

Oxford Methodist Circuit

Charity Number: 1134618

Trustees Annual Report

and

Accounts

for the period

1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023

Introduction

The Oxford Circuit serves the city of Oxford, its suburbs, and villages and market towns from Woodstock to Watlington. Public worship is offered in thirteen places, including Holy Family Local Ecumenical Project in Blackbird Leys, and jointly with the Church of England at St Mary's Chalgrove. Staff and volunteers also lead worship in several residential homes in the area. Within the Circuit, eleven local Methodist Societies (churches) operate as centres of worship, outreach, fellowship and community service, each under the management/trusteeship of its own Church Council. The Circuit supports the local churches by providing ordained and salaried lay ministry, by training and deploying Local (lay) Preachers to lead Sunday worship, by giving grants for property and mission projects, by linking local churches to the wider life of the Methodist Church regionally and nationally, and by acting as a forum for strategic planning.

The Circuit bade farewell to Revd Peter Powers who departed at the end of the Church Year 31 August 2023. Revd Miriam Moul was appointed as Superintendent from 1 September 2023 and it was agreed to divide the responsibilities for the Churches in the Circuit as follows: Revd Miriam Moul in addition to being the Superintendent Minister to have pastoral responsibility for Cowley Road and Wesley Memorial Methodist Churches; Revd Paul Carter to have pastoral responsibility for Rose Hill, along with his current responsibility for Bladon, Kidlington, Tackley and Woodstock.; and Revd Stephen Spain to have pastoral responsibility for Kennington, along with his current responsibility for St Mary's Chalgrove, Great Milton, Lime Walk and Watlington. The Chaplaincy post at Oxford Brookes will continue as a three day a week post. The post has been advertised and is open to lay applicants and will continue to be funded by the Westminster College Trust. Revd. Stephen Spain was ordained at Coventry Cathedral.

Purpose and Priorities

The Oxford Circuit's Purpose¹ is to encourage and resource churches to be confident, creative, courageous and committed as they proclaim the love of God in worship, witness and service.

The Trustees and Circuit Leadership Team have been working to priorities agreed for the three years to August 2024. A summary of progress is provided below.

Resourcing

Priorities:

We will continue to support local churches to take forward the hopes and plans identified in the 'Planning for Fruitfulness' of 2019 and the Connexional Resource 'Our Church's Future Story' process by:

process by:

- *Appropriately deploying and supporting the ordained ministers stationed in the Circuit to provide for the needs of local churches.*

¹ Methodist Standing Order 500 (1) defines the Nature and Purposes of a Circuit as follows:

The Circuit is the primary unit in which Local Churches express and experience their interconnexion in the Body of Christ, for purposes of mission, mutual encouragement and help. It is in the Circuit that presbyters, deacons and probationers are stationed and local preachers are trained and admitted and exercise their calling. The purposes of the Circuit include the effective deployment of the resources of ministry, which include people, property and finance, as they relate to the Methodist churches in the Circuit, to churches of other denominations and to participation in the life of the communities served by the Circuit, including local schools and colleges, and in ecumenical work in the area including, where appropriate, the support of ecumenical Housing Associations.

- *Recruiting and developing lay staff with complementary skills for specific roles or projects.*
- *Providing funding for projects and initiatives that further the mission of the churches.*
- *Facilitating the exchange of advice, skills and volunteer time between churches.*
- *Facilitating and supporting the introduction of more efficient governance structures for churches in the circuit reflecting the likely need for the creation of multi-congregation church councils in some parts of the circuit over the coming period.*

In response to these priorities,

- *We maintained the life of worship in our churches, led by our team of ordained ministers, and supported by lay staff, preachers and worship leaders. We ensured pastoral oversight for all the Churches as set out above.*
- *We have advertised for a lay chaplain for Oxford Brookes funded with the kind support of the Westminster Trust*
- *We replaced one of the manses with a more energy-efficient property, while at the same time releasing funds for mission.*
- *Liz Spain has continued as community chaplain for Rose Hill, focussing on the Community Cupboard, and Libby Hawknesh-Smith continued to develop work in the community around Cowley Road Methodist Church.*
- *Following the grant for the Refugee Welcome Project (now Wesley Oxford Project) Wesley Memorial sponsored a refugee family to settle in Oxford. The family arrived in March 2023*
- *With the reduction in the ministerial team one of the manses has been made available to a refugee family from Afghanistan with rent at housing allowance rates.*
- *We have supported proposals from an ecumenical group to enable the city centre churches of St Columba's URC, New Road Baptist Church and Wesley Memorial Methodist Church to recruit and appoint a student outreach worker to nurture and minister to students called to more inclusive churches*
- *Most churches in the Circuit approved the celebration of same-sex marriages. Wesley Memorial celebrated its first same-sex marriage and Woodstock a same-sex blessing.*
- *The Circuit has agreed strategies to further the work of the Circuit in light of the reduction in the ministerial team. In addition to what has already been outlined the Circuit is looking at possibly two new lay appointments to support the ordained and lay staff, including a possible lay appointment to manage finance and property to alleviate the burden on local churches. However, increasing the total size of the lay staff team will only be possible if the Circuit is able to obtain grant funding for one or more posts. Conversations are being held with each Church as to the amalgamation of church councils to reduce the burden on staff and church members. Circuit Stewards have taken on management roles to take burdens away from Ministers.*

Belonging

Priorities:

We will build up a stronger sense of Circuit identity and of sharing in one mission together by:

