

LESNES ABBEY METHODIST CIRCUIT

CHARITY NUMBER: 1134664

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT AND AIM OF CIRCUIT

Lesnes Abbey Circuit forms part of the London Methodist District and is governed by the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church. Day to day management of the Circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership Team along with the Local Preachers Meeting members.

As a Circuit our primary aim is to fulfil the purposes of the Methodist Church which 'are and shall be deemed to have been since the date of union the advancement of –

- (a) the Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church;
- (b) any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, district, circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church;
- (c) any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church;
- (d) any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church.'

ACTIVITIES

Our activities include the following:

1. Supporting local churches in the provision of regular public acts of worship open to members of the church and non- members alike.
2. The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups and Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services.
3. Pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.
4. Promotion of Christianity through the staging of in person events and services via you tube, thus reaching out to those who cannot attend physically.
Provision of Chaplaincy services to the local hospital and prison.

CIRCUIT MEETINGS (TRUSTEES' MEETINGS)

The members of the Circuit Meeting constitute the Trustees of the Circuit.(See appendix for names of Trustees.) During the year under review, the trustees met thrice (September, March & June) to review the mission of the Circuit in the past year, to plan for our future ministry and to receive the circuit annual accounts.

REVIEW OF OUR MISSION

a. Support to local churches

There are twelve churches in the Circuit of which eight are Methodist congregations, one Church of England and the remaining three are Local Ecumenical Partnerships (LEPs)[Methodist/Anglican/United Reformed]. In addition to these established churches, also a church plant in a local school, Heronsgate Primary School.

The Circuit has three full-time Methodist Ministers who exercise pastoral charge over the eight Methodist churches. The Church of England

congregation and the LEPs are looked after by three full-time Anglican priests and one URC minister. A married couple who are both ordained URC ministers exercise pastoral charge over the church plant. We have two retired Methodist Ministers one of whom is active. In the Connexional year 2022/2023, all our churches were open on every Sunday for public acts of worship.

- b. Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups
In addition to services held in the local churches, the Circuit also organised three united services which were held in different churches. These services provided additional means for some of our members who live on their own to have fellowship with others and to make new friends.

We confirm the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. When reviewing the aims and objectives of the circuit, the Trustees have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The guidance is consulted in carrying out our activities, for example those pertaining to fund raising. This ensures that our work is within the confines of the rules and expectations of the commission. We make sure that we work to the charity's aims and objectives, which are centred around the benefit of the public.

CONTRIBUTION MADE BY VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the fabric of the circuit. Without them, it would not function. They make up the majority of the various committees that exist. They collect visiting ministers from home, station etc who have not got cars. Hold coffee mornings and luncheon clubs, act as administrators and clerical staff. They maintain manse and churches as much as possible.

SUMMARY OF THE MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CHARITY

During the year, the Charity worked to:

- (a) Provide the staff and facilities to enable mission to reach the community and grow the Church family which in turn provided mutual support to those within it.
- (b) Provided support for organisations working in society to help the vulnerable where they need it.
- (c) Provide facilities for groups to meet, run by the community, for recovering alcoholics, weight loss programs, the elderly, mothers with young children, and youth groups e.g. Scout Groups and playgroups.

Signed



Revd Greg Obong-Oshotse
Superintendent Minister, Chair and Trustee

APPENDIX

MEMBERS OF LESNES ABBEY CIRCUIT MEETING (TRUSTEES)

Revd Greg Obong-Oshotse	Superintendent Minister (Chair)
Revd Dr Chellaian Lawrence	Minister
Revd Dr Anselmo Amaral	Minister
Revd Patrick Eggleston	Minister
Revd Dr Elaine Colechin	Minister
Mr Steve Hienno	Circuit Treasurer
Deacon Pat Soule	Supernumerary Deacon
Ms Marian VanDyck	Senior Circuit Steward
Mrs Madonna Johnson	Circuit Steward
Mr Femi Lawson	Circuit Steward
Mr Hudson Jackson	Circuit Safeguarding Secretary
Mr Francis Johnson	Circuit Manses Coordinator/Property Steward
Mr Brentnol Roach	Local Preachers' Secretary

Church Representatives

Abbey Wood

Mr Archibald Dadzie	Senior Steward
Mr Kofi Narh-Saam	Treasurer
Mrs Seun Adebajo	Property Steward
Mr Robert Ndume	Representative

Barnehurst

Mrs Maggie Cooper	Senior Steward
Mr Ray Cooper	Treasurer
Mr Leslie Gamadeku	Property Steward
Miss Cathy Turner	Representative

Belvedere

Mrs Madonna Johnson	Senior Steward
Mrs Marilyn Akuoku	Treasurer
Vacant	Property Steward
Mrs Ann Hartley	Representative

