

		<div><div>The Methodist Church</div><div>Annual Trustees Report for</div><div>Forest Methodist Circuit</div></div>		
		For the Year ended 31 st August 2024		

Forest Circuit	Circuit No.	35/33
-----------------------	--------------------	--------------

Registered Charity Registration Number	1134384
--	----------------

Circuit Superintendent Minister and Chair of Trustees	The Revd Michael Long
Circuit Ministers	Revd Oseias Da Silva
	Revd Sue Creighton
	Revd Stephanie Njeru

Circuit Stewards:	
	Florestine Corbett
	Eric Aidoo from 28 September 2023
	Samuel Ebdon to 31 July 2024
Circuit Meeting Secretary	Dallion Roye
Circuit Finance Group Convenor	Hannah Roberts
Circuit Finance Group	Martin Howarth
Circuit Finance Group	Graham Burgess

Forest Methodist Circuit - Trustees' Annual Report For the year ended 31st August 2024

Report Content

1	Reference and Administration Details
	List of the Charity Trustees
2	Objectives and Activities
	- Aims and Organisation
	- Forest Circuit Vision
	- Circuit Goals
3	Review of progress and Achievements in the year
	- The Annual Report
	- Future Plans
4	Financial Review
5	Reserves Policy
6	Structure, Governance and Management
	- Structure
	- Governance
	- Management
7	Related Parties
8	Public Benefit Requirement
9	Trustee Responsibilities
	- General Responsibilities
	- Financial Responsibilities
	- The Church Council
	- The Finance and Property Committee
10	Risk Management
11	Report Approval and signature

Attachments

12	Standard form of Accounts for the year and accompanying notes
	- Statement of Financial Activities
	- Balance sheet
	- Statement of cash flows
	- Notes to the accounts
	- Declarations and Scrutiny

Forest Methodist Circuit - Trustees' Annual Report For the year ended 31st August 2024

1. Reference and Administration Details

- 1.1. **The full name of the Charity is Forest Methodist Circuit. "Forest Circuit"**. The Forest Circuit is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission in England and Wales. The organisation's **Charity registration number is 1134384**
- 1.2. **The address of Forest Circuit for correspondence** is - 1 Chester Road, Wanstead, London E11 2JR. The name of the person to whom correspondence should be addressed is Revd Michael Long, the Circuit Superintendent.
- 1.3. **The Circuit's Bankers** are: Charity Aid Foundation Bank (CAF Bank) and the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church "CFB".
- 1.4. **Investments managed** by the Circuit are held by Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes "TMCP".
- 1.5. **Auditors**
Clay Ratnage Strevens & Hills were re-appointed as auditors at the Circuit Meeting in September 2024. They have been auditors for the Forest Circuit for 15 years, however a different partner of the firm now has responsibility for the Forest Circuit Audit.
- 1.6. **Disclosure of information to Auditors:**
As far as the trustees are aware:
 - there is no relevant information of which the charity's auditors are unaware; and
 - the trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.
- 1.7. **The Charity's Managing Trustees** are those members of the Circuit Meeting who have agreed to be the Trustees of the Forest Circuit. The membership of the Circuit Meeting is governed by the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church.

The Forest Circuit Trustees that served during the year are listed below:

Forest Methodist Circuit - Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31st August 2024

Trustees of the Circuit	Date Retired as Trustee	Appointed since 1 September 2023
Revd Oseias da Silva		
Revd Sue Creighton		
Revd Michael Long		
Revd Stephanie Njeru		
Revd Jongikaya Zihle		
Revd Armstrong Fummey		
Dallion Roye		15/01/24
Florestine Corbett		
Janet Tweedale		
Graham Burgess		
Gary Ian Marshall		
Martin Howarth		
Sharon Heather		
Stephen Murray		
Loyl Marcia Brandt		
Elvena Bernita Brumant		
Leslie Stowe		
Pat Evans		
Hannah Roberts		
Carole Merriman		
Jean Norton		
Hazel Mathews		
Pat Ovenden		
Kathleen Poole		
Michael Higgins	31/08/24	
Andronica Mugombe		
Phyllis Lloyd		
Millicent Freeman		
Jojo N Monney		
Eunice Edwards		
Stella Heskey		
Samuel Ebdon	31/07/24	
Eric Aidoo		

Forest Methodist Circuit - Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31st August 2024

2. Objectives and Activities

2.1. Aims and organisation

The aims of the Circuit meeting through its officers are to:

- to secure and sustain the Circuit's viability and future
- to give assurance to the general public that the Circuit, which is a charity intends to use all of the money coming into its care for the purpose of the charity.

2.2. The Forest Circuit Vision

The Circuit's current mission statement is "The Forest Circuit is committed to further God's Kingdom by enabling and supporting the local churches in the growth of their discipleship and mission; resourcing local churches under the power of the Holy Spirit to function as effective worship, witness and community wellbeing".

The circuit achieves this by holding the following values in all its dealings with individuals, communities, local and national authorities, other charities and businesses.

- Worship: Attributing worth to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Bible knowledge: Engaging with the scriptures in our daily lives
- Serving the community: concern and help for the needs of the local community
- Diversity and cultural relevance: maintaining the rich diversity of the churches and circuit and communicating the Gospel effectively
- Empowered laity: Recognising the ministry of the whole people of God
- Safeguarding: Creating safer spaces for all including children and vulnerable adults
- Quest for a just world: Actively working for peace with justice

The Vision, its wording and Implementation shall be reviewed annually. It provides for the:

- ministerial oversight and pastoral care of the local churches in the circuit
- the support of a ministry team of presbyteral ministers and supernumerary ministers
- and the maintenance of manses and other property in the trusteeship of the Circuit

2.3. Circuit Goals

The principal purpose of the circuit is to act as a supporting body between Churches and the District and Connexion. The circuit does not seek and in large measure, does not attain direct contact with the public. The direct contact is by the Churches. It is these that the circuit supports in their desire to provide benefit to the public

3. Review of Progress and Achievements

3.1. Forest Circuit Annual Report

In September 2023, the Circuit **welcomed the new Circuit Superintendent** Revd Michael Long. Under his leadership the Forest Circuit began reviewing the next steps for the Circuit, in considering the implementation of the Circuit's Mission and Strategy, the use of Circuit Property and the roles needed to support the Circuit for the future. Awaydays were held allowing the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) to explore this area.