- *Sharing good news and successes, as well as struggles and needs, that we may rejoice together and support one another.*
- *Organising events and initiatives that help to bring Methodists in the Circuit together for worship, mission or fellowship.*
- *Reviewing worship services across the Circuit to ensure a range of times and styles are offered.*
- *Linking up those engaged in children's and youth ministry for mutual support and learning.*

- *Add to the use of new technology and Internet presence to help those who cannot attend our buildings to belong.*
- *Creating, developing and supporting circuit mission projects including chaplaincy to students, community engagement work in the Cowley Road area, and ecumenical work at Blackbird Leys and other work that may come under the circuit.*

In response to these priorities:

- *The Circuit website is regularly updated with news from the circuit churches and a regular circuit newsletter is being produced several times a year.*
- *We continued with the recorded online Circuit service, so that people could worship at times that were convenient to them.*
- *Services from several churches in the Circuit were streamed online, so that members of the congregation not able to attend in person could join in – including some who had moved from the area. As churches introduce more equipment, streaming and recording of live services will take the place of the online Circuit service.*
- *Plans are being made to hold a Circuit service on a Sunday once a quarter.*
- *A number of congregations have made “local arrangements” for the increasing number of Sundays when no accredited preacher was available.*
- *Resources, useful information and reports of children’s and young people’s work from around the circuit were shared regularly at Circuit meetings, and amongst members of the children, families and youth work team.*
- *A large group of young people from the Circuit attended 3Generate.*
- *Bladon Junior Church continued to put on remarkable musicals, most recently ‘The School of Rock’.*
- *Minecraft Church continued based at Kidlington.*
- *A small but active group of students worshipped at Wesley Memorial as did a small group at Cowley Road.*
- *As already set out a lay chaplain position at Oxford Brookes has been advertised and an ecumenical initiative for a student outreach position supported.*

Enabling

Priorities

We will help people across the Circuit to respond to our calling ‘to serve the present age’² by:

- *Enabling conversations around important issues in our Church and society.*
- *Encouraging, supporting and training more people to become Local Preachers and Worship Leaders, Readers and providing training for those leading worship by local arrangement.*
- *Thinking together about how we can respond creatively to changes in our communities, especially new housing developments.*
- *Help Local Churches to make provision for ‘New Places, for New People’ by resourcing places for children, young people and family ministry in every Local Church.*
- *By word and deed become an ‘Eco Circuit’ and help every Local Church to become an ‘Eco Church’.*
- *Offer appropriate Audio Visual and other resources that will allow Local Churches to engage in mission on the Internet.*

In response to these priorities

- *Three people were training as local preachers and six as worship leaders.*

- *We worked with other local churches to provide support to the Community Cupboard at Rose Hill, and the Oxford Winter Night Shelter for the homeless.*
- *Our members volunteered in a variety of organisations, such as the Oxford Street Pastors.*
- *The Circuit Children, Families and Outreach Worker continued to provide services and activities for children and young people including a group going to 3Generate. Activities such as bread and pizza church and the Minecraft church were aimed at children and young people.*
- *We were very active on ecology issues. Nine churches out of eleven have Eco Church awards. The Circuit has a bronze award.*
- *Grants were made available to all churches to upgrade audio-visual equipment.*

Financial review

Income trends

Total income increased by 5% to £345,350 (£329,908). Assessments paid by circuit churches, which make up the bulk of regular income, increased to £290,084 (£282,611). The accounts include restricted grant income of £25,000 (£25,000) from Westminster College Oxford Trust to fund a part-time chaplain at Oxford Brookes University. Rental income rose to £16,200 (£13,211) as the property in Watlington was fully occupied. Investment income grew to £13,566 (£8,545) due to higher interest rates.

Expenditure trends

The three main categories of regular expenditure are: ministerial stipends and other employment costs, property maintenance, and contributions (assessments and levies) paid to the District and Connexion to support the wider work of the Methodist Church.

Total employment costs increased to £224,677 (£207,294). A second part-time lay community chaplain joined in October 2022, bringing the total number of lay employees to four, working alongside four ordained ministers. Property expenditure grew 5% to £53,143 (£50,477) and consisted largely of repairs and maintenance to manse, as opposed to one-off costs relating to rental and purchase of a new manse in the previous year. Amounts payable to the District and Connexion fell by 24% to £75,482 (£99,579), due primarily to a lower levy on balances held with TMCP. The Circuit also benefitted from a reduced calculated share of the total annual assessment payable to the Northampton District and Connexion.

Grants awarded to churches in the Circuit were for smaller projects (e.g. lighting, AV equipment, refugee sponsorship) than the major property schemes that had been a feature of prior years.

Total charitable expenditure decline by 14% to £385,142 (£448,777). Excluding grant commitments and levies and before gains or losses on investments or property, the deficit for the year was -£11,014 (-£22,245). This can be attributed to the addition of a second lay community chaplain which the Trustees regard as an investment of reserves, equivalent to a project grant.

Gains and losses on investments

Capital losses on monetary investments were -£4,554 (-£7,195).

Fund balances

Total funds carried forward declined by £44,347 to £2,591,899 (£2,636,245).

Of this total, £2,170,027 (unchanged) is represented by the carrying value of five manse properties and £721 (£2,091) by a restricted fund for the upkeep of the churchyard adjacent to the former Headington Quarry Chapel.

Excluding these items, unrestricted net current assets were £421,151 (£464,127).

