshanger in the Welwyn area; and St John's Potters Bar, Shenley and Radlett in the Hertsmere area. Three of these churches are part of ecumenical partnerships: Digswell Village Church (with the Church of England), Radlett (with the United Reformed Church) and Panshanger (with the Church of England, the United Reformed Church and Baptist Church).

Aims and organisation

The Mission of the St Albans and Welwyn circuit is to reveal the Kingdom of God through the Methodist people and their ecummenical partners across Cental Hertfordshire. We aim through the Holy Spirit in the worship of God, building up the church, making disciples of Jesus Christ and transforming society by working for justice , peace and unity.

Review of the year

The Circuit continued to make use of multiple communication channels both physical and online to continue the work and mission of the Circuit during the year. The requirement for suitable safeguarding training continues and all Circuit Local Preachers and those required to undertake Advance Level safeguarding have done so during the year. We continue to hold Circuit services and events to celebrate festivals and enable the provision of a variety of worship styles and to foster a Circuit identity to support our common aims. The Circuit continue to produced a weekly service which has been both emailed to members and those linked with the churches as well as being hand delivered or posted to those who do not have internet facilities. The postal distribution of a weekly service has continued although numbers sent are reducing due to some returning to in person services and sadly to some deaths. Online worship is available from two Circuit churches who stream their weekly service. The Circuit has made grants to facilitate the purchase of the technology equipment requried to provide this. We continue to develop and review church and Circuit growth plans developing further our vision for the future mission of the Circuit as requested by the Methodist Conference. We are grateful to the large amount of support from those in the Circuit who have ensured that we are able to continue to serve our

Income trends

During the year church attendance has been recovering following lifting of covid 19 restrictions. Tenancies were disrupted during lockdown with some ceasing business or finding other premises, both factors affecting income at church level. The circuit is grateful that most churches anticipate maintaining the assessment at budgeted levels.

Expenditure trends

Stipends increase each financial year as directed by Conference.

The circuit contribution to District and Connexion to fund the wider work of the Methodist church was 18% of circuit expenditure.

The Potters Bar manse was substantially refurbished at a cost of £34,000 and the Hatfield and Digswell manses prepared for the 1.9.22 stationing round.

Reserves

As at 31 August 2022 the net assets of the Circuit, excluding property, represented approximately 6 months cover for budgeted expenditure in terms of the Circuit's reserve policy set out later in this report.

Plans for 2022/23

The circuit staff have reduced from 4.83 to 4 from 1.9.22. This will reduce costs of ministry from that date.

The circuit property at Allandale, St Albans, is being prepared for rental in 2022/23 to provide income to assist the ministry of the circuit and churches.

The 2022/23 budget has been prepared on the basis of 3 presbyters, a deacon and a part-time administrator, with inflationary cost increases. Assessments from churches have generally been held at 2019/20 levels and we are budgeting for a small surplus.

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit

Trustee's Annual Report on Finance and Governance

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's annual report and accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to the FRS102.

Full Name of Charity: St Albans and Welwyn Methodist Circuit

Registration Charity Number: 1134370

Main communication address: 133B Hatfield Road St Albans AL1 4JX

The members of the St Albans and Welwyn 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 at Appendix A.

Circuit Ministers and Officers

Active Circuit Ministers	Rev Rosemary Fletcher
	Rev Bruce Anderson
	Rev Ali Facey to 31 10 2021
	Rev Andrew Prout
	Deacon Linda Kinchenton
Circuit Stewards	Stuart Johnson
	John Scott
	Guy Fenner
	Peter Wallace
	Val Parker
Administrator	Chris Hancock [Interim]

John Scott acted as the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the circuit during the year.

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

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit

Aims and organisation

Charity objective is to act as a resource provider within the area around St Albans and Welwyn 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

The circuit confirms that the circuit members have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The circuit provides public benefit through educational resources available to both church members and the general public, supporting circuit staff and churches in providing public worship and the promotion of charitable giving at both circuit and national level.

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 Beds Essex & Herts District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.
The following Methodist Churches are linked to the circuit: Marlborough Road, Hatfield Road, Birchwood, Oxlease, Radlett Free, St Johns Potters Bar, Ludwick Way, Shenley, Digswell and Panshanger

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit

Risk Management

The Circuit Leadership Team and other circuit members raise any risks they have identified with the Circuit Superintendent and /or the Circuit meeting. Risks are mitigated where appropriate by trustee and property Insurance .
Income and Expenditure is monitored and is compared with the approved annual budget to identify trends and mitigate any unforseen call 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 St Albans and Welwyn 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 St Albans and Welwyn 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 Circuit policy is to hold a minimum of 6 months' average expenditure, to meet unforeseen major expenditure on manses and to be able to continue, in the short term, the circuit's planned activities in the event of shortfall the assessment from churches. The Circuit Meeting has resolved to hold additional reserves of £20,000 to ensure funds are available for future grants.

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit

STATEMENT OF CIRCUIT MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The circuit members are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the circuit members are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The circuit members are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity Accounting Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed/constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In relation to the financial statements set out on pages 7 to 11:

- The Trustees approve these financial statements and confirm that they are responsible for them, including selecting the appropriate accounting policies, applying them consistently and making, on a reasonable and prudent basis, the judgements underlying them. They have been prepared on the going concern basis on the grounds that St Albans & Welwyn Circuit will continue in operation.
- The Trustees confirm that they have made available to the auditors, Newman Morris Ltd, all of the accounting records of St Albans & Welwyn Circuit and provided the auditors with all the information necessary for the compilation of the financial statements.
- The Trustees confirm that to the best of their knowledge and belief, the accounting records reflect all transactions of St Albans & Welwyn Circuit for the year ended 31st August 2022.

Signed for and on behalf of St Albans & Welwyn Circuit on .....

.....Trustees of St Alban & Welwyn Circuit

Name of Circuit St Albans and Welwyn **St Albans and Welwyn Circuit** **Number** 34/13

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

	Notes to the accounts	Unrestricted funds	CMTF (Unrestricted)	Designated Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	2	660				660	1,861
Charitable activities						0	0
Assessments or share	3	276,890				276,890	273,640
Other						0	0
Other trading activities							
- Lettings	4	7,500				7,500	0
- Miscellaneous						0	0
Investments	5	627	1,174			1,801	389
Other	6				9,000	9,000	22,922
Total		**285,677**	**1,174**	**0**	**9,000**	**295,851**	**298,812**
Expenditure on:							
Stipends, salaries, NIC & Pension costs	7	156,766			9,000	165,766	167,031
District Assessment		57,068				57,068	59,300
Methodist Church Fund						0	0
Telephone & travel		9,796				9,796	5,611
Insurance, utilities, etc		17,232				17,232	21,590
Maintenance on manses		47,280				47,280	4,350
Expenditure on other Circuit property						0	0
Depreciation						0	0
Provisions						0	0
Other Expenditure		23,445	322			23,767	13,068
Grants and Donations	8	-70		414		344	35,121
Contributions to District Advance Fund			3,155			3,155	1,622
Total		**311,517**	**3,477**	**414**	**9,000**	**324,408**	**307,693**
Net income/(expenditure)		**-25,840**	**-2,303**	**-414**	**0**	-28,557	**-8,881**
Transfers between funds	9	25,000	**-25,000**			0	**0**
		-840	-27,303	-414	0	-28,557	-8,881
Other recognised gains / (losses):							
Gains/(Losses) on revaluation of fixed assets		336,000				336,000	465,000
Gains/(Losses) on investment assets		-12,647				-12,647	-177
Actuarial gains /(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes						0	0
Net movement in funds		322,513	-27,303	-414	0	294,796	455,942
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		4,376,671	38,265	903	0	4,415,839	3,959,897
Total funds carried forward		**4,699,184**	**10,962**	**489**	**0**	**4,710,635**	**4,415,839**