Forest Methodist Circuit - Trustees' Annual Report For the year ended 31st August 2024

The use of the closed church buildings was explored. For the short term, agreements and licences were established with churches of other denominations ensuring continued use of the buildings and assisting with the upkeep costs. This gives more time for consideration of the longer term future for the buildings. The management, maintenance and compliance of the buildings was the responsibility of the Circuit Property manager. He established a Minor Works agreement with a contractor enabling a quicker response for small jobs at a discounted cost. This was agreed by the Circuit Meeting.

The Circuit Property Manager, Reinart Van Zyl, gave notice in March that he would be leaving the Circuit in July 2024 to emigrate. The Circuit was grateful for his work in the year. The long notice period he gave allowed the Circuit more time to reconsider the role. A known contractor was engaged for a short term giving the Circuit time to rethink the operational support roles needed.

The Circuit meeting agreed that the Circuit's residential property on the Ridgeway would not be needed as a manse and should be let. The cost of preparing the property for letting could be expected to be covered in under 18 months.

Revd Armstrong Fummey was appointed to provide pastoral oversight for South Chingford till Aug 2025. Revd Oseias Da Silva used part of his sabbatical to continue walking the Pilgram way Santiago Compostela, exploring solitude and a retreat focused on crossroads.

Grants were awarded to Loughton and Lighthouse from the newly established John Millar fund focusing on hospitality, catering and outreach.

Training made available in the year covered; Safeguarding; Equality, Diversity and Inclusion; and finance awareness and governance in the methodist church.

The Circuit had a successful and uplifting May with two Circuit Events. The first on the 19th May brought the Circuit churches together for a meal and Pentecost Celebration. The second on the 25th May was a Circuit trip to Epworth to the Wesley Memorial Methodist church.

3.2. Future Plans

Following the Circuit Invitation Committee Consultation, Revd Stephanie Njeru was reinvited for a further two years. After 12 years in the Forest Circuit, Revd Oseias da Silva would be seeking restationing, and would be leaving the Forest Circuit in July 2025.

10 young people from the Circuit were expected to attend the Re-Gen weekend at the NEC in Birmingham.

A new role of Operations Manager was advertised in the autumn of 2024. David Bishop would take up the role in December 2024. Following a period familiarisation with the Circuit and their churches, David would initially focus on property related matters then begin to take responsibility for financial operations.

2 organisations had expressed interest in long term use of the Circuit managed church buildings. Consultations would be held to explore further these options.

4. Financial Review

Total Income in the year was £360,435. The General fund income was £299,193 of which £266,290 was due from church assessments. Investment properties income was £23,232 from the net rental

Forest Methodist Circuit - Trustees' Annual Report For the year ended 31st August 2024

of the Hollywood Way and £8,540 was received from Church lettings. Other miscellaneous irregular income amounted to £3,042. Interest received was £59,331 from accounts at CFB and TMCP. All churches were able to pay the year's assessment by the end of the year. In addition, the outstanding debt from churches was reduced from £55,703 to £54,257.

The total expenditure in the year was £580,184. The General fund expenditure was £337,471 giving a net deficit for the fund of £38,278. This general fund deficit was not unexpected. The budget for the year had included a subsidy from reserves to reduce the total assessments requested of churches.

In addition to the £22,322 Manse repairs and maintenance from the General Fund, £36,956 was spent in the year on the Church Buildings managed by the Circuit and £43,947 on the residential property managed and let or to be let by the Circuit.

Grants were made to Lighthouse MC from the John Millar Fund towards their kitchen refurbishment project.

The Circuit has insufficient regular income to cover the cost of additional Lay staff. Increasing the Income from Assessments is not possible at this time. Under Standing order 917, Model Trust Funds can be used to support the personnel serving in the circuit. Employment is a commitment. Therefore funds were drawn down to ensure such funds will be available to pay employed staff salaries, expenses etc. till approximately 2027. £80,801 was used from this fund in the year

North Chingford assets were incorporated into the Circuit Accounts as of 1st September 2023. £12,677 in cash and the approximate value of the building £2,785,250 into capital. These amounts were moved to a designated fund relating to the North Chingford property.

There are still churches in the Circuit with significant financial challenges, which will be exacerbated by much increased utility bills in the coming year. The Circuit is a vehicle for the group of churches to operate together to benefit from shared activity and costs. A failing church impacts all other churches in the Circuit. Circuit Trustees must be mindful of the financial position of individual churches in the circuit as well as the Forest Circuit itself.

5. Reserves Policy and Level

5.1. Reserves Policy

The Circuit needs to maintain a current assets operating reserve approximately equal to six months of annual expenditure in order to allow for any urgent work to its Manses and pay ministers stipends, should Circuit income be impacted. A commitment has also been made from Capital Reserves to pay the salary and expenses of two lay workers for the Circuit till approximately 2027. This is shown in a separate designated fund.

The Forest Circuit is required to provide a manse for each minister stationed in the Circuit as a base for work as well as home. Such manses satisfy the accommodation guidelines in CPD Book VII Part 2. The value of these properties are shown as fixed assets in a designated fund. The Circuit has also taken responsibility for the buildings of Wanstead Methodist Church and North Chingford Methodist church. The future of the buildings is yet to be decided.

5.2. Explanation and reserves level

Fixed Assets: (Designated)

The Circuit currently has six residential properties. Four of the properties are used as manses for ministers stationed in the Circuit. One property is let, and another property is being

Forest Methodist Circuit - Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31st August 2024

prepared for letting. Total value of the residential properties used as manses is £3,295,000. The value of the properties being let is £1,475,000. The church buildings of Wanstead Methodist Church, and North Chingford are valued at £5,571,250.

The total Circuit unrestricted current assets amount to £1,125,945. This includes: £54,257 of debts due from Circuits which are being paid off over a number of years; £339,984 designated to pay the salary & expenses of lay pastoral workers till approximately 2027; and a legacy of £157,552 designated for mission grants. This leaves £574,152 This is well in excess of twelve months reserves.

Restricted fund

The Circuit's Benevolent fund is the only restricted fund at the end of the year.

6. Structure, governance and Management

6.1. Structure

Forest Circuit is an unincorporated association and is governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976, the deed of Union and the Model Trust Deeds of the Methodist Church. It is a charity, registered with the Charity Commission on the 18th February 2010. It is part of the London District of the Methodist Church. Overall regulatory authority rests with the Methodist Conference. There are nine local churches in the Forest Circuit.