Plans for 2023/24 onwards

The most recent forecast for the current financial year anticipates a further deficit, before grant commitments and levies, in the region of £21K. Income will benefit from the lease of a second manse, this time to a refugee family supported by the local authority and an asylum charity.

The cost saving associated with a reduction in the ordained staff team from four to three will be offset by stipend and salary increases. The Circuit intends to recruit for the part-time student chaplaincy position at Oxford Brookes University that was previously filled by a member of the ministerial team. The Westminster College Oxford Trust have generously agreed to continue to fund this post. Assessments payable to the District and Connexion will increase by £14K.

The reserves policy points to a target level of unrestricted reserves of £150,000. This compares with adjusted net current assets noted above of £421K. A levy of £19K on balances held in the Circuit Model Trust Fund was paid to the District Advance Fund in September. As noted above, a deficit of £21K, excluding grants and levies, is anticipated for the financial year. These actual and anticipated outflows imply that a balance of approximately £231K is available to invest in projects that further the Circuit's purpose and priorities.

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 2015 as applicable to the Financial Reporting Standard(FRS) 102

Full Name of Charity: Oxford Methodist Circuit

Charity Registration Number: 1134618

Date of registration: 3 March 2010 (previously excepted)

Main communication address: Wesley Memorial Church, New Inn Hall Street, Oxford, OX1 2DH.

The members of the Oxford 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 as Appendix A to this report.

Circuit Ministers and officers active during the year

Active Circuit Ministers: Rev. Paul Carter
Rev. Miriam Moul
Rev. Peter Powers
Rev. Stephen Spain

Circuit Lay Workers: Mrs Elizabeth Hawkness-Smith
Mrs Melanie McCulloch
Mrs Joanna Godfrey
Mrs Elizabeth Spain (from October 2022)

Circuit Stewards: Mr Christopher Butler
Mr Malcolm Dodds
Mr Simeon Mitchell (to October 2022)
Mrs Margaret Sawyer
Mr Paul Spray
Mrs Ruth Taylor
Mr John Winterbottom

Name of Treasurer who acted as the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the circuit during the year: Christopher Butler

Independent Examiner: Cooper Parry, 3 Danebrook Court, Langford Lane, Kidlington, OX5 1LQ

Investment Bankers: Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

Bankers: CAF Bank
Barclays Bank

Aims and organisation

Charity objective is to act as a Resource provider and co-ordinator within the area around Oxford 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.

Oxford Methodist Circuit Annual Report 2022-23

Locally, these purposes are worked out through:-

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, publications and small group discussion;

The resourcing of pastoral work by stipendiary, salaried and voluntary workers, 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 local universities and other communities.

Public Benefit

We confirm the Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document for the Circuit is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976). Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the *Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church (CPD)* by order of the annual Methodist Conference.

Managing trusteeship and overall governance responsibility rests with the Circuit Meeting, which meets at least twice a year.

Day to day management of the circuit is undertaken by the Superintendent Minister, Circuit Stewards and Circuit Leadership Team, in partnership with other officers and committees as appropriate.

Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the circuit is distributed to Trustees, including a paper circulated by the Northampton District: "Financial Governance and good practice for Church and Circuit Trustees".

Related Parties

The Circuit is part of the Northampton District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The following Methodist Churches are part of the circuit:-

Bladon; Cowley Road; Great Milton; Kennington; Kidlington; Lime Walk; Rose Hill; Tackley; Watlington; Wesley Memorial; Woodstock.

The Methodist congregation at Chalgrove has joined St Mary's (Church of England) through a Declaration of Ecumenical Welcome.

There is also a Methodist involvement in the Church of the Holy Family, Blackbird Leys, a Local Ecumenical Partnership.

The Circuit is in receipt of a five-year grant from the Westminster College Oxford Trust Ltd, whose board is appointed by Conference to oversee the continuing relationship between the Methodist Church and Oxford Brookes University, following the merger between Westminster College and Oxford Brookes University in 1999.

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of all people 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.

Oxford Methodist Circuit Annual Report 2022-23

- 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 Oxford 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 Oxford 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.

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Leadership Team with professional advice taken as required. The Circuit Leadership Team undertakes a regular annual review of risks, the findings of which are presented to the Circuit Meeting for approval. The table below is a summary of the most recent risk management review:



Risk	Mitigation
Failure to protect vulnerable people	Safeguarding policy, training and monitoring
Major unplanned property repairs	Quinquennial surveys; reserves policy
Continued decline in active church members and related income	Strategic planning with churches; reserves policy
Insufficient volunteers to meet statutory requirements or mission objectives	Employment of ordained and lay staff and of professional advisors

Income and Expenditure are monitored and compared with the approved annual budget on a quarterly basis to detect trends as part of the risk management process to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

Reserves Policy

Risk	Reserve Level	£
Manse Repairs	Work recommended in most recent quinquennial inspections	£ 40,000
Churches unable to sustain assessments	Four months' expenditure	£110,000
	Total	£150,000

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees

Name	Signature	Office	Date
Rev Miriam Moul		Chairman	06/05/2024
Mr Christopher Butler		Trustee	14/03/2024

Appendix A: Trustees of the Oxford Methodist Circuit during 2022-23 and to present

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole period	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
Rev Peter Powers		To Aug 2023	
Rev Miriam Moul	Chairperson		
Rev Paul Carter			
Rev Stephen Spain			
Mr Simeon Mitchell	Circuit Steward	To Oct 2022	
Mr John Winterbottom	Circuit Steward & Property Secretary		
Mr Christopher Butler	Financial Steward		
Mr Malcolm Dodds	Circuit Steward		
Mrs Margaret Sawyer	Circuit Steward		
Mr Paul Spray	Circuit Steward		
Mrs Ruth Taylor	Circuit Steward		

