

Methodist Church

Bury Circuit

Circuit number 06/08

Accounts for Year Ending 31 August 2021

Circuit Superintendent	Rev Kathy Selby
Staff	Deacon Michelle Brocklehurst Rev Jeremy Hackett Rev Chris Haines Rev Kathy Selby Rev Sally Thornton (part-time)
Lay worker	Thomas King Richard Selby (from January 2020)
Circuit Stewards	Sue Grant Roger Green Ken Jones June Leeming Brian Sharples
Circuit Treasurer	Roger Green

Name of Circuit

Circuit No

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

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2020-21 £
Income							
1 Donations and legacies							0
2 Income from monetary investments		118				223	341
3 Income from investment properties		31,056	944			26	32,026
4 Assessments on Churches		362,200					362,200
5 Capital Receipts			105,614				105,614
6 Grants received		225					225
7 Other charitable income		1,545					1,545
8 Total income		395,144	106,558	-	-	249	501,951
Expenditure							
9 Grants and donations							0
10 Salaries and associated costs		254,180					254,180
11 Property maintenance		105,783					105,783
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy			12,259				12,259
13 District Assessment & Levy		76,932	22,246				99,178
14 Depreciation							0
15 Office expenses		4,486					4,486
16 Other outgoings		1,068	560			26	1,654
17 Total charitable expenditure		442,449	35,065	0	0	26	477,540
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments							0
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties							
20 Net income/(expenditure)		-47,305	71,493	0	0	223	24,411
21 Transfers between funds							0
22 Other gains/(losses)							
23 Net movement in funds		-47,305	71,493	0	0	223	24,411
24 Total funds brought forward		115,327	280,123		162	2,268	397,880
25 Total funds carried forward		68,022	351,616	-	162	2,491	422,291

Name of Circuit

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

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £
Income				
1 Donations and legacies				
2 Income from monetary investments		500		
3 Income from investment properties		31,395	2,404	
4 Assessments on Churches		372,272		
5 Capital Receipts				
6 Grants received		658		
7 Other charitable income		9,290		
8 Total income		414,115	2,404	-
Expenditure				
9 Grants and donations		8,150		
10 Salaries and associated costs		245,666		
11 Property maintenance		51,206		
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy			13,105	
13 District Assessment & Levy		73,752		
14 Depreciation				
15 Office expenses		8,903		
16 Other outgoings		11,411	583	
17 Total charitable expenditure		399,088	13,688	0
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments				
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties				
20 Net income/(expenditure)		15,027	-11,284	0
21 Transfers between funds				
22 Other gains/(losses)				
23 Net movement in funds		15,027	-11,284	0
24 Total funds brought forward		100,300	291,408	
25 Total funds carried forward		115,327	280,124	-

Circuit No

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Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2019-20
£	£	£
		0
		500
	29	33,828
		372,272
		0
		658
	185	9,475
-	214	416,733
<hr/>		
		8,150
		245,666
		51,206
		13,105
		73,752
	206	206
		8,903
	29	12,023
0	235	413,011
<hr/>		
		0
0	-21	3,722
<hr/>		
		0
0	-21	3,722
<hr/>		
162	2,289	394,159
162	2,268	397,881
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Bury Methodist Circuit

Notes to Accounts for year ended August 31 2021

1 Basis of accounting and accounting policies

a. 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 in accordance with the Financial reporting standard applicable to the UK and Ireland (FRS 102)

b. Public Benefit entity

The Bury Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost unless otherwise stated.

c. Basis

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

d. Content

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

e. FRS SORP 2015

These accounts are compliant with FRS 102 and FRS 102 SORP 2015.

f. Going Concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at August 31, 2021 the trustees believe that the Circuit is a going concern

g. 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 bodied except in extreme circumstances. For that reason the financial statements of the churches within the Circuit are not consolidated into these financial statements

h. Grants

Grants made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement without performance conditions. When the grant to be accrued is recurrent over more than one year the balance payable in future years is treated as a provision for future commitments against the appropriate fund.

i. Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and individually cost more than £250. The freehold and/or long leasehold property is shown in the accounts at its insurance reinstatement value. Depreciation is not indicated because the trustees consider the current residual value of the property to be not less than its historical cost so the depreciation value would be immaterial.