For information only Money received and passed on to External Organisations

Balance brought forward from last year	**0**	**0**
Offerings/Gifts - received for External Organisations	**0**	**0**
Offerings/Gifts - passed to External Organisations	**0**	**0**
Balance carried forward	**0**	**0**

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated £	Restricted £	Totals this year £	Totals last year £
Tangible Fixed Assets							
Land & Buildings	12	4,541,000				4,541,000	4,205,000
Equipment						0	0
Investment properties						0	0
Investments	13	62,176				62,176	74,824
Total fixed assets		4,603,176	0	0	0	4,603,176	4,279,824
Current Assets							
Debtors and Prepayments	14	13,432				13,432	35,071
Loans by Circuit						0	0
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes deposits			10962			10,962	38,265
Central Finance Board Deposits		132,163				132,163	124,645
Cash at Bank and in hand		17,043		489		17,532	14,929
Total current assets		162,638	10,962	489	0	174,089	212,910
Creditors and Accruals (due in under 1 yr)	15	45,980				45,980	50,595
Net current assets (liabilities)		116,658	10,962	489	0	128,109	162,315
Total assets less current liabilities		4,719,834	10,962	489	0	4,731,285	4,442,139
Loans and creditors due after 1 year							
Provisions for liabilities and charges	16	20,650	0	0	0	20,650	26,300
Net assets		4,699,184	10,962	489	0	4,710,635	4,415,839
Funds of the Circuit	17						
Unrestricted funds		4,699,184				4,699,184	4,376,671
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			10,962			10,962	38,265
Restricted funds				489	0	489	903
Endowment funds						-	-
Total Funds		4,699,184	10,962	489	-	4,710,635	4,415,839

There are no internal organisations that report to the Circuit Meeting.

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit

Notes to the Accounts

1 Accounting policies

The Circuit's annual report and accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)'. St Albans and Welwyn Circuit is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS102.

Basis

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and investments at fair value in accordance with FRS102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

Going Concern

These financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis. The trustees hyave concluded that the Circuit has sufficient resources to continue in operational existence for the forseeable future and consequently it is appropriate to continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

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. Designated funds, held at the Circuit's discretion but designated for specific purposes. Restricted funds may be held for a narrower purpose. Details of each material fund are disclosed in the notes to these accounts.

Income recognition

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Circuit becomes entitled to the resources, the trustees are reasonably certain they will receive the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Resources expended

Expenses are recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of resources is considered more likely than not under a legal or constructive obligation.

VAT

The Circuit is not VAT registered. Input VAT is charged with the expense to which it refers.

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Circuit

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £5,000.
The freehold property is initially recognised at cost, which includes the purchase cost. Subsequently it is measured at fair value and is shown in the accounts at estimated value at the reporting end date. The surplus or deficit on revaluation is recognised in profit or loss. No depreciation is provided on the buildings because the trustees consider the current residual fair value of each building (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year-end) to be not less than its current value. The property has been reviewed for impairment. It should be noted that if a manses were to be sold a significant part of the proceeds may have to be paid to other bodies within the wider Methodist church.

Investments

Investments are revalued to market value at the reporting date. The surplus or deficit on revaluation is recognised in profit or loss.

Debtors and prepayments

Debtors include the pre-payment by the churches of the September stipend in August.

Creditors and accruals

Creditors include sundry expenses and the assessment for the first month's assessment of the following year received in August.

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit

2. Donations and legacies	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Designated	Restricted	2022 Total	2021 Total
Donations	660			0	660	1,861
3. Assessments						
Marlborough Road St Albans					84,000	84,000
Hatfield Road, St Albans					52,800	52,800
Radlett					16,000	16,000
St John's Potters Bar					65,400	65,400
Shenley					0	600
Birchwood					3,240	3,240
Ludwick Way Welwyn Garden City					16,000	14,400
Oaklease Hatfield					18,450	16,200
Digswell Village [LEP]					20,400	20,400
Panshanger [LEP]					600	600
					276,890	273,640
4 Lettings						
Baker Street - temporay - in vacancy	7,500				7,500	0
5 Investment income						
CFB Corporate bond fund		1,118			1,118	0
Interest	627	56			683	389
	627	1,174	0	0	1,801	389
6. Other income						
De Havilland project						
District 25% of Deacon's stipend				9,000	9,000	9,000
Refund on closure of project					0	13,922
	0	0	0	9,000	9,000	22,922

7. Paid employees		
Gross salaries and benefits in kind	126,134	138,771
Recovery from Methodist Church Fund arising from sick leave	0	-16,996
Employer's national insurance cost	10,382	11,407
Pension costs	28,751	33,163
Apprentice levy	499	686
Total staff cost	165,766	167,031
Average number of staff	**4.6**	**5.3**

Administrative assistance is included in employment costs.

8. Grants and donations		
MRMC/HRMC Salisbury Village mission - 6 years at £5,000 pa	0	30,000
Panshanger building project	0	5,000
Benevolent fund	1,000	24
Hatfield Road - a/v equipment - excess written back	-1,070	0
Panshanger - a/v/screen		-500
Unrestricted funds	-70	34,524
Designated fund in memeory of Helen Roberts		
Church bible and contribution to mission costs	414	597
	344	35,121

9. Transfers between funds	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
Transfer to fund manse related expenditure - Standing Order 917	25,000	-25,000	0	0	0	0

10. Payment to Trustees

Payments to trustees for additional services provided to the Circuit by agreement with the Circuit Meeting- in relation to administration services, including VAT	11,376	12,093
Number of trustees paid travel expenses and other sundry items	1	1
Total amount paid	11,376	12,093

10. Fees for examination of the accounts		
Audit 2021/22	4,000	2,000
Audit 2020/21 overprovision	-500	
Provision for audits for 2016/17 to 2019/20 not required	-1,000	
Independent examiner's fee 2019/20		950
	2,500	2,950
Other fees	NIL	NIL

12 Land & buildings	**2022**	**2021**
Manses, at estimated open market value		
41 Cubitts Close, Digswell	670,000	620,000
9 Allandale, St Albans	848,000	785,000
16 Gainsborough Avenue, St Albans	1,210,000	1,120,000
67 Baker Street, Potters Bar	1,106,000	1,025,000
8 Chipmunk Chase, Hatfield	707,000	655,000
	4,541,000	4,205,000

It should be noted that if a manse were to be sold a significant part of the proceeds may have to be paid to other bodies within the wider Methodist church. During 2019/20 the circuit received a district grant of £20,000 towards the cost of alterations at Chipmunk Chase. This grant may be repayable if the manse is sold.