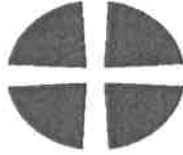
Mrs Catherine Dobson			Wesley Memorial Methodist Church
Mrs Janet Forsaith			ditto
Mrs Mary Lines			ditto
Mrs Marilyn King			Kidlington Methodist Church
Mr Graham Kirby			ditto
Mrs Emma Rosentall			ditto
Chris Rosentall			ditto
Mr John Verity			Woodstock Methodist Church
Mr David Jones			ditto
Mrs Patricia Clapton			Bladon Methodist Church
Mr Philip Rumsby			ditto
Mrs Alicia Rumsby			ditto
Mr Tim Bailey			Tackley Methodist Church
Mrs Vi Banbury			ditto
Sara Hall			Lime Walk Methodist Church
Mrs Sue Barratt			ditto
Mrs Bryony Thomas			ditto

Oxford Methodist Circuit Annual Report 2022-23

Mr Jeremy Dawe			Rose Hill Methodist Church
Mr Jeremy Burgess			ditto
Miss Jackie Wright			ditto
Prof Bev Clack			Cowley Road Methodist Church
Mrs Jan Boylan			ditto
Mr John Boylan		Decd. July 2023	ditto
Mr Andrew Quigley			Kennington Methodist Church
Mr Barrie Edwards			Great Milton Methodist Church
Yvonne Cartwright			ditto
Mr David Holme			ditto
Mr Phil Crockett			Watlington Methodist Church
Mrs Kathleen Gomm			ditto
Mrs Judy Crockett		Decd. Nov 2023	ditto
Mrs Joanna Tulloch			Local Preachers
Mrs Alison Matthews	Safeguarding Officer		
Mrs Emma Huber	Action for Children		
Mrs Ann Leck			

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	Custodian Trustees



**Circuit
Accruals Accounts
2022-2023**

THE METHODIST CHURCH
ACCOUNTS
(ACCRUALS BASIS)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

Oxford	Circuit
---------------	----------------

Registered Charity - Registration number

1134618

District No / Circuit No

23/01

Ministers

Rev Miriam Moul
Rev Paul Carter
Rev Stephen Spain

Circuit Stewards

Mr Christopher Butler
Mr Malcolm Dodds
Mrs Margaret Sawyer
Mr Paul Spray
Mrs Ruth Taylor
Mr John Winterbottom

Circuit Treasurer

Mr Christopher Butler

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

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022-23
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
1 Donations and legacies		500					500
2 Income from monetary investments		1,667	11,899				13,566
3 Income from investment properties							0
4 Assessments on Churches	3	290,084					290,084
5 Capital Receipts							0
6 Grants received	4				25,000		25,000
7 Other charitable income	5	16,200					16,200
8 Total income		308,451	11,899	-	25,000	-	345,350
Expenditure							
9 Grants and donations	6	2,377	4,300				6,677
10 Salaries and associated costs	7	199,677			25,000		224,677
11 Property costs	8	51,773			1,370		53,143
12 Connexional assessment and levy	9	44,571					44,571
13 District Assessment & Levy	9	8,810	22,101				30,911
14 Depreciation							0
15 Office expenses	10	15,345					15,345
16 Other outgoings	11	8,646	1,172				9,818
17 Total charitable expenditure		331,199	27,573	0	26,370	0	385,142
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments			-4,554				-4,554
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties							
20 Net income/(expenditure)		-22,748	-20,228	0	-1,370	0	-44,346
21 Transfers between funds		15,000	15,000				0
22 Other gains/(losses)							
23 Net movement in funds		-7,748	-35,228	0	-1,370	0	-44,346
24 Total funds brought forward		2,232,350	401,804	-	2,091	-	2,636,245
25 Total funds carried forward		2,224,602	366,576	-	721	-	2,591,900

Name of Circuit

Oxford

Circuit No

23/01

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

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2021-22 £
Income							
1 Donations and legacies		541					541
2 Income from monetary investments		308	8,237				8,545
3 Income from investment properties							0
4 Assessments on Churches	3	282,611					282,611
5 Capital Receipts							0
6 Grants received	4				25,000		25,000
7 Other charitable income	5	13,211					13,211
8 Total income		296,671	8,237	-	25,000	-	329,908
Expenditure							
9 Grants and donations	6	55,012					55,012
10 Salaries and associated costs	7	182,294			25,000		207,294
11 Property costs	8	46,808	3,154		515		50,477
12 Connexional assessment and levy	9	48,410					48,410
13 District Assessment & Levy	9	9,557	41,612				51,169
14 Depreciation							0
15 Office expenses	10	17,240					17,240
16 Other outgoings	11	15,193	3,983				19,176
17 Total charitable expenditure		374,513	48,749	0	25,515	0	448,777
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		-	7,195				-7,195
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties							
20 Net income/(expenditure)		-77,842	-47,707	0	-515	0	-126,064
21 Transfers between funds		804,100 -	804,100				0
22 Other gains/(losses)							
23 Net movement in funds		726,258	-851,807	0	-515	0	-126,064
24 Total funds brought forward		1,506,092	1,253,611		2,606		2,762,309
25 Total funds carried forward		2,232,350	401,804	-	2,091	-	2,636,245