From time to time the Circuit may be required to assume responsibility for church premises falling vacant after 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 net sale price as determined by professional valuation and after taking into account any levy charged by the Connexion. 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.

j. Monetary investments

The Circuits investments are in monetary assets classified as basic financial instruments under FRS 102 and are held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees. The valuations at market value are those provided by TMCP. The unrealised gains arising during investment at the end of the year are shown in the SOFA

k. Investment properties

From time to time the Circuit may hold residential property (formerly manses) which is surplus to requirements. When this is the case the property is classified as investment property (whether let or not) and any lets are at market rates (unless there is compelling reason not to do so in furtherance of the Circuits charitable objectives).

l. Receivables and Payables; Bank and Cash

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the Circuit or prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amounts. 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 the realisable values.

m. Methodist Connexional Funds

The Methodist church raises assessments against Circuits and these are paid quarterly to their Districts. The Circuits raise assessments against Churches in the Circuit. The District quarterly remits most of the sum received from Circuits to the Methodist Church; a small sum is retained 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

n. Funds

The trustees have adopted a policy for all unrestricted reserves which is set out as a separate document

o. Endowment funds

Where a Circuit holds money that may not be spent and must be retained as capital to generate an income the money or assets are classified as an Endowment Fund. The capital is shown in the Balance sheet. The income may be restricted or unrestricted depending on the terms of the endowment.

p. Ministers 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 generally 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

2) Glossary of terms

CFB: Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church manages a common deposit fund and a series of pooled investment funds for Methodist entities 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

Circuit Meeting: The Trustees of the Circuit most of whom are appointed by the local churches together with others who qualify by virtue of the role they undertake for the Circuit/local churches.

Circuit Leadership Team (CLT): A group (which may be mostly but not exclusively trustees) responsible for the day to day administration and policy formulation of the Circuit.

CMTF: Circuit Model trust Fund

Connexion: The Methodist Church in GB which includes the Head Office at Methodist Church House, all Methodist Districts, Circuits and incorporated Methodist Churches in GB

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

District: a group of contiguous Circuits

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.

MMPS: Methodist Ministers Pension Scheme

PASLEMAC: Pension and assurance scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church.

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

Presbyters (Including Superintendent): Probationer or Ordained Methodist minister and/or Deacons 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 Custodial Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property including legacies, endowments and Accumulated funds.

Bury Methodist Circuit

Notes to Accounts for year ended August 31 2021

This has been a most unusual year because of the corona virus Covid-19. As a result it is difficult to predict next years outcomes as churches have been using their reserves. No church has defaulted on its assessment this year but we are uncertain how this will affect next year's assessments.

1) Income from Investment properties

The trustees have determined that the properties listed below were unlikely to be used as manses in the foreseeable future and they were classified as Investment properties. However because of movement of ministers there have been several changes over the year. The Ripon Hall Avenue manse was occupied for part of the year as the tenant decided to move. While Avondale avenue was intended to be an Investment property for the year Covid-19 has disrupted the renovations so it does not appear as an Investment property until this year.. In August the tenant at King's Avenue decided to move and most of the year was devoted to maintenance issues. There were also maintenance problems at Middleton Road.

	General Funds
140, Middleton Road	2810.82
2, Kings Avenue	220.00
90, Ripon Hall Avenue	11358.8
26, Avondale Avenue	12338.48
Contribution to Branksome Avenue	3000.00
Returns etc	1328.1
TOTAL	31056.2

2) Assessment on Churches

The Circuit consists of 14 Methodist churches and 1 local ecumenical partnership (LEP. The churches are Bolton Road, Brandlesholme, Bridge, Edenfield, Heaton Park, Holcombe Brook, Jericho, Prestwich, Rowlands, Seedfield, Tottington, Trinity, Wesley and Whitefield. The LEP is Christ Church. Each is assessed to make a contribution to the work of the Circuit. The amount needed for budgeting purposes is determined each year and the total, less any income from lettings is divided among the churches according to the income they have raised over the preceding three years (after allowance is made for some costs associated with the money raised by each church from its own lettings). These projected figures are discussed with church treasurers and adjustments made where necessary to take account of unusual circumstances in each church.