13 Investments		
Central Finance Board Corporate Bond Fund - 50,797 units at market value	62,176	74,824

14. Current assets		
Debtors and prepayments		
Prepaid stipends	12,699	14,371
De Havilland project - refund due on closure	0	13,923
Other	733	6,777
	13,432	35,071

15. Current liabilities		
Assessments in advance	20,420	22,470
Grants accrued - due 2022/23	11,580	13,350
Other accruals	13,980	14,775
	45,980	50,595

16. Loans and creditors due after 1 year		
Grants due after 1 year		
MRMC/HRMC Salisbury Village mission - 4 years from 1.9.23	20,000	25,000
Hatfield Road - family and youth worker due 2023/24	650	1,300
	20,650	26,300

17. Detailed analysis of individual fund movements

Unrestricted Funds	**Opening Balance**	**Income**	**Expenditure**	**Revaluations**	**Transfers**	**Closing Balance**	**Purpose**
General	4,376,671	285,677	311,517	323,353	25,000	4,699,184	General circuit purposes
Circuit model trust fund	38,265	1,174	3,477		-25,000	10,962	Unrestricted
Totals	4,414,936	286,851	314,994	323,353	0	4,710,146	
Designated Fund							
In memory of H Roberts	903	0	414	0		489	To be used "for the Ludwick Way Methodist Church, if appropriate"
Restricted Funds							
District grant	0	9,000	9,000		0	0	See note 5

18. Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities
The circuit has no capital commitments or contingent liabilities except as disclosed in the accounts

19 Related party transactions
Related party transactions are as disclosed in the accounts and notes.
The circuit also pays Hatfield Road MC £ 1,000 per year for the use of an office

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit

Appendix A

CIRCUIT MEETING MEMBERSHIP

MINISTERS

Revd Rosemary Fletcher
Revd Alison Facey
Revd Andrew Prout
Revd Bruce Anderson
Deacon Linda Kinchenton

ASSOCIATE MINISTERS

Revd Sue Stilwell
Revd Paul Seymour

SUPERNUMERARY MINISTERS

Revd John Churcher
Revd Peter Hudson
Revd David Mullins
Revd Colin Rowe

LAYWORKERS

None

CIRCUIT STEWARDS

Stuart Johnson
John Scott
Guy Fenner
Peter Wallace
Val Parker

Circuit Local Preachers & Worship Leaders representatives

Rosalind Hancock
Chris Hancock

Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Vacant

Circuit Manses

Vacant

Methodist Women in Britain Secretary / Easter Offering

Pat Mazlane

CIRCUIT CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES

Birchwood Methodist Church
Gill Demianyk
Valerie Chapman

Digswell Village Church
Diana Holt
Mike Peacock
Jane Lewis

Hatfield Road Methodist Church
Denise Willingham
Eric Bridgstock
Joanna Rose

Ludwick Way Methodist Church
Tony Stubbs
Bob Cameron

Marlborough Road Methodist Church
Carl Meredith
Ann Scorer
Janis Gilbert

Oxlease Methodist Church
Hazel Laming
Pretty Nkiwane
Addy Olubajo

Panshanger Church
Louise Bowman
Stuart Johnson

Radlett Free Church
Tony Ostler
Shirley Herbert

St John's Methodist Church
Myra Sloper
Robert Ward
David Best
David Bowler

Shenley Methodist Church
Yvonne Perry
Louise Bourton

Journey Light
Chris Hancock

Name of Circuit St Albans and Welwyn No 34/13

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-based accounts for the year to 31 August 2022 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 28.2.23

Name and address of treasurer : John Scott
26 College Street, St Albans AL3 4PN

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 were presented to the Circuit meeting held on

Signature of the Chair of the meeting .....

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev. David Jobb Date 7th March 2023.

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of St Albans & Welwyn Circuit
Opinion
We have audited the financial statements of St Albans & Welwyn Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:
•give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;

•have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
•have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.
Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of St Albans & Welwyn Circuit in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Charity's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, including the trustees' report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

•the information given in the trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or

•sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or

•the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or

•we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Charity's responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing that St Albans & Welwyn Circuit's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

C G Morris, BA, ACA
For and on behalf of
Newman Morris Chartered Accountants

Date: 19/04/2023

ST ALBANS AND WELWYN METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1134370

Accounts

THE METHODIST CHURCH

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

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit

Registered Charity - Registration number 1134370

Beds, Essex and Herts **District** **Circuit no** 34/13

Ministers	Rev Rosemary Fletcher
	Rev Bruce Anderson
	Rev Ali Facey
	Rev Andrew Prout
	Deacon Linda Kinchenton
Circuit stewards	Stuart Johnson - senior
	Peter Barlow to 01 07 2021
	John Scott - finance
	Guy Fenner
	Peter Wallace
	Val Parker
Circuit treasurer	John Scott

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Introduction

We are in the Beds, Essex and Herts District which comprises 12 circuits in those 3 counties. Our circuit is called St. Albans and Welwyn and covers an area of mid-Hertfordshire, and has 10 churches: Hatfield Road and Marlborough Road in St. Albans; Birchwood and Oxlease in Hatfield, Digswell Village, Ludwick Way, Panshanger in the Welwyn area; and St John's Potters Bar, Shenley and Radlett in the Hertsmere area. Three of these churches are part of ecumenical partnerships: Digswell Village Church (with the Church of England), Radlett (with the United Reformed Church) and Panshanger (with the Church of England, the United Reformed Church and Baptist Church).

Aims and organisation

The Mission of the St Albans and Welwyn circuit is to reveal the Kingdom of God through the Methodist people and their ecummenical partners across Cental Hertfordshire. We aim through the Holy Spirit in the worship of God, building up the church, making disciples of Jesus Christ and transforming society by working for justice , peace and unity.

Review of the year

As with the rest of the country, we have continue to be disrupted by the Coronavirus pandemic. Despite this we have made use of multiple communication channels both physical and online resources to continue the work and mission of the Circuit during the year. The requirement for suitable safeguarding training continues and some sessions have been run during the year. We continue, where possible, to hold Circuit services and events to celebrate festivals and enable the provision of a variety of worship styles and to foster a Circuit identity to support our common aims. Since lockdown the Circuit have produced a weekly service which has been both emailed to members and those linked with the churches as well as being hand delivered or posted to those who do not have internet facilities. Since churches have reopened, in a Covid secure manner, we have identified that there are a significant number of folk who are either infirm or housebound. To meet this need the postal distribution of a weekly service has continued. The online Circuit service continued throughout the year in addition to worship being available from two Circuit churches who stream their weekly service. We continue to develop and review church and Circuit growth plans developing further our vision for the future mission of the Circuit as requested by the Methodist Conference. We are grateful to the large amount of support from those in the Circuit who have ensured that we are able to continue to serve our local churches and congregations with the minimum disruption during this continuing difficult period of uncertainty

Income trends

At the time of writing, church attendance is subject to covid 19 restrictions and some tenants are unable to access church premises, both factors affecting income at church level. The circuit is grateful that most churches anticipate maintaining the assessment at last year's levels.

Expenditure trends

Stipends increase each financial year as directed by Conference.

The circuit contribution to District and Connexion to fund the wider work of the Methodist church was 22% of circuit expenditure.

Normal manse maintenance expenditure remained lower than usual as there was limited access due to covid 19 restrictions and no stationing redecoration this year.

Reserves

As at 31 August 2021 the net assets, excluding property, of the Circuit were £210,839 representing approximately 7 months cover for budgeted expenditure in terms of the Circuit's reserve policy set out later in this report.

Plans for 2021/22

Since the circuit budget for 2021/22 was approved changes in ministerial staffing have resulted in reduced costs, but brought forward the cost of preparing one of the manses for stationing. At the time of writing it is estimated that the budgeted deficit of £58,860, including manse stationing costs, will be reduced by approximately £10,000. The anticipated deficit is covered by reserves.