Name of Circuit

Oxford

Circuit No

23/01

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023

Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Totals 2023	Totals 2022
	£	£	£	£	£

Fixed Assets

Circuit Manses & Equipment	12	2,170,027			2,170,027	2,170,027
Investment properties					0	0
Investments					0	0
Total fixed assets		2,170,027	0	0	2,170,027	2,170,027

Current Assets

Debtors	13	26,826			26,826	81,331
Loans by the Circuit	14	20,000			20,000	5,000
Investments with TMCP			371,576		371,576	411,345
Central Finance Board Deposits	15	60,995		1,596	62,591	95,900
Cash at Bank and in hand		17,253			17,253	11,358
Total current assets		125,074	371,576	1,596	498,246	604,934

Current liabilities

Creditors (due in under 1 year)	16	70,499		875	71,374	72,318
Grants payable within 2022-23	17		5,000		5,000	66,398
Total current liabilities		70,499	5,000	875	76,374	138,716
Net current assets/liabilities		54,575	366,576	721	421,872	466,218

Total assets less current liabilities		2,224,602	366,576	721	2,591,899	2,636,245
--	--	------------------	----------------	------------	------------------	------------------

Funds of the Circuit

General Fund (Unrestricted)		2,224,602			2,224,602	2,232,350
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			366,576		366,576	401,804
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)					0	0
Total Unrestricted Funds					2,591,178	2,634,154
Restricted Funds				721	721	2,091
Endowment Funds					0	0
Total Funds		2,224,602	366,576	721	2,591,899	2,636,245

Signed



Circuit Treasurer

1. Basis of accounting and accounting policies.

1.1 Accounting standard

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with *Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP)* applicable to charities preparing their accounts with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective from 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

1.2 Public Benefit entity

The Oxford Methodist 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 note(s) below.

1.3 Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that investments are shown at their market value at the end of the year. The accruals basis has been used and the trustees present accounts that show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

1.4 Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable 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.

1.5 FRS102 (SORP2015)

These accounts are compliant with FRS102 and with the FRS102 SORP2015. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable charity law in England, this being the Charities Act 2011 and SI 2008/629 (Charities Accounting and Reporting Regulations) and, pending the making of replacement regulations specific to SORP2015 in accordance with Reg.8(4)(d) of SI 2008/629, the charity trustees have departed from the requirement of Reg.8(5) by following SORP(FRS102) instead of SORP 2005 to the extent necessary to give a true and fair view of the circumstances.

1.6 Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2023, the trustees believe that the Circuit is a going concern

1.7 Consolidation

The Circuit has denominational regulatory oversight in respect of the work of the Churches within the Circuit but has no legal or operational control of those Churches and their governing bodies except in extreme circumstances. For this reason, the financial statements of the Churches within the Circuit are not consolidated into these financial statements.

1.8 Income recognition

Income is brought into account when there is entitlement and the amount is reliably measurable, once it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will be forthcoming.

Individual amounts categorised as *Other Income* in the SOFA will be shown separately in the Notes if they are considered material.

The Circuit acts as agent in the administration (application, collection and disbursement) of grants requested by Churches within the Circuit from, but not limited to, the District and Connexion. In these matters the transactions are not reflected in the SOFA because they are the income of the Churches.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102), the time of volunteers is not recognised. Further information on this matter is provided in the Trustees' Annual Report. If goods are donated, a value will be shown in the SOFA or Notes where the value is considered material.

1.9 Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, where the amount is reliably measurable and it is considered more likely than not that there will be an outflow of economic benefit.

1.10 Grants

Grants made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement to make a grant without performance conditions or as and when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment if it is subject to performance conditions. When the grant to be accrued is recurrent over more than one year the balance payable in future years, discounted to net present value where the difference is material, is treated as a provision for future commitments in the balance sheet against the appropriate fund, the provision being released in future years in accordance with the originally agreed terms. In cases where the grant has been charged to one fund but for ease of payment has been transferred to another fund any future payment provision is applied to the fund from which the grant will ultimately be paid.

1.11 VAT

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

1.12 Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000.

The freehold and/or long leasehold residential property is shown in these accounts at deemed historical cost representing each property's gross carrying value as at 1 September 2015, being that property's insurance reinstatement value or, if acquired after that date, at its market value at the date of acquisition. No depreciation is provided because the trustees consider the current residual value of the property in its present condition to be not less than its historical cost and, in the absence of any evidence of impairment, any depreciation provision for the buildings component of the property would be immaterial.

From time to time the Circuit may be required to assume responsibility for Church premises following closure and cessation of worship. This results in the Circuit becoming Managing Trustees for the property. At that time the property is recognised as an asset at its anticipated new sale price as determined by a professional valuation and after taking into consideration the levy to be charged by the Connexion. Any expenditure on such assets, if held for reinvestment of the proceeds, as the trustees determine, that it is likely to enhance sale value is capitalised at the time the expenditure is incurred. Where the proceeds are intended to be spent on activities, the property is included in current assets at the lower of cost and realisable value.

1.13 Monetary investments

The Circuit's investments are in monetary assets classified as basic financial instruments under FRS102 and are held by the Trustees for Methodist Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees. The valuations, at market value, are those provided by TMCP. The unrealised gains arising on investments at the end of the year are shown in the SOFA.