Close Methodist Church has been closed for more than a year but the intention is to open this as an ecumenical venture with the Church of England in 2021-22

Total assessment for the year was £362,200

3) Capital receipts

The capital receipts were from the sale of a piece of land from one of the churches (Tottington) Total received (before deductions) was **£105,614** This was paid into the CMTF. .

4) Grants and donations

No grants and donations were made in the year but were paid in September 2021 so they will appear in the next years totals.

	General Funds	
Methodist Fund for training	0	
Methodist fund for Property	0	
Methodist fund for support of Presbyters and deacons	0	

Total	£0	

5) Stipends, salaries and associated costs

Stipends were paid to 5 full time ministers and 1 at 0.5. All were funded from the general funds. Costs were as follows:

Gross remuneration	142954
Pension contribution	37762
N.I	12528
Travel	895
Computers	1014
Total	195153

Other staff

During the year we appointed a second part-time Lay Worker. All three Lay Workers were paid from general funds.

Gross remuneration	45976
Pension Contributions	2759
N.I.	2890
Travel	641
Total	52266

Total cost for remuneration	247419
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The superintendent of the Circuit, the other ministers and the remaining members of CLT are considered as Key Management Personnel. All members of the Circuit Meeting are trustees. The stipends, employers NIC and employer's pension contributions and other expenses of the ministers are paid by the Circuit as are the contributions for the Lay Workers. The manses for the ministers are provided by the Circuit and the Circuit maintains the property. The value of the Council tax and water charges paid by the Circuit is not disclosed here as HMRC does not regard this as a benefit-in-kind for the ministers. One of the lay workers is secretary to the Circuit meeting (and hence a Key Management person); her salary is paid from general funds

There is no payment to trustees, except the ministers, and Lay Workers although travel costs for the Lay workers are also paid.

6) Property Expenses

The Circuit manages 9 manses; because the Manse at Ripon Hall Avenue is not occupied by a Baptist minister this year it is one of those rented out to defray Circuit expenses. One manse has been modified and not used this year but will be rented out next year and much work has needed to be completed. For most of the year we have had only three manses rented to outsiders. One minister lives in her own property. There is also a chapel which has not been used this year but is still a Circuit responsibility. All amounts are taken from the general account.

Manses

Gas Service	3069
Water supply	3060
Council Tax	13180
Repairs at Kings Avenue	48170
Repairs at Middleton Road	9542
Avondale – flooring	3655
Booth Way part Flooring	821
Ripon Hall Road Plumbing and electrics	942
Reedbank Various	222
Various (Bills less than £200)	14285
Total	96946

General Insurance

This covers buildings (all 9 with a premium for those let) and the contents of the occupied manses which are Circuit property. This is mainly the contents of the study. The amount due falls on or about 5 September.

Insurance (Methodist Insurance)* on all except Branksome Avenue	9393
Insurance on Branksome Ave	576
Total	5512

*2 years payment

Costs of Chapels not occupied

There is one at present. The Circuit is responsible for all the costs on the property. There were major problems in determining who owned which parts of the land (which was owned severally by the Anglican Church and Bury Metro as well as the Methodist Church); this was resolved eventually by Mills and Reeve the solicitors recommended by TMCP

Insurance	1800
Services	1323
Total	3123

7) District Assessment and Levy

District assessment is calculated on the number of staff in post (both ministers and lay) on 1 September of the previous year. This is divided between the Circuits of the District so that each pays an equitable share. This is taken from general funds There is a levy on funds held in the CMTF which is transferred to the District Advance Fund..