Circuits are the coordinating charities for local groups of churches. Circuits pay the stipends of the ministers and circuit employed lay staff to serve the churches in the circuit. Decisions are made at or ratified by the Circuit Meetings. A District is the coordinating charity for a group of contiguous circuits and makes its decisions at half yearly synods.

Overall regulatory authority rests with the Methodist Conference. The Connexional office implements decisions made by Conference and is also responsible for the stationing of presbyters and deacons (collectively known as ministers) in individual Circuits within the District.

Connexional decisions are passed to the Chair of the Districts and the appropriate officers of the District for implementation.

The District delegates authority to the Circuit Meeting for local implementation by the Superintendent Minister, Ministerial staff and Circuit Stewards.

The Circuit Meeting passes regulatory control down to Church Councils for local implementation by the presbyter, the Church Stewards, and other officers, and this regulatory authority is then exercised by church councils as Managing Trustees of their charity.

6.2. Purpose of the Circuit

The Circuit is an expression, over a lesser geographical area than a District, of the Connexional character of the Methodist Church. The purposes of the Methodist church are and shall be deemed to have been since the date of the union the advancement of:

- the Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church,
- any charitable purposes for the time being of any connexional, District, Circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church,

Forest Methodist Circuit - Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31st August 2024

- any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church,
- any purpose for the time being of any charity being a subsidiary or ancillary of the Methodist Church
 - providing opportunities for Churches to work together and support each other
 - offering to Churches, resource of finance, personnel and expertise.

The District serves the Local churches and Circuits and the Conference in the support, development and oversight of the various ministries of the church, and in programmes of training.

6.3. Governance

The Forest Circuit operates within a statutory framework of regulation and seeks to ensure that it follows Methodist Standing Orders. It relies on the London District, the Connexional Office and the Charity Commission to provide guidance on changes that could affect the Forest Circuit.

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

The Circuit Meeting is the trustee body, and consists of office holders and representatives of the local churches within the Circuit who are all annually appointed by Church Councils. The Circuit Superintendent is ex officio chair of the Circuit Meeting

6.4. Management

Day to day management of the Forest Circuit, between Forest Circuit Meetings is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team (CLT), supported by the Circuit Finance Group. The Local Preachers meeting exercises oversight over those authorised to lead worship. The CLT act on behalf of the Forest Circuit Meeting between Circuit Meetings. The CLT is appointed by the Forest Circuit Meeting and consists of the Ministerial and Lay staff, Circuit Stewards and members of the Circuit Finance Group.

7. Related Parties

The Forest Methodist Circuit is part of the London District of the Methodist church and is therefore accountable to the Methodist Conference. The churches in the Forest Circuit are listed in note 2 of the accounts.

The Forest Circuit's main source of funding is the assessments obtained from each church within the Circuit. The assessments are used to defray the cost of administering the Circuit and to pay the contributions to the expenses of the London Methodist District and to the Methodist Church Fund i.e. the Methodist Connexion.

The approach to calculating each Church's contributions to the Circuit is also discussed in Note 2 of the accounts.

8. Public Benefit Requirement

The trustees had due regard to the guidance published by the Charities Commission in compliance with its duties under section 4 of the Charities Act 2011. This guidance sets out two key principles:

- The organisation must have an identifiable benefit.

Forest Methodist Circuit - Trustees' Annual Report For the year ended 31st August 2024

- The benefit must be to the public or a section of the public.

The church exists to:

- increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love;
- help people to learn and grow as Christians, through mutual support and care; and
- be a good neighbour to people in need and challenge injustice.

The trustees consider that for these reasons the charity meets these public benefit requirements.

9. Circuit Trustee Responsibilities

9.1. General Responsibilities Include:

- formulation and promotion of policies which will advance the mission of the Forest Circuit of the Methodist Church in the local Churches in the circuit, in particular, to supervise the use of resources of personnel, property and finance and to assist Local Churches which have exceptional problems,
- encouragement of ecumenical co-operation
- keeping within its purview all Church concerns not dealt with elsewhere,
- constantly being aware of the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission

9.2. Financial Responsibilities include:

- a) ensuring that sufficient accounting records are kept which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Forest Methodist Circuit and enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the law and Standing Orders of the Methodist Church.
- b) safeguarding the assets of the Church and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.
- c) ensuring financial statements are prepared for each financial year ending 31st August, that give a true and fair view of the Church's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees must:

- a) select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- b) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- c) ensure accounts comply with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP);
- d) follow applicable accounting standards subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts
- e) prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.
- f) be aware that the stipend of the Ministers stationed in the Circuit is set by the Methodist Conference – currently by reference to the change over a year in the Consumer Price Index and to the annual change in the Average Weekly Earnings Index – using a formula that was agreed by the Methodist Conference for all ministers within the Connexion

Forest Methodist Circuit - Trustees' Annual Report For the year ended 31st August 2024

9.3. The Forest Circuit Meeting

The Forest Circuit Meeting meets at least twice times a year to deal with routine and exceptional matters. It seeks to think strategically about the work of the Church and carry out administrative matters. Its key functions have been:

- a) to encourage the Circuit to consider its Vision, and enable it to achieve its Goals
- b) to monitor the life and mission of the whole Circuit
- c) to identify and advocate strategic policy directions
- d) to oversee formal authorisations and approvals
- e) to ensure essential appointments are made and compliances met

9.4. The Circuit Leadership Team

The Circuit Leadership Team, have been authorised by the Circuit Meeting to act in an executive capacity in matters requiring action and decision between meetings of the Circuit Trustees / Circuit Meetings.

10. Risk Management

The Circuit Meeting considers the various risks facing the circuit and the impact and the likelihood of issues occurring. Guidance is received from the London District of the Methodist Church and th Methodist connexion. The headings under which the risks are being categorised include:

- a) Safeguarding Risks
- b) Governance Risks including Trustees' Responsibilities
- c) Financial Risks
- d) Operational Risks including Resources, People and Property
- e) External Risks and Legal Risks

11. Report Approval

The report was approved by the trustees on ^{24/6/2025}..... and signed on their behalf by

Michael JH Long
.....