Investment Property

From time to time the Circuit may hold residential property (formerly manses) which is surplus to its normal staffing requirements. Where this is the case and it is anticipated that the property is unlikely to be used as a manse within a period of five years, the property is classified as an Investment Property (whether let or not) and any lets are at market rates unless there is a compelling reason not to do so in furtherance of the Circuit's charitable objectives. Any such cases would be specified in a later Note.

1.14 Bank and Receivables and Payables; Cash (Basic Financial Instruments)

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 at the 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 fund balances are shown at their realisable values.

1.15 Loans as Basic Financial Instruments

Where concessionary loans (i.e. at below market rates 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 SOFA. Subsequent reversals of impairment loss that objectively relate to an event occurring after the impairment loss was recognised, are recognised immediately in the SOFA.

Where loans require the calculation of discounted cash flow valuation, this will also be recognised.

1.16 Methodist Connexional Funds

The Methodist Connexion raises assessments against Circuits and these are paid quarterly to their Districts. The Circuit raises assessments against Churches in the Circuit. The District quarterly remits to The Methodist Church Fund most of the sum received from the Circuits, retaining a small sum to meet its own costs. The Circuit may act as agent for *ad hoc* collections for various funds controlled and administered by The Methodist Church. Any such collections will be detailed in a later note.

1.17 Funds

The trustees have adopted a policy for all unrestricted reserves which is attached as a separate document.

1.18 Endowment funds

Where the Circuit holds money that may not be spent and must be retained (as capital) to generate an income the money or assets to be retained are classified as an Endowment Fund. The capital will be shown in the balance sheet in the column for endowment funds. The income may be restricted or unrestricted depending on the terms of the endowment.

1.19 Manse costs

The Circuit is required to provide accommodation for each minister in the Circuit and their families and this is seen as a benefit to the Circuit. Ministers are expected to occupy the manse provided for them. The Circuit bears the cost of repairs, maintenance, buildings insurance, Council Tax and water charges. These figures are not separately disclosed as benefits-in-kind for ministers as HMRC does not seek to tax these receipts in the hands of ministers.

2. Glossary of terms

CFB: The Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church manages a Common Deposit Fund and a series of pooled investment funds for Methodist entities in Great Britain and provides investment advice to those entities.

Church: a group of members from fewer than 10 to more than 300.

Circuit: a group of Methodist Churches near each other, typically between 10 and 30.

Circuit Meeting: The trustees of the Circuit, most of whom are appointed by their local Churches, and others by virtue of a role they undertake for the Circuit and/or their local Churches. All trustees are members of the Methodist Church.

CLT (Circuit Leadership Team): A group (comprising mostly, but not exclusively) of Circuit trustees responsible for the day to day administration and policy formulation of the Circuit. Generally the CLT comprises the Ministers stationed within the Circuit and the Circuit Stewards.

CMTF: Circuit Model Trust Fund.

Connexion: The Methodist Church in Great Britain which includes the Head Office at Methodist Church House, all Methodist Districts, Circuits and Churches in Great Britain.

Connexional Funds: The Designated and/or Restricted Funds held and administered by the Connexion in furtherance of its charitable and mission objectives.

CPF: Connexional Priority Fund

District: a group of contiguous Circuits, usually between 15 and 30.

DAF: District Advance Fund.

FRS: Financial Reporting Standard.

HMRC: Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

Lay Employees: Personnel employed by the Circuit on generally accepted commercial employment terms.

MCH: Methodist Church House (Finance Section).

MMPS: Methodist Ministers' pension Scheme.

PASLEMC: Pensions and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church.

Pensions Trust: The Pensions Trust, the organisation through which the Circuit arranges a pension scheme for its Lay Employees.

Presbyters: Probationer or Ordained Methodist Ministers who have pastoral and administrative responsibility for the Churches in the Circuit.

SOFA: Statement of Financial Activities.

SORP: Statement of Recommended Practice.

TMCP: Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, the legal owner and custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust Property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds.

3. Assessments on churches

The Circuit is comprised of 11 churches and each is assessed for a contribution to meet the overall net cost of the Circuit. The Circuit aims to cover all of its net core costs from the assessments. An assessment on Churches is determined annually by a formula which takes into account the relative income (after deduction of certain actual and notional expenses) of each church. Assessments on churches are received quarterly or monthly in advance and are treated as prepayments on a receivable basis. If any church has not paid its assessment by the due date the sum in question is also treated as a creditor. The churches concerned and the assessments for the years 2022-23 and 2021-22 were:

Church	2022-23	2021-22
Bladon	5,192	5,315
Cowley Road	14,624	15,683
Great Milton	6,492	6,963
Kennington	10,556	10,554
Kidlington	31,656	29,652
Lime Walk	33,984	33,980
Rose Hill	11,416	11,417
Tackley	8,840	8,842
Watlington	13,576	14,558
Wesley Memorial	128,088	119,987
Woodstock	25,660	25,660
Circuit totals	290,084	282,611

4. Grant income

Grants were received towards the cost of providing chaplaincy services to students and staff at Oxford Brookes University.

	2022-23	2021-22
Westminster College Oxford Trust	25,000	25,000
Total	25,000	25,000

5. Other charitable income (unrestricted)

This income consists principally of rent received from manses temporarily let.

