

## Walsall and District Methodist Circuit

### Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024

#### Reference and administration details

Registered charity name	The Methodist Church Walsall Circuit
Registered Charity Number	1134411
Charity's Principal Address	35 Park Road, Walsall, West Midlands WS5 3JU
Website	<a href="http://www.hiddenrivercircuit.org">www.hiddenrivercircuit.org</a>

#### Charity Trustees

These are the members of the Methodist Church Walsall Circuit Meeting. They are made up of circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches. Full membership is listed at the end of this report.

#### Circuit ministers and officers (Circuit Leadership Team) as at 31.08.24

Active Circuit Ministers	Rev Jeremy Hawkins	
	Rev Nancy Ndoho	
	Deacon Helen Webster {shared}	
	Rev Elizabeth Dunning {Part Time}	
	Rev Stuart Reed {Part Time}	
Circuit Lay Workers	Mrs Anne Kelsall	
Circuit Stewards	Mrs Margaret Gibbons	
	Mr Bryan Malsbury	
	Mrs Gill Jolly	
Circuit Treasurer	Mr Brian Reilly	
Circuit Secretary	Mrs Sue Smith	
Safeguarding Officer	Mrs Sue Smith	
Custodian Trustees	The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	
Bankers	HSBC	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
	The Bridge,	9 Bonhill Street,
	Walsall	London
	WS1 1LN	EC2A 4PE

#### Objectives and activities



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The Circuit's objective is to act as a Resource provider within the area around Walsall and District 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 Methodist Church Walsall Circuit:-

- a) Acts as an umbrella body for 6 churches.
- b) Organises and resources regular acts of worship open to both members of the church and non-members. A preaching plan is produced to give information about the acts of worship taking place at each church.
- c) Resources pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.
- d) Arranges training for those who lead worship, both Local Preachers and Worship Leaders.
- e) Ensures that the Safeguarding Policy for both Children and Vulnerable Adults is followed, training is given and checks are made as needed.
- f) Confirms that the Trustees have regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

### **Achievements and performance during the year**

- The Circuit has continued to act as an umbrella body for 6 churches. The Circuit produces a weekly preaching plan for each of its churches. Some of the churches also have mid-week services.
- Services on Zoom have continued throughout the last year for those who are unable to come to church. They can also be found on YouTube for those who prefer to watch at a different time. They have helped to keep a contact between worshippers and the church, particularly those who find it difficult to get to a church service. There is a regular group of people who join the service on Sundays and feel that they are still part of the church.
- Weekly reflection & prayer sheets are produced and sent out monthly. They are produced by volunteers from among those who conduct worship in our churches and are appreciated by those who receive a copy. Many of these reflections are thought-provoking and informative. Bible Study courses continue to be held on Zoom but have also been held in-person.
- The Safeguarding Policies for both Children and Vulnerable Adults have been updated and followed. Checks are made and training completed as needed – an Advanced Safeguarding course was held in November.
- An E.D.I. (equality, diversity, inclusion) training session has been held and was well supported.
- We have regard to the GDPR guidance about sharing personal information.
- The principal source for general expenditure is by an annual assessment, paid in instalments, from each local church in the Circuit. This is paid into an account with the Central Finance Board of the



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Methodist Church. Money is then transferred into an account with HSBC bank for day to day use. There is also rent from a property no longer used for ministers. There is a TMCP Model Trust Fund which is money raised from the sale of properties. Sums can be transferred from this fund towards property and staff projects.

- A budget is made each year in which provision made includes salary costs, utility and maintenance costs of manses, and administration.  
In 2023/24 staff salary costs were £135,886, utility costs £948, insurance 3,837, maintenance of manses £948, and administration £3,406.  
£30,353 expenditure was the Circuit contribution to the District and Connexion, of which a significant part is used to fund the work of the wider Methodist Church.
- The balance of funds at 31/08/24 was  
Model Trust £539,513 CFB £971 and HSBC £13,675  
The Circuit's policy on reserves is to aim to maintain a sum equal to 6 month's expenditure.  
A redundant church had been sold at the end of November 2023 and the proceeds added to the Model Trust Fund.
- During the year the Circuit has continued to work with the neighbouring Walsall Circuit. In March 2023 the trustees of the 2 circuits had agreed to join together from September 2024. There was a lot of preparatory work to do. Arrangements for the running of the Circuit had to be discussed and then agreed by both circuits and personnel decided upon. Two ministers were leaving the Circuit and only one being replaced due to a shortage. It was suggested that a lay worker or two could be employed to support the ministers. Then, in June, 2024, The Methodist Conference gave permission for the merger to go ahead.

#### **Structure, governance and management**

Governing Document Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976)

Constituted by Act of Parliament

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

Trustee selection methods Appointed by local churches and existing trustees.  
Ministers are ex-officio.

Part of the Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury Methodist District.

Accountable to the Methodist Conference.

Day to day management of the Circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership Team along with the Local Preachers meeting.