Bexleyheath

Mr Roger Forward	Senior Steward
Vacant	Treasurer
Vacant	Property Steward
Ms.Christiane Sanvee	Representative
vacant	Representative

Trinity

Mr Ben Godwyll	Senior Steward
Mr Ebenezer Gyan-Kodiah	Treasurer
Mr Tolu Tikare	Property Steward
Mr Adebayo Jolaoso	Representative
Mrs Kofu Famurewa	Representative

Welling

Mr Tony Hayes	Senior Steward
Ms Martha Etsibah	Treasurer
Vacant	Property Steward
Miss Sandy Kennedy	Representative

Wesley Hall

Mrs Karen Gilham
Mr Paul Nichols
Mr Barry Munden
Vacant
Vacant

Senior Steward
Treasurer
Property Steward
Representative
Representative

Lesnes Abbey
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

		Unrestricted	Restricted	2023	2022
INCOME					
RESOURCES					
	Notes				
Voluntary income	1	340	-	340	0
Income From Investment		19,100	0	19,100	17,894
Others		<u>160,223</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>160,223</u>	<u>179,583</u>
		<u>179,662</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>179,662</u>	<u>197,477</u>
RESOURCES USED					
Cost of Activities in Furtherance of Obje	2	181,596	556	182,152	200,604
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		<u>181,596</u>	<u>555.83</u>	<u>182,152</u>	<u>200,604</u>
Net (outgoing) in the year		<u>(1,934)</u>	<u>(556)</u>	<u>(2,490)</u>	<u>(3,128)</u>
NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR		(1,934)	(556)	(2,490)	(3,128)
Transfer between Funds:					
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		<u>1,226,167</u>	<u>32,508</u>	<u>1,258,675</u>	<u>1,270,418</u>
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD		<u>1,224,233</u>	<u>31,952</u>	<u>1,256,185</u>	<u>1,267,290</u>

All activities are derived from continuing operations

The notes on pages 7 to 10 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Lesnes Abbey
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

Note	2023	2022
	£	£

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Circuit Manses & Equipment		877,473	877,473
Investment Properties		326,845	326,845

CURRENT ASSETS

Debtors	3	50,303	50,303
HSBC Current Account	4	22,670	6,854
Central Finance Board		6,467	24,772
TMCP		32,508	32,508
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		111,947	114,437

CREDITORS: Amounts falling

Under 1 year	5	20,531	50,204
Loans to the Circuit Due		-	10,000
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		91,416	54,233

NET ASSETS

<hr/>	<hr/>
1,295,734	1,258,551
<hr/>	<hr/>

FUNDS

Unrestricted Funds	6	1,263,782	1,226,043
Restricted Funds	7	31,952	32,508
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		1,295,734	1,258,551
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		0	

The notes on pages 7 to 10 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Approved by the Trustees on 2023 and signed on
their behalf by :

.....

STEPHEN HIENNO

Treasurer

.....

Rev Greg Obong-Oshotse

Superintendent

Lesnes Abbey**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31, AUGUST 2023****BASIS OF ACCOUNTING**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historic cost convention except where assets have been stated at valuation. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities Revised 2005 (SORP 2005)applicable Standards and the Companies Act 2011.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES.

1.1 FUNDS

General funds represent the funds of the circuit that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the Circuit. The purpose of any restricted funds is noted in the financial statements. The financial statements include transactions, assets, and liabilities for which the Circuit can be held responsible. They do not include the financial statements of Circuit groups that owe an affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Circuit members.

INCOMING RESOURCES.

1.2 Voluntary income and capital resources.

Voluntary income and donations are recognised when received.

1.3 Other Ordinary Income.

Rental income from letting of circuit premises is accounted for when due.

1.4 Income from investments.

Dividends and interests are accounted for when received.

APPLICATION OF RESOURCES.

1.5 Grants.

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid.

THE METHODIST CHURCH

Lesnes Abbey

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31, AUGUST 2023

1.8 Other fixtures , fittings and office equipments.

All other fixtures, fittings and Equipments used by the circuit are written off as and when incurred.

Lesnes Abbey

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31, AUGUST 2023

Charity Registration number - 1134664

Principal address: 265, Burrage Road, Plumstead, London SE18 7JW (Circuit Office)

Bankers - HSBC Bank
 Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church

Accountant and Independent Examiner.

Lesnes Abbey

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31, AUGUST 2023

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Lesnes Abbey**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31, AUGUST 2023**

The following pages are for the Trustees of the LESNES ABBEY CIRCUIT only

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO
THE Trustees of LESNES ABBEY CIRCUIT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31, AUGUST 2023**

I report on the accounts of the LESNES ABBEY METHODIST CIRCUIT
for the year ended 31, August 2023 which are set out on pages 5 to 10.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE TRUSTEES OF LESNES ABBEY AND THE EXAMINER

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.