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit
Trustee's Annual Report on Finance and Governance

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's annual report and accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to the FRS102 (effective 1 January 2019).

Full Name of Charity: St Albans and Welwyn Methodist

Registration Charity Number: 1134370

Main communication address: 133B Hatfield Road St Albans AL1 4JX

The members of the St Albans and Welwyn 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 at Appendix A.

Circuit Ministers and Officers

Active Circuit Ministers	Rev Rosemary Fletcher
	Rev Bruce Anderson
	Rev Ali Facey
	Rev Andrew Prout
	Deacon Linda Kinchenton
Circuit Stewards	Stuart Johnson
	Peter Barlow to 01 07 2021
	John Scott
	Guy Fenner
	Peter Wallace
	Val Parker
Administrator	Chris Hancock [interim]

John Scott acted as the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the circuit during the year.

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

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit

Aims and organisation

Charity objective is to act as a resource provider within the area around St Albans and Welwyn 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

The circuit confirms that the circuit members have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The circuit provides public benefit through educational resources available to both church members and the general public, supporting circuit staff and churches in providing public worship and the promotion of charitable giving at both circuit and national level.

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 Beds Essex & Herts District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.
The following Methodist Churches are linked to the circuit: Marlborough Road, Hatfield Road, Birchwood, Oxlease, Radlett Free, St Johns Potters Bar, Ludwick Way, Shenley, Digswell and Panshanger

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit

Risk Management

The Circuit Leadership Team and other circuit members raise any risks they have identified with the Circuit Superintendent and /or the Circuit meeting. Risks are mitigated where appropriate by trustee and property insurance .
Income and Expenditure is monitored and is compared with the approved annual budget to identify trends and mitigate any unforseen call 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 St Albans and Welwyn 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 St Albans and Welwyn 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 Circuit policy is to hold a minimum of 6 months' average expenditure, to meet unforeseen major expenditure on manses and to be able to continue, in the short term, the circuit's planned activities in the event of shortfall the assessment from churches. During the year the Circuit Meeting resolved to hold additional reserves of £20,000 to ensure funds are available for future grants.

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit

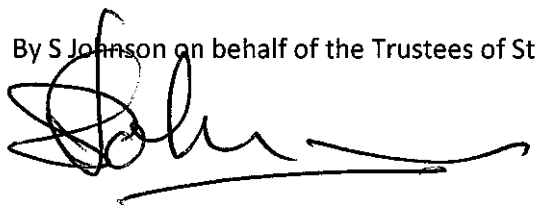
STATEMENT OF CIRCUIT MEETING MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The circuit meeting members are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).
The law applicable to charities in [England & Wales] requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the circuit members are required to:
•select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
•observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
•make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
•state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and
•prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.
The circuit members are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity Accounting Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed/constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.
In relation to the financial statements set out on pages 8 to 12:

•The Trustees approve these financial statements and confirm that they are responsible for them, including selecting the appropriate accounting policies, applying them consistently and making, on a reasonable and prudent basis, the judgements underlying them. They have been prepared on the going concern basis on the grounds that St Albans & Welwyn Circuit will continue in operation.
•The Trustees confirm that they have made available to the auditors, Newman Morris Ltd, all of the accounting records of St Albans & Welwyn Circuit and provided the auditors with all the information necessary for the compilation of the financial statements.
•The Trustees confirm that to the best of their knowledge and belief, the accounting records reflect all transactions of St Albans & Welwyn Circuit for the year ended 31st August 2021.

Signed for and on behalf of St Albans & Welwyn Circuit on 18th January 2022

By S Johnson on behalf of the Trustees of St Alban & Welwyn Circuit



Name of Circuit St Albans and Welwyn **St Albans and Welwyn Circuit** **Number** 34/13

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

	Notes to the accounts	Unrestricted funds	CMTF (Unrestricted)	Designated Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	2	361		1,500		1,861	620
Charitable activities						0	0
Assessments or share	3	273,640				273,640	286,020
Other						0	0
Other trading activities							
- Lettings						0	0
- Miscellaneous						0	0
Investments	4	239	150			389	1,621
Other	5	13,922			9,000	22,922	39,000
Total		**288,162**	**150**	**1,500**	**9,000**	**298,812**	**327,261**
Expenditure on:							
Stipends, salaries, NIC & Pension costs	6	158,031			9,000	167,031	156,444
District Assessment		59,300				59,300	57,168
Methodist Church Fund						0	0
Telephone & travel		5,611				5,611	7,225
Insurance, utilities, etc		21,590				21,590	19,843
Maintenance on manses		4,350				4,350	37,155
Expenditure on other Circuit property						0	0
Depreciation						0	0
Provisions						0	0
Other Expenditure		12,938	130			13,068	10,096
Grants and Donations	7	34,524		597		35,121	15,480
Contributions to District Advance Fund			1,622			1,622	2,294
Total		**296,344**	**1,752**	**597**	**9,000**	**307,693**	**305,705**
Net income/(expenditure)		**-8,182**	**-1,602**	**903**	**0**	-8,881	**21,556**
Transfers between funds	8	25,000	**-25,000**			0	**0**
		16,818	-26,602	903	0	-8,881	21,556
Other recognised gains / (losses):							
Gains/(Losses) on revaluation of fixed assets		465,000				465,000	0
Gains/(Losses) on investment assets		-177				-177	0
Actuarial gains /(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes						0	0
Net movement in funds		481,641	-26,602	903	0	455,942	21,556
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		3,895,030	64,867	0	0	3,959,897	3,938,341
Total funds carried forward		**4,376,671**	**38,265**	**903**	**0**	**4,415,839**	**3,959,897**

For information only Money received and passed on to External Organisations

Balance brought forward from last year	**0**	**0**
Offerings/Gifts - received for External Organisations	**0**	0
Offerings/Gifts - passed to External Organisations	**0**	0
Balance carried forward	**0**	**0**

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated £	Restricted £	Totals this year £	Totals last year £
Tangible Fixed Assets							
Land & Buildings	11	4,205,000				4,205,000	3,740,000
Equipment						0	0
Investment properties						0	0
Investments	12	74,824				74,824	0
Total fixed assets		4,279,824	0	0	0	4,279,824	3,740,000
Current Assets							
Debtors and Prepayments	13	35,071				35,071	14,192
Loans by Circuit		0				0	0
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes deposits			38,265			38,265	64,867
Central Finance Board Deposits		124,645				124,645	173,435
Cash at Bank and in hand	14	14,026		903		14,929	8,292
Total current assets		173,742	38,265	903	0	212,910	260,786
Creditors and Accruals (due in under 1 yr)	15	50,595				50,595	38,239
Net current assets (liabilities)		123,147	38,265	903	0	162,315	222,547
Total assets less current liabilities		4,402,971	38,265	903	0	4,442,139	3,962,547
Loans and creditors due after 1 year							
Provisions for liabilities and charges	16	26,300	0	0	0	26,300	2,650
Net assets		4,376,671	38,265	903	0	4,415,839	3,959,897
Funds of the Circuit	17						
Unrestricted funds		4,376,671				4,376,671	3,895,030
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			38,265			38,265	64,867
Restricted funds				903	0	903	-
Endowment funds						-	-
Total Funds		4,376,671	38,265	903	-	4,415,839	3,959,897

There are no internal organisations that report to the Circuit Meeting.