Revd Michael Long

Forest Circuit Superintendent Minister and Chair of Trustees

FOREST METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Reserves, & Investment Funds (Designated)	Lay Workers Fund (Designated)	Manse / Church Valuation (Designated)	Circuit Benevolent fund (Restricted)	Total 2023-24	Total 2022-23
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources								
1 Donations & Legacies	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	250,276
2 Interest and Investment Income	4	32,741	26,590	-	-	-	59,331	36,650
3 Rent / Lettings Received	4	-	31,772	-	-	-	31,772	23,232
4 Assessment on Churches	2	266,290	-	-	-	-	266,290	273,213
6 Capital Receipts		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7 Grants received (E.g. from DAF)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8 Other income (Closed church)	5	162	2,880	-	-	-	3,042	1,764
9 Total Incoming Resources		299,193	61,242	-	-	-	360,435	585,135
10 Resources Expended								
11 Grants and Donations	6	885	50,000	-	-	-	50,885	65,950
12 Salaries and associated costs	7	184,324	-	79,689	-	-	264,013	212,379
13 Property (incl Ins., C tax, utilities etc)	8	40,862	80,903	-	-	-	121,765	79,580
14 Connexional Assessment & CPF Levy		70,736	-	-	-	-	70,736	64,884
15 District Assessment & DAF Levy		11,900	29,553	-	-	-	41,453	69,131
16 Depreciation		471	-	-	-	-	471	470
17 Office Expenses incl Investment Management costs(Admin., tel. travel	9	18,383	1,456	1,112	-	-	20,951	18,270
18 Other Expenditure (incl admin fees)	10	5,110	-	-	-	-	5,110	15,208
19 Accountancy & Audit	11	4,800	-	-	-	-	4,800	4,687
20 Capital Expended		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21 Total Resources Expended		337,471	161,912	80,801	-	-	580,184	530,559
22 Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources		(38,278)	(100,670)	(80,801)	-	-	(219,749)	54,576
23 Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24 Sub Total		(38,278)	(100,670)	(80,801)	-	-	(219,749)	54,576
25 Gains/(losses) on disposal of Manse		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
26 Gains/(losses) on revaln fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
27 Gains/(losses): on investment assets		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
28 Net investment in funds		(38,278)	(100,670)	(80,801)	-	-	(219,749)	54,576
29 Transfer of Balances to the Circuit from North Chingford Methodist Church		-	12,677	-	2,785,250	-	2,797,927	2,805,265
30 Total funds brought forward from last year		144,281	690,203	420,785	7,556,000	232	8,811,501	5,951,660
31 Total funds carried forward at end of year		106,003	602,210	339,984	10,341,250	232	11,389,679	8,811,501

For information only: Money received and passed on to External Organisations

Balance brought forward from last year

Offerings/Gifts - received for External Organisations

Offerings/Gifts - passed to External Organisations

Balance still to be paid

-	2,187
850	-
850	2,187
-	-

The notes on the following pages form part of these accounts.

FOREST METHODIST CIRCUIT

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Reserves Funds (Designated)	Lay Workers Fund (Designated)	Property Valuation (Designated)	Circuit Benevolent fund (Restricted)	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£		£	£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets								
Manse and other property	13	-	-	-	3,295,000	-	3,295,000	3,295,471
Investment properties	13	-	-	-	7,046,250	-	7,046,250	4,261,000
Investments with TMCP		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total fixed assets		-	-	-	10,341,250	-	10,341,250	7,556,471
Current Assets								
Debtors and Prepayments	14	72,522	-	-	-	-	72,522	82,432
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes - Interest Accounts	15	-	474,276	-	-	-	474,276	515,737
Central Finance Board Deposits	16	75,200	132,934	339,984	-	-	548,118	740,445
Cash at Bank and in hand	16	31,029	-	-	-	232	31,261	35,104
Total current assets		178,751	607,210	339,984	-	232	1,126,177	1,373,718
Current Liabilities								
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	17	72,748	5,000	-	-	-	77,748	118,688
		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total current liabilities		72,748	5,000	-	-	-	77,748	118,688
Net current (liabilities)/assets		106,003	602,210	339,984	-	232	1,048,429	1,255,030
Total assets less current liabilities		106,003	602,210	339,984	10,341,250	232	11,389,679	8,811,501
Long term liabilities								
liabilities due after 1 year		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net assets		106,003	602,210	339,984	10,341,250	232	11,389,679	8,811,501
Funds of the Circuit								
General Fund (Unrestricted)	21	106,003					106,003	144,281
Reserves & Projects (Designated)			602,210	339,984			942,194	1,110,988
Manse fund (Designated)					10,341,250		10,341,250	7,556,000
Total Unrestricted funds							11,389,447	8,811,269
Benevolent Fund (Restricted)						232	232	232
Total Funds		106,003	602,210	339,984	10,341,250	232	11,389,679	8,811,501

The Notes on pages 15 to 25 form part of these accounts.

Michael M Long

Rev'd Mike Long
Circuit Superintendent and Chair of Trustees

FOREST METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Total Funds	Prior year funds
	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	2,578,178	2,859,841
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	471	470
(Gains)/losses on investments and fixed asset revaluation	-	-
Dividends, Interest and rents from investments	(91,103)	(59,882)
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets	-	
Property transferred to Circuit	(2,785,250)	(2,786,000)
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	-	-
Decrease in debtors	9,910	1,260
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(40,940)	60,080
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	(328,734)	75,769
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	91,103	59,882
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant & equipment		-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	-	-
Proceeds from sale of investments	-	-
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	91,103	59,882
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Repayment of borrowing	-	-
Cash inflows from new borrowing	-	-
Receipt of endowment	-	-
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	-	-
Change in Cash and Cash equivalents in the reporting period	(237,631)	135,651
Cash and Cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	1,291,286	1,155,635
Change in Cash and Cash equivalents due to exchange rate movements	-	-
Cash and Cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	1,053,655	1,291,286
Cash in hand (at bank,- HSBC,CFB, TMCP)	1,053,655	1,291,286
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	-	-
Overdraft repayable on demand	-	-
Total cash and equivalents	1,053,655	1,291,286

FOREST METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting framework and accounting policies

i Accounting framework

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

ii Public benefit entity

The circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes(s) below.

iii Basis

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s) below.