	2022-23	2021-22
Rents received	16,200	13,211
Total	16,200	13,211

6. Grants and donations

Grants made or committed	2022-23	2021-22
Bladon lighting equipment	3,500	
Lime Walk audio visual upgrade	4,800	
Wesley Memorial Refugee Welcome	5,000	
University of Durham (Underground Story - biblical literacy project) - write-back of contingent award	-9,000	
Wesley Memorial conversion of loan to grant		50,000
Kidlington - Minecraft Church		695
Church AV equipment	1,857	817
Wesley Memorial Mission & Heritage		3,500
Wesley Memorial 3Generate subsidy	520	
Total	6,677	55,012

7. Stipends, salaries and associated costs

The Circuit paid 4 ministers in 2022-23 and in 2021-22, plus small amounts to supernumerary ministers who undertook preaching appointments. One of the ministerial roles included part-time chaplaincy at Oxford Brookes University, funded by a grant from Westminster College Oxford Trust.

	2022-23	2021-22
Stipends	110,405	105,878
Allowances	944	884
N.I.	10,586	10,095
Pension contribution	28,975	27,787
Preaching fees	1084	1128
Total	151,994	145,772

The Circuit employed three part-time lay staff:

- Children, Families and Outreach Worker based at Wesley Memorial;
- Two Community Chaplains;
- Joint Circuit and Church Administrator, based at and 50% funded by Wesley Memorial.

Salaries	68,690	52,682
N.I.	4,829	3,697
Pension contribution	3,724	3,161
Less Wesley Memorial share	-12,325	-11,381
Total	64,918	48,159

Travel expenses were incurred primarily by ordained and lay staff.

Travel expenses	7,765	13,363
-----------------	-------	--------

Total Salaries and associated costs	224,677	207,294
--	----------------	----------------

The ministers and lay employees are members of the Circuit Meeting.

8. Property costs

These costs were incurred on maintenance and running costs of manses, either occupied by presbyters or temporarily let. The Circuit also pays for the quinquennial inspections of its constituent churches. The new manse at Abingdon Road, Cumnor was rented by the Circuit for a period prior to completion of the purchase.

	2022-23 General	2022-23 Restricted	2021-22 General	2021-22 Restricted
Occupied properties	31,291		17,898	
Properties leased to tenants	15,492		3,460	
Rental costs	4,000		16,308	
Manse purchase costs			5,374	
Manse purchase costs (abortive)			6,422	
Church expenditure, incl. quinquennials	990		500	
Quarry churchyard maintenance		1,370		515
Total	51,773	1,370	49,962	515

Note 8a. Costs of Ministers and Trustees

The members of the Circuit Meeting are the trustees of the Circuit. The stipends, employer's NIC and employer's pension contributions and other expenses of the Ministers of the Circuit are paid by the Circuit (administered by MCH). The lay employees are employed by the Circuit (administered by MCH).

The manses are provided by the Circuit and the Circuit maintains the property. The values of Council Tax and water charges paid by the Circuit (included in the table above) are not separately disclosed here as HMRC does not regard this as benefit in kind in the hands of the minister.

Apart from the above no trustees receive payment for the duties that they undertake on behalf of the Circuit. Members of the CLT are reimbursed for some travel expenses and for small items of expenditure properly incurred in furthering the smooth working of the Circuit.

9. District and Connexional Assessments & Levies

The District and Connexional Assessments (Northampton District) are calculated using a formula that takes account of the relative numbers of ministers in the Circuit, liquid funds and unrestricted reserves of the member churches. These assessments are assigned here to the General Fund.

Balances held with TMCP in the CMTF are subject to a levy by the DAF.

In addition, sales of Methodist Church Property are subject to a levy by the CPF.

	2022-23	2021-22
Connexional Assessment	44,571	48,410
District Assessment	8,810	9,557
District Levy on Model Trust Fund	22,101	41,612
Total	75,482	99,579

10. Office expenses

	2022-23	2021-22
Wesley Memorial office and IT support	9,056	9,537
Stationary, phone, postage, copying, etc.	4,066	3,852
Website services	1,274	1,262
Office equipment	949	2,589
Total	15,345	17,240

11. Miscellaneous expenditure and other outgoings

	2022-23 General	2022-23 CMTF	2021-22 General	2021-22 CMTF
Relocation, removal expenses of ministers	1,920		7,190	
Fees of Independent Examiner	1,920		1,920	
Conference Minutes, Circuit preaching plans and similar	253		617	
Payroll charge, incl. Apprenticeship levy	1,404		1,279	
Worship Resources	896		772	
Other unallocated expenditures	1,038		2,620	
TMCP admin charge	0	1,172	0	3,983
Training, recruitment	1,215		795	
Total	8,646	1,172	15,193	3,983

12. Fixed assets

Fixed assets comprise five manses and the Quarry Churchyard and are unchanged.

Manse	2022-23	2021-22
Abingdon Road, Cumnor	785,000	785,000
Ramsay Road	361,167	361,167
Oxford Road, Kidlington	312,946	312,946
Westbury Crescent	380,037	380,037
Watlington	330,876	330,876
Quarry Churchyard	1	1
Total	2,170,027	2,170,027

13. Debtors & advance payments

Item	2022-23	2021-22
Advance payment of stipends	10,176	12,566
District Advance Fund refund		54,459
Wesley Memorial share of Circuit admin and office equipment	12,469	11,668
Assessment due from churches	3,936	2,638
Other (agency collection)	245	
Totals	26,826	81,331

14. Loan advances

Loan Advances	2022-23	2021-22
Wesley Memorial	20,000	5,000
Total	20,000	5,000

At a meeting on 15th March 2022, the Trustees approved conversion of the £50,000 loan previously advanced to Wesley Memorial Methodist Church into a grant and approved a further loan of up to £20,000 to support growth of lettings income. Of this latest loan, £5,000 had been drawn at 31 Aug 2022. The full amount of £20,000 has been repaid post the financial year end.