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit

Notes to the Accounts

1 Accounting policies

The Circuit's annual report and accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)'. St Albans and Welwyn Circuit is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS102.

Basis

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.
These financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2021 are the first financial statements of St Albans and Welwyn Circuit prepared in accordance with FRS102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland. The date of transition to FRS102 was 1 September 2020. The reported financial position and financial performance for the previous period are not affected by the transition to FRS102.

Going Concern

These financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis. As explained in the Trustees Annual Report, during the year the global pandemic and spread of Covid-19 has severely impacted many economies throughout the world. The Trustees have assessed the impact Covid-19 may have on the Circuit's forecast and projections and have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of approving these financial statements. The trustees hyave concluded that the Church has sufficient resources to continue in operational existence for the forseeable future and consequently it is appropriate to continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

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. Designated funds, held at the Circuit's discretion but designated for specific purposes. Restricted funds which are held for a narrower purpose. Details of each material fund are disclosed in the notes to these accounts.

Income recognition

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Circuit becomes entitled to the resources, the trustees are reasonably certain they will receive the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Resources expended

Expenses are recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of resources is considered more likely than not under a legal or constructive obligation.

VAT

The Circuit is not VAT registered. Input VAT is charged with the expense to which it refers.

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Circuit

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £5,000.
The freehold property is initially recognised at cost, which includes the purchase cost. Subsequently it is measured at fair value and is shown in the accounts at estimated 2021 value at the reporting end date. The surplus or deficit on revaluation is recognised in profit or loss. No depreciation is provided on the buildings because the trustees consider the current residual fair value of each building (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year-end) to be not less than its current value. Any depreciation would not be material. The property has been reviewed for impairment. It should be noted that if a manses were to be sold a significant part of the proceeds may have to be paid to other bodies within the wider Methodist church.

Debtors and prepayments

Debtors include the pre-payment by the churches of the September stipend in August.

Creditors and accruals

Creditors include sundry expenses and the assessment for the first month's assessment of the following year received in August.

2. Donations and legacies	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Designated	Restricted	2021 Total	2020 Total
Donations	361	0	1,500	0	1,861	620

£1,500 was donated in memory of Mrs Helen Roberts, to be used "for the Ludwick Way Methodist Church, if appropriate".

3. Assessments		
Detailed in Note 19	273,640	286,020

4. Investment income						
Interest	239	150		0	389	1,621

5. Other income						
De Havilland project						
District 25% of Deacon's stipend				9,000	9,000	9,000
Alterations to Chipmunk Chase manse						
District grant					0	20,000
De Havilland project contribution					0	10,000
Refund on closure of project	13,922				13,922	0
	13,922	0	0	9,000	22,922	39,000

6. Paid employees		
Gross salaries and benefits in kind	138,771	135,630
Recovery from Methodist Church Fund arising from sick leave	-16,996	-22,211
Employer's national insurance cost	11,407	10,139
Pension costs	33,163	32,311
Apprentice levy	686	575
Total staff cost	167,031	156,444
Average number of staff	**5.3**	**5.3**

Administrative assistance is included in employment costs.

7. Grants and donations		
MRMC/HRMC Salisbury Village mission - 6 years at £5,000 pa	30,000	0
Panshanger building project	5,000	0
Benevolent fund	24	0
Hatfield Road - a/v equipment	0	2,000
Ludwick Way - new boiler contribution	0	3,200
Panshanger - a/v/screen	-500	500
Hatfield Road - family and youth worker £4,000 over 3 years	0	4,000
Shenley - balance of loan written off	0	5,780
Unrestricted funds	34,524	15,480
Designated fund in memeory of Helen Roberts		
Church bible and contribution to mission costs	597	0
	35,121	15,480

8. Transfers between funds	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
Transfer to fund manse related expenditure - Standing Order 917	25,000	-25,000	0	0	0	0

9. Payment to Trustees		
Payments to trustees for additional services provided to the Circuit by agreement with the Circuit Meeting- in relation to administration services, including VAT	12,093	11,257
Number of trustees paid travel expenses and other sundry items	1	1
Total amount paid	12,093	11,257

10. Fees for examination of the accounts		
Audit 2020/21	2,000	0
Provision for audit in place of independent examination for the four years 2016/17 to 2019/20	950	0
Independent examiner's fee for reporting on the accounts	0	950
	2,950	950

Other fees	NIL	NIL

11 Tangible fixed assets	**2021**	**2020**
Manses, at estimated 2021 values		
41 Cubitts Close, Digswell	620,000	550,000
9 Allandale, St Albans	785,000	700,000
16 Gainsborough Avenue, St Albans	1,120,000	1,000,000
67 Baker Street, Potters Bar	1,025,000	900,000
8 Chipmunk Chase, Hatfield	655,000	590,000
	4,205,000	3,740,000

The manses have been restated on estimated open market value as at 31.8.21 [2020 as at 31.8.2017]
It should be noted that if a manse were to be sold a significant part of the
proceeds may have to be paid to other bodies within the wider Methodist church.
During 2019/20 the circuit received a district grant of £20,000 towards the cost
of alterations at Chipmunk Chase. This grant may be reapyable if the manse is sold.

12 Investments		
Central Finance Board Corporate Bond Fund - 50,797 units at market value	74,824	0

13. Current assets		
Debtors and prepayments		
Prepaid stipends	14,371	14,192
De Havilland project - refund due on closure	13,923	0
Other	6,777	0
	35,071	14,192

14. Cash at bank		
CAF Bank	14,026	8,292

15. Current liabilities		
Assessments in advance	22,470	22,120
Grants accrued - due 2021/22	13,350	7,050
Other accruals	14,775	9,069
	50,595	38,239

16. Loans and creditors due after 1 year		
Grants due after 1 year		
MRMC/HRMC Salisbury Village mission - 5 years from 1.9.22	25,000	0
Hatfield Road - family and youth worker due 2022/23	1,300	2,650
	26,300	2,650

17. Detailed analysis of individual fund movements

Unrestricted Funds	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Revaluations	Transfers	Closing Balance	Purpose
General	3,895,030	288,162	296,344	464,823	25,000	4,376,671	General circuit purposes
Circuit model trust fund	64,867	150	1,752		-25,000	38,265	Unrestricted
Totals	3,959,897	288,312	298,096	464,823	0	4,414,936	
Designated Fund							
In memory of H Roberts	0	1,500	597	0		903	See note 2
Restricted Funds							
District grant	0	9,000	9,000		0	0	See note 5

18. Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities
The circuit has no capital commitments or contingent liabilities except as disclosed in the accounts

19 Related party transactions
During the year the following Related Party Transactions took place:

Beds, Essex & Herts District
During the year an assessment contribution was made to the Beds, Essex & Herts District of £59,300 (2020: £57,168).
Also, during the year a grant of £9,000 (2020: £9,000) was received from the District to cover 25% of the Deacon's stipends.

The Methodist Connexion
During the year, The Methodist Connexion paid and recharged to the Circuit the stipend costs of 5 ministers. This amount totalled £154,937.89 (2020: £145,187.01).

Assessment received from Churches
During the year the following amounts were received as Assessment from the churches which make up the Circuit.