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that investments and land and buildings are shown at their market value at the end of the year, and grants committed , but not paid are provided on the accruals basis to show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

iv Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

v Going concern

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

vi Consolidation

The Circuit oversees the work of ministers and lay workers in Churches within the Circuit, but does not have control over those Churches, except in accordance with standing orders of the Methodist church 1932 Act, none of which were applicable. For this reason, the financial statements of the Churches within the Circuit are not consolidated into these financial statements.

vii Income recognition

Income is brought into account when it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will accrue to the Circuit. No attempt is made to measure the value of services donated by volunteers.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the time of volunteers is not recognised.

viii Expenditure

This is 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 economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the Circuit to pay out resources.

FOREST METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

ix Grants

Grants are recognised annually only as and when any performance conditions attaching to the award are met, even when the award is for a recurrent grant over more than one year . All grants awarded for payment in future financial years are conditional on the Grants committee being satisfied, on the basis of progress reports from the grantee, that the grants achievements to date justify the payment of further instalments of that grant. such commitments are noted as contingent liabilities and included within the circuit advance fund or other relevant designated fund in these accounts.

x VAT

Since the Circuit is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged with the expenses to which it refers.

xi Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least **£500**.

The freehold properties are shown in the accounts at market valuation at the end of the financial year. Investment properties are stated at fair value. Any realised or unrealised gains or losses are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities.

xii Investment Policy

The investment of surplus funds is operated through the Central Finance Board (CFB) of the Methodist Church. CFB aims to provide a high quality investment service seeking above average returns for long term investors, whilst ensuring that the securities held by all its funds are in line with the ethical policy of the Methodist Church. The Circuit has its funds in a deposit account with CFB and in Trust funds managed by Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP). TMCP funds are also invested with CFB.

xiii Debtors and creditors; bank and cash

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the Circuit or prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any trade discounts, where normal credit terms apply, or amount advanced to the Circuit. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds of bank balances and deposit account balances are shown at the realisable values.

xiv Loans

Where concessionary loans (*i.e.*, free of interest) are made to (or received by) the Circuit to further its charitable purposes, and are repayable after more than one year, they are initially recognised at the amount paid [or received], with the carrying value adjusted in subsequent years to reflect repayments and any accrued interest, adjusted for any impairment, if necessary.

Where there is objective evidence of impairment, an immediate impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities. Subsequent reversals of an impairment loss that objectively relate to an event occurring after the impairment loss was recognised, are recognised immediately in the Statement of Financial Activities.

xv Ministers' manse costs

The Circuit is required to provide accommodation for each Minister and his / her family. The Circuit bears the cost of repairs, maintenance, building insurance, Council Tax and water charges. These costs are not shown separately as benefits-in-kind for Ministers as HMRC does not seek to tax these receipts in the hands of the Ministers.

FOREST METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

2 Assessment from Churches

Forest Circuit assessments due from Churches to the Circuit for the year were as follows. The Circuit Finance Group continued to review the method of apportionment of the assessments across churches in the circuit and make recommendations for changes.

<u>Church Name</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2022-23</u>
Cann Hall	18,137	16,782
Leytonstone	26,019	32,954
Leyton Trinity	18,637	22,055
Lighthouse	17,911	15,635
Loughton (incorporating Trinity Debden since Sept 2020)	75,333	71,594
Shern Hall	42,165	39,610
South Chingford	20,696	18,274
Winchester Road	36,460	32,842
Woodford	10,932	9,322
North Chingford	-	14,145
	<u>266,290</u>	<u>273,213</u>

An assessment apportionment was drafted in line with previous calculations. i.e. using factors, such as church capita, and a factor to reflect a church's ability to pay. The ability to pay factor being based on a church's total funds as a percentage of the combined churches' total funds. The draft assessments were circulated to church treasurers for discussion following which some basis figures were received, updated and the figures recirculated. These adjusted figures were proposed and agreed at the Circuit Meeting.

It was stated that if sufficient income was not received from interest or letting of the vacant properties, the circuit would again need to use the capital obtained from the residential properties sold in recent years. An estimate of £40,000 was accepted, on the understanding that this was not sustainable.

3 Donations Received

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2022-23</u>
John Millar Legacy	-	250,276
Total Donations & legacies	<u>-</u>	<u>250,276</u>

4 Interest & Investment Income

The Circuit currently holds no investments.

Funds are held on deposit at CFB, either directly or through a model Trust fund held at TMCP.

4.1 Interest Received

	<u>Fund Type</u>	<u>Held at</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2022-23</u>
General Fund	U	CAF&CFB	32,741	12,668
Forest Circuit Model Trust Fund	U	TMCP	26,113	23,982
Wanstead Accounts before amalgamation		TMCP & CFB	302	-
North Chingford Accounts before amalgamation		CFB & CAF	175	-
Total Interest & Investment Income			<u>59,331</u>	<u>36,650</u>

FOREST METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

4.2 Income from investment Properties

	<u>Gross</u>	<u>Agents Fees</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2022-23</u>
Residential Property Rental				
Hollywood Way	26,400	-3,168	23,232	23,232
Total Residential Property Income			23,232	23,232
Lettings at Circuit Church buildings				
Wanstead			6,740	-
North Chingford			1,800	-
Total Circuit Church buildings			8,540	-
Total Circuit Investment Property Income			31,772	23,232

5 Other Income

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2022-23</u>
Circuit Service	162	-
Offerings / Tax claim re Wanstead	465	1,764
Offerings / Tax claim re N Chingford	2,415	-
	3,042	1,764

6 Grants, donations and related Support costs

Grants and donations were made in the year as shown below:

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2022-23</u>
<u>Grants from Circuit Model Trust Fund</u>		
Loughton (from John Millar Fund - for Café refurbishment)	-	50,000
Lighthouse (from John Millar Fund - for Kitchen)	50,000	
Lighthouse (from Circuit Funds - for Heating & repairs)	-	15,000
Total Grants from Model Trust fund Reserves	50,000	65,000
 Benevolent Fund Grants	-	500
Donations / Gifts	885	450
Total	50,885	65,950

FOREST METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

7	Salaries and associated costs	2023-24	2022-23
	Gross Stipends Paid - 4.15 ministers	124,075	115,969
	Employer's National Insurance contribution	11,579	10,552
	Employer's pension contribution to defined contribution scheme	31,247	29,541
	Stipend apprenticeship Levy & P11D charge	1,108	534
	Lay Staff Gross Pay (Part time Administrator, Pastoral worker Full time, Property & Facilities manager Full time to July)	81,194	48,979
	Employer's National Insurance contribution re Lay Staff	7,373	4,123
	Employer's pension contribution re Lay staff	6,544	1,951
	Payroll administration charge and apprenticeship Levy for lay staff	893	730
	Total cost	264,013	212,379

The Superintendent Minister and Ministers Stationed in the Circuit are paid a stipend, pension and expenses by the Circuit. This Stipend is that agreed annually by the Conference of the Methodist Church.