15. Restricted and endowment funds

The Circuit has a restricted fund for the upkeep of the Churchyard adjacent to the former Headington Quarry Chapel. Income was £0 (£0) and expenditure £1,370 (£515). Grant funding and any other income received for a specified purpose is also treated as restricted. The Circuit has no endowment funds.

16. Creditors due within one year

Item	2022-23 General	2022-23 Restricted	2021-22 General	2021-22 Restricted
First Quarter assessments received in advance from churches	53,699		55,751	
Pre-paid rental income	4,787			
Employment costs	1,427		2,031	
Property costs	1,358	875	3,999	60
Other	9,228		10,478	
Totals	70,499	875	72,258	60

17. Grants payable

Grant payable < 1 year	2022-23	2021-22
University of Durham (Underground Story - biblical literacy project)		9,000
Kidlington (Transformation)		50,000
Rose Hill	5000	5,000
Wesley Memorial Mission & Heritage		2,398
Total	5,000	66,398

18. Related parties

None of the Circuit Trustees made donations direct to the Circuit during the year or in the previous year, other than collections administered by the Circuit for leaving members of staff. All Circuit Trustees are members of the Methodist Church (and hence related to the Circuit, District and Connexion); almost all are Trustees of one or more of the Churches in the Circuit, and a small number may also be Trustees of other Connexional bodies. Such related parties identified as donors to, or recipients from the Circuit in the year 2022-23, and the amounts involved (excluding loans) are:

Connected organisation	From Circuit	Received by Circuit
Methodist Church Fund (note 9)	44,571	
Northampton District (note 9)	30,911	0
Circuit Churches (notes 3, 5, 10)	15,733	302,409
Westminster College Oxford Trust (note 14)		25000
Totals	91,215	327,409

No other material related party transactions were identified by the trustees.

RESERVES POLICY

Report on behalf of

Oxford Circuit Meeting

(*Church Council/ Circuit Meeting/District)

To

Northampton District

(*Circuit Meeting/District)

We submit our annual report in accordance with the requirements of the Methodist Conference and the Charity Commission guidance in CC19.

- (i) The trustees have established their mission aims taking into account all of the resources available in terms of people, property and money
- (ii) Mission initiatives/projects have been costed or estimates made of projected future costs which take into account the needs of the buildings and the requirements of the Quinquennial Inspection Report/s

- (iii) We have agreed a Reserves Policy which is set out overleaf and is recorded in the trustees' minutes and our Annual Report
- (iv) We recognise the need to be accountable as charity trustees for all the money which comes into our hands and will provide further information as required by the Circuit/District/Connexion
- (v) Our Report is attached overleaf

* please delete as appropriate

To be completed by Receiving Body

The

*Circuit Meeting/District received the RESERVES POLICY of

*Church Council/Circuit Meeting/District

Policy accepted and acknowledgement sent to the trustees

YES ☐ / NO ☐

Policy noted and the following enquiries made of the trustees

Responses received and any further action taken

*Circuit/District

Signatures

.....

Date.....

* Please delete as appropriate

RESERVES POLICY of

Oxford Circuit Meeting 23/01(*Church Council ☐/Circuit Meeting ☐/District ☐)

1.	General Funds held at Y/E 31/08/2023	£421,151
2.	Restricted Funds held "	£721
3.	Endowment Funds held "	£

4. **Reserves policy for General Funds**

General Funds of £421K noted above are unrestricted net current assets.

The Trustees consider it reasonable and prudent to maintain unrestricted reserves to mitigate the following risks (current £ values in brackets): manse repairs (£40,000); churches unable to sustain assessments (£110,000). Target unrestricted reserve level is therefore £150,000.



A further £40K has been set aside to cover the District Advance Fund levy on the Model Trust Fund and anticipated General Fund deficit in the current year. "Free" reserves are therefore considered to be £231K.

5. **Policy for Restricted Funds**

The Circuit has a Restricted Fund for the upkeep of the Churchyard adjacent to the former Headington Quarry Chapel: £721 (£2,091).

The Circuit is in receipt of restricted grant funding from Westminster College Oxford Trust towards the cost of providing a part-time member of the chaplaincy team at Oxford Brookes University.

6. **Terms relating to Endowment Funds held**This Reserves Policy has been approved by **Circuit Meeting**(*Church Council ☐/Circuit Meeting ☐/District ☐)

Treasurer	Trustee
Full name Christopher Butler	Full Name Rev Miriam Moul
Signature 	Signature 

Name of Circuit ...Oxford..... No...23/01.....

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..... 14/03/2024

Name and address of treasurer: Christopher Butler, Wooster Arms, The Walk, Islip, Kidlington

..... Post Code OX5 2SD

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 14/03/2024.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting:

Name of the Chair of the meeting: Rev. Miriam Moul Date

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Oxford Methodist

..... Circuit

Charity Number ...1134618.....

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Circuit ...Oxford..... No 23/01.....

Independent Examiner's Statement

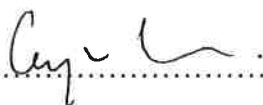
The Circuit's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales.

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 not obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner



Name of independent examiner - George Style

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner - Chartered Accountant

Name of firm - Cooper Parry Advisory Limited

Address: 3 Danebrook Court, Langford Lane, Kidlington, Oxford

Post Code: OX5 1LQ

Date 9 May 2024