	2021	2020
Marlborough Road St Albans	84,000	84,000
Hatfield Road, St Albans	52,800	52,800
Radlett	16,000	16,000
St John's Potters Bar	65,400	65,400
Shenley	600	6,840
Birchwood	3,240	3,240
Ludwick Way Welwyn Garden City	14,400	19,200
Oxlease Hatfield	16,200	16,400
Digswell Village [LEP]	20,400	20,400
Panshanger [LEP]	600	1,740
	273,640	286,020

Hatfield Road MC
The circuit also pays Hatfield Road MC £ 1,000 per year (2020: £1,000) for the use of an office

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit

Appendix A

CIRCUIT MEETING MEMBERSHIP

MINISTERS

Revd Rosemary Fletcher
Revd Alison Facey
Revd Andrew Prout
Revd Bruce Anderson
Deacon Linda Kinchenton

ASSOCIATE MINISTERS

Revd Sue Stilwell
Revd Paul Seymour

SUPERNUMERARY MINISTERS

Revd John Churcher
Revd Peter Hudson
Revd David Mullins
Revd Colin Rowe

LAYWORKERS

None

CIRCUIT STEWARDS

Stuart Johnson
Peter Barlow to 01.07.21
John Scott
Guy Fenner
Val Parker
Peter Wallace

Circuit Local Preachers & Worship Leaders representatives

Stuart Johnson
Chris Hancock

Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Steve Matthews

Circuit Manses

Roger Wright (until 16th July 2021)

Methodist Women in Britain Secretary / Easter Offering

Jean Blight

CIRCUIT CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES

Birchwood Methodist Church
Gill Demianyk
Valerie Chapman

Digswell Village Church
Diana Holt
Mike Peacock
Jane Lewis

Hatfield Road Methodist Church
Denise Willingham
Eric Bridgstock
Joanna Rose

Ludwick Way Methodist Church
Tony Stubbs
Bob Cameron

Marlborough Road Methodist Church
Carl Meredith
Ann Scorer
Mike Scorer
Janis Gilbert

Oxlease Methodist Church
Hazel Laming
Pretty Nkiwane
Addy Olubajo

Panshanger Church
Louise Bowman
Stuart Johnson

Radlett Free Church
Tony Ostler
Shirley Herbert

St John's Methodist Church
Myra Sloper
Robert Ward
David Best
David Bowler

Shenley Methodist Church
Yvonne Perry
Louise Bourton

Journey Light
Chris Hancock

Name of Circuit St Albans and Welwyn No 34/13

Declarations and Scrutiny

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

Signature of treasurer .....J Scott..... Date 18th January 2022

Name and address of treasurer : John Scott
26 College Street, St Albans AL3 4PN

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 were presented to the Circuit meeting held on 1st March 2022

Signature of the Chair of the meeting Rosemary J Fletcher

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev R Fletcher Date 1st March 2022

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of St Albans & Welwyn Circuit
Opinion
We have audited the financial statements of St Albans & Welwyn Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:
•give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
•have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
•have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of St Albans & Welwyn Circuit in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Charity's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, including the trustees' report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

•the information given in the trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
•sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
•the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
•we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Charity's responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing that St Albans & Welwyn Circuit's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities.

This description forms part of our auditor's report.

CGMorris

C G Morris, BA, ACA
For and on behalf of
Newman Morris Chartered Accountants

Date: 15/03/2022

ST ALBANS AND WELWYN METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1134370

Accounts

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS
ACCRUALS BASIS
for the year ended 31 August 2020

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit

Registered Charity - Registration number **1134370**

Beds, Essex and Herts	**District**	**Circuit no**	34/13

Ministers	Rev Rosemary Fletcher
	Rev Bruce Anderson
	Rev Ali Facey
	Rev Andrew Prout
	Deacon Linda Kinchenton
Circuit stewards	Mr Peter Barlow from 4.2.20 - senior
	Mr John Scott - finance
	Mrs Angela Andrews
	Mrs Becky Apampa
	Mrs Louise Bourton to 10.5.20
	Mr Guy Fenner
	Mr John Robinson to 16.1.20
	Mr Peter Wallace
Circuit treasurer	Mr John Scott

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St Albans and Welwyn Circuit
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

ɔduction

We are in the Beds, Essex and Herts District which comprises 12 circuits in those 3 counties. Our circuit is called St. Albans and Welwyn and covers an area of mid-Hertfordshire, and has 10 churches: Hatfield Road and Marlborough Road in St. Albans; Birchwood and Oxlease in Hatfield, Digswell Village, Ludwick Way, Panshanger in the Welwyn area; and St John's Potters Bar, Shenley and Radlett in the Hertsmere area. Three of these churches are part of ecumenical partnerships: Digswell Village Church (with the Church of England), Radlett (with the United Reformed Church) and Panshanger (with the Church of England, the United Reformed Church and Baptist Church).

s and organisation

The Mission of the St Albans and Welwyn circuit is to reveal the Kingdom of God through the Methodist people and their ecummenical partners across Cental Hertfordshire. We aim through the Holy Spirit in the worship of God, building up the church, making disciples of Jesus Christ and transforming society by working for justice , peace and unity.

ew of the year

As with the rest of the country, we have had the year severely disrupted by the Coronavirus pandemic. Despite this we have held our regular circuit quiet day, our regular study evenings have continued to be run albeit on a more ad hoc basis. Initially in person but in the latter part of the year using Zoom technology. The requirement for suitable safeguarding training continues and some sessions have been run during the year. We continue to hold Circuit services and events to celebrate festivals and enable the provision of a variety of worship styles and to foster a Circuit identity to support our common aims. We have continued to meet this need online as much as possible. Since lockdown the Circuit have produced a weekly service which has been both emailed to members and those linked with the churches as well as being hand delivered or posted to those who do not have internet facilities. An online, audio visual, version of the service has also been prepared and hosted on one of the Circuit churches websites each week. We continue to develop and review church and Circuit growth plans developing further our vision for the future mission of the Circuit as requested by the Methodist Conference. We are grateful to the large amount of support from those in the Circuit who have ensured that we are able to continue to serve our local churches and congregations with the minimum disruption during this difficult period of lockdown and separation

me trends

At the time of writing, church attendance is subject to covid 19 restrictions and some tenants are unable to access church premises, both factors affecting income at church level. The circuit is grateful that most churches anticipate maintaining the assessment at last year's levels.

nditure trends

Stipends increase each financial year as directed by Conference.

The circuit contribution to District and Connexion to fund the wider work of the Methodist church was 22% of circuit expenditure.

Normal manse maintenance expenditure remained lower than usual as there was limited access due to covid 19 restrictions and no stationing redecoration this year.

l balances

As at 31 August 2020 the net current assets of the Circuit were £222,547 giving months 9 cover for budgeted expenditure, and meeting the Circuit's reserve policy.

s for 2020/21

The 2020/21 budget has been prepared on the basis of 4 full time presbyters, a full time deacon and a part-time administrator, with inflationary cost increases. Assessments from churches have generally been held at 2019/20 levels and we are budgeting for a small deficit.

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit
Trustee's Annual Report on Finance and Governance

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's annual report and accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 2015 as applicable to the Financial Reporting Standard(FRSSE) 2015

Full Name of Charity: St Albans and Welwyn Methodist Circuit

Registration Charity Number: 1134370

Main communication address: 133B Hatfield Road St Albans AL1 4JX

The members of the St Albans and Welwyn 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 at Appendix A.