No employees received employee benefits that totalled more than £60,000. There is no accrual for holiday pay as it is immaterial; the holiday year ends on 31 August. All staff are paid at or above the living wage.

No accrual is made for ministers sabbaticals as their functions are undertaken by other ministers and delegated lay persons in the Churches and Circuit at minimal extra cost to the Circuit.

It should be noted that the Ministers stationed in the Circuit are required to occupy the Circuit manses. The council tax and water charges for the manses occupied by ministers are paid by the Circuit. HMRC does not regard this as a taxable benefit to the minister.

Ministers stipends and expenses are paid from the general fund, which is funded principally from assessments. Lay staff salaries and expenses are paid from a designated fund drawn from Capital reserves at the point the roles were initially agreed. This fund will need to be reviewed every few years to ensure sufficient funds are in place to pay lay staff for the coming years.

Payment to Trustees

The Methodist Ministers stationed in the Forest Circuit are included as trustees of the Circuit.

It is Circuit Policy to offer to reimburse local preachers and others involved in the administration of Circuit affairs for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties.

Pensions

Most ordained presbyters and deacons are members of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS). This is a defined benefit scheme. The Supreme Court held in 2014 that Methodist ministers (which term includes presbyters and deacons) are not employees of the Church. For simplicity, however, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions and pension contributions, the terms 'employer' and 'employee' are used as they would be in an employing body. The Connexion accounts for the MMPS schemes and shows the figures in the annual Methodist Church in Great Britain accounts.

Lay staff are enrolled in the TPT Retirement Solutions Pension Scheme. The Circuit's contribution is 6% of salary.

8	Property costs	2023-24	2022-23
	<u>Operational Property (Manse) Costs</u>		
	Repairs, Maintenance, checks and renewals	22,322	15,862
	Insurance and Utilities	7,267	6,758
	Council tax	11,273	12,644
	Professional Fees and Survey costs	-	2,505
	Manse Renovation costs (from Reserves)	-	31,537
	Total	40,862	69,306

FOREST METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

8	Property costs cont			2023-24	2022-23
	<u>Investment Property Costs</u>			<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Church Buildings</u>	<u>Wanstead</u>	<u>North Chingford</u>		
	Utilities & Fire Extinguishers	2,640	1,450	4,090	4,213
	Insurance	3,767	12,089	15,856	3,901
	Cleaning	1,471	1,269	2,740	667
	Professional Fees - surveys	650	650	1,300	-
	Repairs, Maintenance	6,923	70	6,993	970
	Other, e.g. Clearing	2,275	3,702	5,977	523
	Total Expenditure	17,726	19,230	36,956	10,274
	<u>Residential Properties</u>	<u>Hollywood Way</u>	<u>The Ridgeway</u>		
	Utilities & Fire Extinguishers		786	786	
	Council tax		3,055	3,055	
	Professional Fees - surveys		525	525	
	Repairs, Maintenance	7,958	31,344	39,302	
	Other, e.g. Clearing		279	279	
		7,958	35,989	43,947	
	Total Circuit Property costs			121,765	79,580
9	Office expenses & investment management fees			2023-24	2022-23
	<u>Office expenses & other ministerial costs</u>				
	Printing, postage and stationery			4,288	3,487
	Telephones & Broadband			6,894	6,470
	Travel & Parking			4,948	3,295
	Ministerial Worship Resources & Support			2,253	2,642
				18,383	15,894
	Lay staff Expenses			1,112	-
	Total			19,495	15,894
	<u>Investment management</u>				
	During the year the Circuit paid the following amounts to TMCP as custodians of the Trust Funds				
	Circuit Model Trust Fund			1,456	2,376
	Total			1,456	2,376
	<u>Office expenses & other ministerial costs</u>			Total	Total
				20,951	18,270
10	Other Expenditure			2023-24	2022-23
	<u>General Fund (U) Other items</u>				
	Training & Special Activities, e.g. Epworth visit, Pentecost celebrations,			705	357
	Preachers fees and expenses			2,474	1,023
	Youth Work			500	350
	Health checks			765	-
	Bank charges & Auditor's letter			74	74
	Sundries (Website hosting, job advets,etc.)			592	1,592
	Removal Costs			-	11,812
	Total			5,110	15,208
	Total Other Expenditure & Training			5,110	15,208
11	Fees for Accountancy and Audit of the Accounts			2023-24	2022-23
	Auditor's Fee			2,400	2,351
	Other Fees (e.g. accountancy services)			2,400	2,336
				4,800	4,687

FOREST METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

12 Manse Valuations

All Manses and churches were professionally revalued at the end of August 2020.

A review has been initiated to provide an updated professional market valuation of properties to reflect in the annual accounts next year and to provide a more accurate rebuild cost for insurance cover.

13 Tangible Fixed assets

	Manse Property	Investment Property	Total Land & Buildings	Equipment & Software	Furniture	Total Other Property	Total Assets
Cost or Valuation	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance at 31st Aug 2023	3,295,000	4,261,000	7,556,000	11,247	-	11,247	7,567,247
Additions in the year (N. Chingford)	-	2,785,250	2,785,250	-	-	-	2,785,250
revaluations in the year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
less: disposals in year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers between categories	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31st Aug 2024	3,295,000	7,046,250	10,341,250	11,247	-	11,247	10,352,497
Accumulated depreciation							
	Manse Property	Investment Property	Total Land & Buildings	Equipment & Software	Furniture	Total Other Property	Total
Changes	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance at 31st Aug 2023	-	-	-	10,776	-	10,776	10,776
Depreciation charge for the year	-	-	-	471	-	471	471
revaluations in the year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
less: disposals in year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31st Aug 2024	-	-	-	11,247	-	11,247	11,247

NB: Years over which value is depreciated

3 3

Net Value

	Manse Property	Investment Property	Total Land & Buildings	Equipment	Furniture	Total Other Property	Total
		£	£	£	£		£
Balance at 31st Aug 2023	3,295,000	4,261,000	7,556,000	471	-	471	7,556,471
Balance at 31st Aug 2024	3,295,000	7,046,250	10,341,250	-	-	-	10,341,250

Two residential properties are no longer needed as Manses.