The Circuit has adopted the Safeguarding Policy of the Methodist Church and ensures that it is rolled out to churches and appropriate checks are made.

#### **Full list of Managing Trustees as at 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2024**

Rev Jeremy Hawkins, Rev Elizabeth Dunning, Rev Stuart Reed, Rev Nancy Nhodo,  
Deacon Helen Webster



Mrs Sue Smith,

Mrs Margaret Howells, Susan Flukes; Norma Bryan; Peter Glover; Rev Lynda Yeadon; Janice Cox; Alan Owen; Margaret Gibbons; Barry Gibbons; Gill Jolly; Alan Wilkes; Andy Hawes;



THE METHODIST CHURCH  
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Walsall	Circuit
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 August 2024

Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury	District	Circuit no	2804
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1134411
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If not a registered charity His Majesty's Revenue and Customs Gift Aid number

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

Ministers:

Rev Jem Hawkins (Superintendent Minister)
Rev Nancy Ndoho
Deacon Helen Webster (Shared)
Rev Stuart Reed (Part Time)
Rev Liz Dunning (Part Time)

Circuit Stewards:

Mrs Margaret Gibbons
Mr Bryan Malsbury
Mrs Gill Jolly

Treasurer:

Mr Brian Reilly
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SECTION A			Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
a1	RECEIPTS	Note	£	£	£	£	£
a2	Assessment/Share		75,300			75,300	83,601
a3	Capital receipts			617,200		617,200	4,745
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		335	26,819		27,154	6,571
a5	Grants		10,000			10,000	10,000
a6	Other receipts		35,242			35,242	16,061
a7	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>120,877</b>	<b>644,019</b>		<b>764,896 (a8)</b>	<b>120,978</b>

SECTION B							
b1	PAYMENTS						
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs		135,886			135,886	121,411
b3	Manse Costs		13,066			13,066	22,397
b4	Administration etc		3,406			3,406	4,958
b5	District Assessment		30,353			30,353	28,948
b6	Grants & donations		3,850			3,850	750
b7	Buildings other than manses						
b8	Other payments		1,881	207,921		209,802	2,112
b9	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b>188,442</b>	<b>207,921</b>		<b>396,363 (b9)</b>	<b>180,576</b>

SECTION C							
c1	<b>NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR</b>	(a7-b9)	(67,565)	436,098		368,533	(59,598)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		22,211	163,415		185,626 (c6)	245,224
c3	<b>Sub total</b>	(c1+c2)	(45,354)	599,513		554,159	185,626
c4	Transfers and adjustments		60,000	(60,000)			(c7)
c5	<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR</b>	(c3+c4)	<b>14,646</b>	<b>539,513</b>		<b>554,159 (c8)</b>	<b>185,626 (c6)</b>

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



## SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATION REPORTING TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING

## SECTION E

Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Circuit Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross receipts and payments totals of the Circuit. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold of £250,000, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the Circuit and connected Circuit Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1						
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds					(e11)	(e12)
e9 Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	764,896 (a8)	396,363 (b9)	368,533	(c7)	185,626 (c6)	554,159 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	764,896	396,363	368,533		185,626 (x)	554,159 (y)
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

## SECTION F

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

## CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2024

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	3,882	13,675
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	18,329	971
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	163,415	539,513
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL	185,626 (c6)	554,159 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance totals above) (e12)	(e11)	(e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	185,626 (x)	554,159 (y)

## SECTION G

## OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2023	At 31 August 2024
g1 Investments (include Endowments)		
g2 Land and Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	950,000	950,000
g3 Other Assets		15,352
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5 Other Liabilities		(1,037)

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

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

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



Name of Circuit METHODIST CHURCH WALSALL CIRCUIT No. 280402

## Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2024 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit meeting.

Signature of treasurer [Signature] Date 27/6/25

Name and address of treasurer BRIAN REILLY 35. PARK ROAD  
WALSALL Post Code WS5 3JU

### Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were/will be\* presented to the Circuit meeting held on 19/3/2025.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting [Signature]

Name of the Chair of the meeting S. HAWKINS Date 27/6/2025

### Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

..... Walsall

Charity Number . 1134411

### Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the ..... Walsall Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages 1... to ...3. As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

\* delete or circle as appropriate



**Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of Walsall Methodist Circuit - Charity number 1134411 ( "the Charity")**

I report to the Charity trustees on my examination of the accounts for the Charity for the year ended 31 August 2024 which are set out on pages 5 to 6.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the trustees of the Charity, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act").

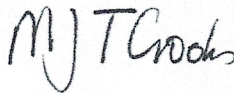
I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- Accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act: or.
- The accounts do not accord with the accounting records.
- 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 trustee's annual report is not consistent with the accounts

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



Melanie Crooks  
Melanie Crooks Associates Limited  
Bellfield House  
33 Stafford Road  
Bloxwich  
West Midlands  
WS3 3NJ

Date: 29 June 2025