Circuit Ministers and Officers

Active Circuit Ministers	Rev Rosemary Fletcher
	Rev Bruce Anderson
	Rev Ali Facey
	Rev Andrew Prout
	Deacon Linda Kinchenton
Circuit Stewards	Mr Peter Barlow from 4.2.20
	Mrs Angela Andrews
	Mrs Becky Apampa
	Mrs Louise Bourton to 10.5.20
	Mr Guy Fenner
	Mr John Robinson to 16.1.20
	Mr John Scott
	Mr Peter Wallace
Administrator	Mr Chris Hancock [interim]

Mr John Scott acted as the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the circuit during the year.

Independent Examiner	Newman Morris
Investment Bankers	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
	Trustees for the Methodist Church purposes

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Panshanger

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit

organisation

ective is to act as a resource provider within the area around St Albans and Welwyn for the Church:

es of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have
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

sation and resourcing of regular public acts of worship open to members of the church and ers alike.
ng of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.
cing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.
ious assemblies in local schools.
of Christianity through the staging of events and services.
chaplaincy services to the local university and other institutions.

nefit

provides public benefit through educational resources available to both church members neral public, supporting circuit staff and churches in providing public worship and the of charitable giving at both circuit and national level.

Governance and Management

ing document for the circuit is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976) vernance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of ist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD). Day to day management of the circuit en by the Circuit Leadership team along with the Local Preachers meeting.

aining

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

arties

is part of the Beds Essex & Herts District and is also accountable to the Methodist .

ng Methodist Churches are linked to the circuit: Marlborough Road, Hatfield Road, Oxlease, Radlett Free, St Johns Potters Bar, Ludwick Way, Shenley, Digswell and .

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit

Risk Management

The Circuit Leadership Team and other circuit members raise any risks they have identified with the Circuit Superintendent and /or the Circuit meeting. The risk to properties is covered by insurance .

Income and Expenditure is monitored and is compared with the approved annual budget to identify trends and mitigate any unforseen call 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 St Albans and Welwyn 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 St Albans and Welwyn 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 Circuit policy is to hold a minimum of 6 months' average expenditure, to meet unforeseen major expenditure on manses and to be able to continue, in the short term, the circuit's planned activities in the event of shortfall the assessment from churches.

Name of Circuit St Albans and Welwyn **St Albans and Welwyn Circuit** **Number** 34/13

8Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2020

	Notes to the accounts	Unrestricted funds	CMTF (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	2	620		0	620	100
Charitable activities					0	0
Assessments or share	3	286,020			286,020	294,220
Other					0	0
Other trading activities					0	0
- Lettings					0	0
- Miscellaneous					0	0
Investments	4	1,027	594		1,621	1,318
Other	5			39,000	39,000	9,200
Total		**287,667**	**594**	**39,000**	**327,261**	**304,838**
Expenditure on:						
Stipends, salaries, NIC & Pension costs	6	147,444		9,000	156,444	171,923
District Assessment		57,168			57,168	56,904
Methodist Church Fund					0	0
Telephone & travel		7,225			7,225	10,026
Insurance, utilities, etc		19,843			19,843	19,352
Maintenance on manses		6,919		30,236	37,155	8,661
Expenditure on other Circuit property					0	0
Depreciation					0	0
Provisions					0	0
Other Expenditure		9,913	183		10,096	9,171
Grants and Donations	7	15,480			15,480	500
Contributions to District Advance Fund			2,294		2,294	2,337
Total		**263,992**	**2,477**	**39,236**	**305,705**	**278,874**
Net income/(expenditure)		**23,675**	**-1,883**	**-236**	21,556	**25,964**
Transfers between funds	8	24,764	**-25,000**	**236**	0	**0**
		48,439	-26,883	0	21,556	25,964
Other recognised gains / (losses):						
Gains/(Losses) on revaluation of fixed assets		0			0	
Gains/(Losses) on investment assets					0	
Actuarial gains /(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes					0	
Net movement in funds		48,439	-26,883	0	21,556	25,964
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		3,846,591	91,750	0	3,938,341	3,912,377
Total funds carried forward		**3,895,030**	**64,867**	**0**	**3,959,897**	**3,938,341**

For information only Money received and passed on to External Organisations

Balance brought forward from last year	**0**	**0**
Offerings/Gifts - received for External Organisations	**0**	212
Offerings/Gifts - passed to External Organisations	**0**	212
Balance carried forward	**0**	**0**

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted) £	Restricted £	Totals this year £	Totals last year £
Tangible Fixed Assets						
Land & Buildings	11	3,740,000			3,740,000	3,740,000
Equipment					0	0
Investment properties					0	0
Investments					0	0
Total fixed assets		3,740,000	0	0	3,740,000	3,740,000
Current Assets						
Debtors and Prepayments	12	14,192			14,192	13,866
Loans by Circuit	13	0			0	10,250
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes deposits			64,867		64,867	91,750
Central Finance Board Deposits		173,435			173,435	103,259
Cash at Bank and in hand	14	8,292			8,292	9,868
Total current assets		195,919	64,867	0	260,786	228,993
Creditors and Accruals (due in under 1 yr)	15	38,239			38,239	30,652
Net current assets (liabilities)		157,680	64,867	0	222,547	198,341
Total assets less current liabilities		3,897,680	64,867	0	3,962,547	3,938,341
Loans and creditors due after 1 year						
Provisions for liabilities and charges	16	2,650	0	0	2,650	0
Net assets		3,895,030	64,867	0	3,959,897	3,938,341
Funds of the Circuit	17					
Unrestricted funds		3,895,030			3,895,030	3,846,591
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			64,867		64,867	91,750
Restricted funds				0	0	-
Endowment funds					-	-
Total Funds		3,895,030	64,867	-	3,959,897	3,938,341

There are no internal organisations that report to the Circuit Meeting.

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit

Notes to the Accounts

1 Accounting policies

The Charity's annual report and accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 2015 as applicable to the Financial Reporting Standard(FRSSE) 2015

Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that investments are shown at their market

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost on the accruals basis to show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities modified by the revaluation of freehold property.

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. Details of each material fund are disclosed in the notes to these accounts.

Income recognition

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Circuit becomes entitled to the resources, the trustees are reasonably certain they will receive the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Resources expended

Expenses are recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of resources is considered more likely than not under a legal or constructive obligation.

VAT

The Circuit is not VAT registered. Input VAT is charged with the expense to which it refers.

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Circuit

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £5,000.
The freehold property is shown in the accounts at estimated 2017 value. No depreciation is provided on the buildings because the trustees consider the current residual fair value of each building (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year-end) to be not less than its current value. Any depreciation would not be material. The property has been reviewed for impairment. It should be noted that if a manses were to be sold a significant part of the proceeds may have to be paid to other bodies within the wider Methodist church.

Debtors and prepayments

Debtors include the payment of the September stipend in August.

Creditors and accruals

Creditors include sundry expenses and the assessment for the first month's assessment of the following year received in August.