- Hollywood Way Property - this is already rented out

- The Ridgeway Property - It has taken some time to prepare the property for rental. A tenant took up occupation in November 2024.

These two properties are included in the Property investment Fund

£1,475,000

Wanstead church has been under the responsibility of the Forest Circuit since 1st September 2022.

£2,786,000

North Chingford church closed for worship and the building came under the responsibility of the Forest Circuit on 1st September 2023.

The North Chingford property Valuation has been added to the Investment Fund.

£2,785,250

The long term use of these church buildings is as yet undecided. In the meantime the buildings are let to various organisations. Also a fellowship group meet at Wanstead

FOREST METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

14 Debtors and prepayments

Not all sums shown as debtors at the start of the year, 1st September, were received during the year. A few churches had outstanding assessments, but these have reduced during the year.

		<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2022-23</u>
		£	£
Amount outstanding from churches at Year End			
Leyton (Trinity)	Assessments	9,917	11,361
Lighthouse	Assessments & other item	44,340	44,342
Total		54,257	55,703

Leyton Trinity aim to repay the amount owed to the Circuit - by £3,000 per year till 2026.

Lighthouse aim to pay the amount owed to the Circuit by approx £3,366/ per year over 15 years from 2023.

Prepayments and accrued income

Council tax & Utilities	3,852	5,927
Stipend	14,413	13,526
Other sundry debtors, e.g. remaining John Millar Payment	-	7,276
Total	18,265	26,729
Total	72,522	82,432

15 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

TMCP is the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property and assets, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds. Trust property is held for and on behalf of local Managing Trustees who are responsible for the day to day management of trust property. TMCP provide guidance and require the circuits to act under TMCP direction. Thereby Managing Trustees will comply with charity law and Methodist law and policy as determined by the Methodist Conference.

Before the start of the year, the Forest Circuit had responsibility for: 2 residential properties, which are now rented out; and the Wanstead Church building, which is periodically let.

In September 2023 the Circuit Trustees took responsibility for North Chingford Methodist Church building after the Church ceased to worship. A decision is yet to be made on what to do with the building. While possibilities are being explored, the building is being let to a church from another organisation.

16 Central Finance Board (CFB) and cash at banks

The Circuit carries out most of its business through its CAF Bank account (Charities Aid Foundation), which was opened in October 2020. The account with CAF bank facilitates online banking with dual authorisation. CAF is an authorised institution. The sums held on the account are immediately available.

In taking responsibility for the Assets of Wanstead Methodist Church and North Chingford Methodist Church, their accounts at HSBC, CFB, TMCP and Barclays are transferred on to the Circuit Balance Sheet. The balances in these accounts have been transferred into the Circuit bank accounts and the accounts of Wanstead and North Chingford Churches closed.

The Circuit has a deposit account at CFB. Interest earned on this account is credited monthly; the sums deposited can be withdrawn without notice and without loss of interest.

FOREST METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

17 Creditors and accrued expenses

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2022-23</u>
	£	£
Creditors:		
Other Creditors unpaid as at EOY		
Audit & accountancy Fees & bank audit letter	4,815	4,701
Expenses reimbursement	2,493	5,797
Property related expenses	6,853	-
Pension Back payments	1,770	210
Grant to Loughton 2023 - remaining undrawn	5,000	50,000
Removals	-	600
Connexional Funds & received for others unpaid	-	-
Total creditors	20,931	61,308
Pre receipts		
Assessments	56,817	57,380
Rent in Advance	-	-
Total accruals	56,817	57,380
Total of creditors and accrued expenses	77,748	118,688

It is expected that all sums accrued at the end of year will be paid before the end of the following year.

18 Capital commitments and contingent liabilities

18.1	Capital commitments at end of year amounted to:	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2022-23</u>
		-	-

19 Volunteer contributions

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit, Church) within the Methodist Church in GB is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. For the Forest Circuit directly this contribution is generally by serving on committees of the Circuit that deal with mission, manses, finance, policy, grants, training, development and governance, but there are many others who assist with the preparation and running of Circuit events. We are grateful to all of them for their help and commitment.

20 Lease commitments

The Circuit had the following lease commitments at the end of August:

Leased facility		Review Period	Payment Period	Annual Payment	Total Commitment
Peak Uk ltd (Printer / copier)	5 year contract	24/04/2029	quarterly	1,718	8,592
4Com Network (Mobile phones)	1 year contracts	01/05/2025	monthly	1,464	1,464

FOREST METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

21 Circuit funds (Unrestricted, Restricted and Endowment)

The Forest Circuit of the Methodist Church maintains a number of separate funds. The purpose, type, movement and state as at the end of year is documented below:

The funds held constitute: Unrestricted (U) General Funds held for any purpose, Designated (D) funds allocated for a specific purpose, Restricted (R) funds which are held for a narrower purpose. The Forest Circuit does not hold any Endowment funds.

21.1 Fund Purpose & Type

Circuit Property e.g. manses, residential property and churches which have ceased to worship, are under the management of the Circuit, but are legally owned by Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes. The value of this property if sold does not fully accrue to the Circuit. The value of these properties are shown in a separate Manse Value Fund in order to simplify and clarify the reporting and monitoring of the Circuit's more liquid assets in the General Fund.