The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for the year under section 144(2) of the
Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an Independent Examination is required.

It is my responsibility to:

- i) Examine the financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- ii) To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by
the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act, and
- iii) To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the
Charity Commission. The examination includes a review of the financial records kept by
the Circuit and a comparison of the financial statements with those records. It also includes
consideration of any unusual items or disclosure in the financial statements, and seeking
explanations from you as the Managing trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures
undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and
consequently no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements present a "true and
fair" view, and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT.

In connection with my examination of your financial statements for the year ended 31 August
2023, no matter has come to my attention :

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the
requirements
 - > To keep financial records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act : and
 - > To prepare financial statements which accord with the financial records and
comply with the Accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met ; or

2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Independent Examiner

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED 31, AUGUST 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2023 £	2022 £
1. Incoming Resources					
Activities in Furtherance of the Charity's Objects					
Donations & Legacies	340	-	-	340	-
Income From Monetary Investment	130			130	26
Income from Investment Properties	18,969			18,969	17,868
Assessment of Churches	152,939			152,939	170,848
Other Income	7,284			7,284	8,734
TOTAL INCOME	179,662	-	-	179,662	197,476

RESOURCES USED

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
2. Cost of Activities in Furtherance of Ob					
Salaries & Associated Costs	109,732	-	-	109,732	119,568
Property Maintenance	4,092		-	4,092	6,098
District Assessment & Levy	43,807	556	-	44,363	46,525
Office Expenses	-			-	160
Other Outgoings	23,965			23,965	28,254
	-			-	-
	181,596	556	-	182,152	200,604
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	181,596	556	-	182,152	200,604
Excess (Deficit) Over Income	(1,934)	(556)	-	(2,490)	(3,128)
Transfer Between Funds					
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	1,226,167	32,508	-	1,258,675	1,270,418
NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR	1,224,233	31,952	-	1,256,185	1,267,290

The Lesnes Abbey present their report together with the independently examined accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CIRCUIT.

The Circuit is managed by the Superintendent, Ministers and elected Stewards from the various churches.

Superintendent

Rev Greg Obong-Oshotse

Treasurer

Mr Stephen Hienno

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Circuit is managed by the trustees and is made up of the ministers and elected stewards.

The Circuit ensures that incoming steward are well equipped by arranging for them to attend training and seminars organised by the circuits.

The governing document for the circuit is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976)

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

Day to day management of the circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team along with the Local Preachers meeting, the Circuit Finance and Property Committee and the Circuit Policy Committee.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Lesnes Abbey Circuit forms part of the London Methodist District and is governed by the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church. As a Circuit our primary aim is to fulfil the purposes of the Methodist Church which 'are and shall be deemed to have been since the date of union the advancement of –

- (a) the Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church;
- (b) any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, district, circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church;
- (c) any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church;
- (d) any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church.'

Our activities include the following:

1. Supporting local churches in the provision of regular public acts of worship open to members of the church and non- members alike.
2. The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.
3. Pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.
4. Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services.

Members of Trustees of LESNES ABBEY

Members who served during the year and at the date of this report are:

Superintendent Minister Rev Greg Obong-Oshotse

Minister

Minister

Minister

Revd Chellaian Lawrence

Revd Patrick Eggleston [AM]

Supernumerary Minister
Circuit Treasurer Mr Steve Hienno
Circuit Stewards:
 Ms Marian VanDyck
 Mrs Madonna Johnson
 Mr Femi Lawson

Circuit Administrator Miss Julie Websdale

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income trends

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessments paid by the circuit churches. The rental income relates to the rental of a manse at 27 Canberra Road, Charlton. Total income at £180k was £17k lower than the previous year.

Expenditure trends

Total expenditure in the year was £182k as compared to £201k the previous year., this was mainly due to the reduction in staff costs as a result of having one less minister for the year.

Fund balances

As at 31 August 2023 the net current assets of the Circuit were £91k, giving approximately 10 months cover for expenditure based on the 2021-22 expenses. We also have to repay £30k towards the loan in the three years between 2019-20 and 2022-23 to fully repay this loan.

APPROVAL

This report was approved by the Trustees on 2023
and signed on their behalf by :

Lesnes Abbey Methodist Circuit

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Lesnes Abbey Methodist Circuit

Year ended 31 August 2023

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Lesnes Abbey Methodist Circuit ("the charity") for the year ended 31 August 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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.

Independent examiner's statement

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

" the accounting records were not kept in accordance with the section 130 of the Charities Act; or
" the accounts did not accord with the accounting records: or
" the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and contents of the 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.

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

Kojo Gyamera
Independent Examiner

6 Grove Farm Court
Brookfields Avenue
Mitcham Surrey
CR4 4BT