2. Donations and legacies	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2020 Total	2019 Total
Donations	620	0	0	620	100

3. Assessments

Marlborough Road St Albans				84,000	84,000
Hatfield Road, St Albans				52,800	52,800
Radlett				16,000	16,000
St John's Potters Bar				65,400	65,400
Shenley				6,840	6,840
Birchwood				3,240	3,240
Ludwick Way Welwyn Garden City				19,200	19,200
Oxlease Hatfield				16,400	24,600
Digswell Village [LEP]				20,400	20,400
Panshanger [LEP]				1,740	1,740
				286,020	294,220

4. Investment income					
Interest	1,027	594	0	1,621	1,318

5. Other income					
Alterations to Chipmunk Chase manse to assist the de Havilland project					
District grants received			20,000	20,000	0
De Havilland project contribution			10,000	10,000	0
District 25% of Deacon's stipend for work on de Havilland project			9,000	9,000	9,000
District contribution to training costs				0	200
	0	0	39,000	39,000	9,200

6. Paid employees		
Gross salaries and benefits in kind	135,630	127,157
Recovery from Methodist Church Fund arising from sick leave	-22,211	
Employer's national insurance cost	10,139	10,656
Pension costs	32,311	32,810
Apprentice levy	575	1,300
Total staff cost	156,444	171,923
Average number of staff	**5.3**	**5.4**

Administrative assistance is included in employment costs.

7. Grants and donations		
Grants accrued, not paid at 31.8.20		
Hatfield Road - a/v equipment	2,000	0
Ludwick Way - new boiler contribution	3,200	0
Panshanger - a/v/screen	500	0
Hatfield Road - family and youth worker £4,000 over 3 years	4,000	0
Shenley - balance of loan written off	5,780	0
Eastern Air Ambulance - in memory of Mrs Ann Huntingford	0	300
Contribution to church training costs	0	100
Contribution to sabbatical costs	0	100
	15,480	500

8. Transfers between funds	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	Total	Total
Transfer to fund manse related expenditure - Standing Order 917	25,000	-25,000		0	0
Chipmunk Chase alterations - balance funded by circuit	-236		236	0	0
	24,764	-25,000	236	0	0

9. Payment to Trustees		
Payments to trustees for additional services provided to the Circuit by agreement with the Circuit Meeting- in relation to administration services, including VAT	11,257	1,397
Number of trustees paid travel expenses and other sundry items	1	1
Total amount paid	11,257	1,397

10. Fees for examination of the accounts		
Independent examiner's fee for reporting on the accounts	950	1,000
Other fees	NIL	NIL

11 Tangible fixed assets	**2020**	**2019**
Manses, at estimated 2017 values		
41 Cubitts Close, Digswell	550,000	550,000
9 Allandale, St Albans	700,000	700,000
16 Gainsborough Avenue, St Albans	1,000,000	1,000,000
67 Baker Street, Potters Bar	900,000	900,000
8 Chipmunk Chase, Hatfield	590,000	590,000
	3,740,000	3,740,000

It should be noted that if a manse were to be sold a significant part of the proceeds may have to be paid to other bodies within the wider Methodist church. During 2019/20 the circuit received a district grant of £20,000 towards the cost of alterations at Chipmunk Chase. This grant may be reapayable if the manse is sold. It is considered the alterations will have no material affect of the value of the manse.

12. Current assets		
Debtors and prepayments		
Prepaid stipends	14,192	13,866
13 Loan		
Balance at 1.9.19	10,250	11,250
Repayments in year	-4,470	-1,000
Loan balance written off	-5,780	0
Balance at 31.8.20	0	10,250
14. Cash at bank		
CAF Bank	8,292	9,868
15. Current liabilities		
Assessments in advance	22,120	23,040
Grants accrued - due 2020/21	7,050	0
Other accruals	9,069	7,612
	38,239	30,652
16. Loans and creditors due after 1 year		
Hatfield Road - family and youth worker £4,000 over 3 years	2,650	0

17. Detailed analysis of individual fund movements

Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted Fund Name	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Closing Balance	Purpose of the fund
General	3,846,591	287,667	263,992	24,764	3,895,030	General circuit purposes
Circuit model trust fund	91,750	594	2,477	-25,000	64,867	Unrestricted
Totals	3,938,341	288,261	266,469	-236	3,959,897	

Restricted Funds

Restricted Fund Name	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Closing Balance	Purpose of the fund
District grants	0	39,000	39,236	236	0	See note 5

18. Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

The circuit has no capital commitments or contingent liabilities except as disclosed in the accounts

19 Related party transactions

Related party transactions are as disclosed in the accounts and notes.
The circuit also pays Hatfield Road MC £ 1,000 per year for the use of an office

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit

Appendix A

CIRCUIT MEETING MEMBERSHIP

MINISTERS

Revd Rosemary Fletcher
Revd Alison Facey
Revd Andrew Prout
Revd Bruce Anderson
Deacon Linda Kinchenton

ASSOCIATE MINISTERS

Revd Sue Stilwell
Revd Hayley Young

SUPERNUMERARY MINISTERS

Revd John Churcher
Revd Peter Hudson
Revd David Mullins
Revd Colin Rowe

LAYWORKERS

None

CIRCUIT STEWARDS

Peter Barlow	from 4.2.20
John Scott	
Angela Andrews	
Becky Apampa	
Louise Bourton	to 10.5.20
Guy Fenner	
John Robinson	to 16.1.20
Peter Wallace	

Circuit Local Preachers & Worship Leaders representatives

Stuart Johnson
Chris Hancock

Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Steve Matthews

Circuit Manses

Roger Wright

Mission and outreach representative

Helen Roberts

Methodist Women in Britain Secretary / Easter Offering

Jean Blight

CIRCUIT CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES

Birchwood Methodist Church
Brenda Collins
Valerie Chapman
Doris Crabtree

Digswell Village Church
Diana Holt
Mike Peacock
Jane Lewis

Hatfield Road Methodist Church
Denise Willingham
Eric Bridgstock
Joanna Rose
Chris Hancock

Ludwick Way Methodist Church
Tony Stubbs
Helen Roberts
Bob Cameron
Vince Gilbert

Marlborough Road Methodist Church
Jenny Evers
Carl Meredith
Jean Blight
Ann Scorer
Mike Scorer
Janis Gilbert

Oxlease Methodist Church
Hazel Laming
Pretty Nkiwane
Addy Olubajo

Panshanger Church
Louise Bowman
Stuart Johnson

Radlett Free Church
Diana Johnston
Tony Ostler
Shirley Herbert

St John's Methodist Church
Chris Humphreys
Robert Ward
David Best
David Bowler
Myra Sloper

Shenley Methodist Church
Yvonne Perry
Honey-Anne Greco
Tonino Greco
Louise Bourton

Journey Light
Chris Hancock

Name of Circuit St Albans and Welwyn No 34/13

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-based accounts for the year to 31 August 2020 ha
prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under th
of the Circuit meeting.

Signature of treasurer …….J Scott Date 2 March 2021

Name and address of treasurer : John Scott
26 College Street, St Albans AL3 4PN

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 202
were presented to the Circuit meeting held on 2 March 2021

Signature of the Chair of the meeting …….A Prout

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev'd A Prout Date 2 March 2021

Independent Examiner’s Report to the Trustees of the

St Albans and Welwyn Circuit

Charity Number: 1134370

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the St Albans and
Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2020 set out on pages 1 to 13. As the Circ
trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance
requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (‘the Act’).

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

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St Albans and Welwyn Circuit No 34/13

Independent Examiner's Statement

The Circuit's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

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

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

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

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

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

I have 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 .....C S Morris

Name of independent examiner ..... Christopher Morris

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner … Chartered Accountant

Name of firm … Newman Morris Ltd

Address Wellington House, 273-275 High Street, London Colney, Herts AL2 1HA

Date 08/02/21

* delete or circle as appropriate