	Fund Name	Type	Purpose of the Fund
21.1.1	Unrestricted Funds (U)		
	General Fund	U	For use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the objectives of the Circuit. This excludes funds which have been designated for a specific purpose. (see designated funds below)
21.1.2	Designated Funds (D)		For specific purposes but not restricted by document or deed to that purpose alone. The trustees may agree from time to time to transfer funds from a designated fund.
	Operational Funds		
	Circuit Model Trust Reserves	D1	To support the funding of projects in the Circuit
	Lay Staff Fund	D2	A fund set up, setting aside sufficient funds to employ specific lay staff for a designated number of years. E.g. A Pastoral Worker for 5 years. This fund needs to be reviewed at least every couple of years to ensure sufficient funds are available to cover lay salaries for the years ahead.
	John Millar fund	D3	A legacy from the Late John Millar for Mission & Ministry project grants in the Circuit. Grant criteria have been agreed. Applications are invited from Churches using a form indicating the information required. Grants cannot be paid if a church's financial and property reporting is not up to date.
	Manse Valuation Fund	D4	The value of the freehold properties owned by the Circuit, used as manses for the ministers stationed in the circuit.
	Investment Funds		
	Hollywood Way Fund	D5	To assist the monitoring of the profitability of the residential property - Hollywood Way.
	The Ridgeway Fund	D6	To assist the monitoring of the profitability of the residential property - The Ridgeway.
	Wanstead Cash Fund	D7	To assist the monitoring of the profitability of the Wanstead church building.
	North Chingford Fund	D8	To assist the monitoring of the profitability of the North Chingford church building.
	Church Valuation Fund	D9	The value of the non residential freehold properties managed by the Circuit. I.e. Wanstead MC and North Chingford MC buildings.
	Residential Investment Property Value	D10	The value of the freehold residential properties owned by the Circuit, i.e. Hollywood Way & The Ridgeway.
21.1.3	Restricted Funds (R)		
	Forest Circuit Benevolent Fund	R1	To help meet the exceptional needs of presbyters, deacons and lay employees in the Circuit, when these cannot be met by the church alone. Providing a resource from which confidential payments can be made at the discretion of the Superintendent & nominated Trustees.

FOREST METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

21.2 Fund Balances and Movements

Fund Name		Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Gains on revaluation	Transfers In & between	Closing Balance
		£	£	£	£		£
21.2.1	Unrestricted Funds						
	General Fund (excluding manse fund)	U	144,281	299,193	(337,471)		106,003
	Designated Funds		-				-
	Operational Funds		-				-
	Circuit Model Trust Reserves	D1	471,896	26,113	(31,009)	(22,342)	444,658
	Lay Staff Fund	D2	420,785		(80,801)		339,984
	John Millar Fund	D3	207,552		(50,000)		157,552
	Manse Value Fund	D4	4,770,000			(1,475,000)	3,295,000
	Investment Funds						
	Hollywood Way	D5	-	23,232	(7,958)	(15,274)	-
	The Ridgeway	D6	-	-	(35,989)	35,989	-
	Wanstead Fund	D7	10,755	7,507	(17,726)	(536)	-
	North Chingford Fund	D8	-	4,390	(19,230)	14,840	-
	Church Value Fund	D9	2,786,000			2,785,250	5,571,250
	Residential Investment Property Value	D10	-			1,475,000	1,475,000
	Total Designated		8,666,988	61,242	(242,713)	-	11,283,444
	Total Unrestricted & Designated		8,811,269	360,435	(580,184)	-	11,389,447
							-
21.2.2	Restricted Funds						
	Forest Circuit Pastoral & Benevolent Fund	R1	232	-			232
	Total Restricted Funds		232	-	-	-	232

Total Funds	8,811,501	360,435	(580,184)	-	2,797,927	11,389,679
--------------------	------------------	----------------	------------------	----------	------------------	-------------------

22 Connected organisations and related parties

Connected organisations include the Methodist Connexion, the District and Churches within the Circuit, CFB and TMCP. All of these entities have their own trustees or directors and autonomous administration such that the Forest Circuit has no significant influence over any of them, nor they over the Forest Circuit. They are, therefore, not considered related parties.

Name of Connected Organisations	Receipts	Payments	Transfers
	£	£	£
Donor: Churches within the Forest Circuit - assessments	266,290		
Donor / Donee: Churches within the Forest Circuit (grants). - Lighthouse		(50,000)	
Donor / Donee: the London District (levies / grants)		(41,453)	
Donee: Methodist Church Fund via the London District.		(70,736)	
Transfer of assets from North Chingford Methodist Church			2,797,927
Total	266,290	(162,189)	2,797,927

A salary of £29,106 (2023 - £27,250) was paid to Zakayo Njeru Nyaga in the year for services provided as a Circuit pastoral worker. Zakayo Njeru Nyaga is the husband of Circuit Trustee Rev. Stephanie Njeru.

FOREST METHODIST CIRCUIT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

DECLARATIONS

Finance Group Convenor

I confirm that I have prepared the accounts from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit Meeting.

Circuit Finance Group Convenor	<div>Hannah Roberts</div>	Date	<div>24/6/2025</div>
Name	<div>Hannah Roberts</div>		
Address	<div>7 Marine Terrace, Waterloo Port, Caernarfon, LL55 1LP</div>		

Presentation to the Circuit Meeting for approval.

I confirm that the Accounts will be presented to the Circuit Meeting on
and were approved, subject to Audit

24th June 2025

Signature of the Chair of the meeting	<div>Michael Jll Long</div>
Name of the Chair of the meeting	<div>Revd Michael Long</div>
Date	<div>24/6/2025</div>

FOREST METHODIST CIRCUIT

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FOREST METHODIST CIRCUIT

We have audited the financial statements of the Forest Methodist Circuit (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, Statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is 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).

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.

In our opinion the accounts:

- 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, including income and expenditure, 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 of 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 the charity 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 trustees' 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 twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

FOREST METHODIST CIRCUIT

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FOREST METHODIST CIRCUIT

Other information

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

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 financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report;
- 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 Trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 10, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of 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 the charity'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 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that 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.

FOREST METHODIST CIRCUIT

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FOREST METHODIST CIRCUIT

To identify risks of material misstatement due to fraud ("fraud risks") we assessed events or conditions that could indicate an incentive or pressure to commit fraud or provide an opportunity to commit fraud. Our risk assessment procedures included:

- + Obtaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks applicable to the charity.
- + Obtained an understanding of how the charity is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks by making enquiries to the trustees.
- + The susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement caused by fraud or other irregularities were assessed with the following procedures:
 - Identifying and assessing the design effectiveness of controls which trustees have in place to prevent and detect fraud
 - Understanding how those charged with governance considered the potential for override of controls and management biases
 - Identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any journal entries posted with unusual account combinations

Potential fraud risks that had been identified throughout the planning and commencement of the audit were communicated to the audit team.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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.

Clay Ratnage Strevens + Hills

Clay Ratnage Strevens & Hills
Suite D, The Business Centre, Faringdon Avenue, Romford, Essex RM3 8EN
Chartered Accountants
& Statutory Auditor

24/6/2025
 Date

Clay Ratnage Strevens & Hills is eligible to act as auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.