	General	CMTF
District Assessment	76932	
CMTF contribution		12259
Levy on sale		22246
Totals	76932	34505

8) Office Costs

Office costs and telephone charges are amalgamated in the accounts Ministers are entitled to provision of a telephone and broadband connection. All monies are taken from general funds

Telephones	3704
Office supplies (paper, inks, postage etc)	5929
Total	9633

9) Other Outgoings

This includes a range of other activities and the insurance for the Circuit. The amount deducted from endowment funds and CMTF are the costs of using those funds. This usage has been very small this year!

	General	CMTF	Restricted	Endowment
Repayment of Excess paid by Wesley	264			
Training	378			
Energise subscription	252			
Auditor	300			
Insurance for Circuit	4936			
Costs for using TMCP		560	0	25
Total	6130	560	0	25

10) Transfer between funds

The net interest from the endowment funds (£29) is transferred to the general fund to be used for general purposes in the Circuit

11) Fixed assets

The fixed assets of the circuit are 9 manses, three of which are rented out and one of which has been used by the minister at Christchurch, the LEP. We own 27.3% of that manse but as the Minister has left it falls to the Circuit to bear the costs of that manse. The value of the manses is the replacement value from the insurance company.

The Church at Close has been estimated as being worth £120,000. While the original intention had been to sell the church at Close, it has been decided that we will use it for a "new" church in conjunction with the Anglican Church beginning in the next Methodist Year..

Manses

These are amounts from the insurance forms

Property	Type	Value
16, Branksome Avenue	Manse	263,253
7, Reedbank	Manse	231,341
1, Booth Way	Manse	237,936

409, Bolton Road	Manse	246,537
26, Avondale Drive	Investment	237,936
90, Ripon Drive	Investment	183,348
2, Kings Avenue	Investment	354,400
140, Middleton Road	Investment	237,936
38, The Drive	Manse	289,523
Total		2,282,210

Investment properties

Close	Estimate	120,000
Total		120,000

12) Investment assets

The investment assets are held by TMCP.

Circuit Model Trust Fund

Balance at 31/08/19	280123
Income	105614
Interest	944
Expenditure	
District Levy	12259
Administrative charge	560
CPF Levy	22246
Balance at 31/08/21	351616

Other Investments

These are all Endowment funds which have restricted usage and there is no ability to use capital; they are managed by TMCP. They were transferred to the Circuit when Unsworth Methodist Church close.

Fund	Value at 31/08/20	Interest	Admin costs	Unrealised Gains	Value at 31/08/21	Use of interest
John and Hilda Ashworth Bequest	1207	22	22	222	1429	General funds
Norman Walker Legacy	1061	4	4	0	1061	General Funds
Total	2268	26	26	222	2490	

Name of Circuit

Bury..... No 06/08.....

Declarations and Scrutiny

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

Signature of treasurer  Date... 26/10/21...

Name and address of treasurer Roger Green, 105 Heaton Park RoadManchester,
Post Code...M9 0QQ.....

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 were/will be*
presented to the Circuit meeting held on ..15.3.22..

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting KATHY SELBY Date 15.3.22

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

..... Bury Circuit

Charity Number 1134694

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the
Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2021 set out on pages ... to 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 No

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 (*insert name of applicable listed body*)]. *Delete [] if not applicable.*

Acc A

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 *Delete if not applicable ie all R&P accounts*
- the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts *Delete if not applicable ie all R&P 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~~/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 NH Chambers

Name of independent examiner NIGEL HARRY CHAMBERS

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FCCA (0392153)

Name of firm (where appropriate) BRIGHTLEY COLEMAN AND COMPANY

Address 33 TURNER STREET

..... MANCHESTER Post Code M4 1BW

Date 17/12/2021

* delete or circle as appropriate

September 2021

Bury Circuit

Trustees Annual report

For the Year ended 31 August 2021

Introduction

This is the annual report from the Bury Circuit which covers mostly the Metropolitan Borough of Bury. The Circuit currently consists of 15 Churches. We are a Circuit which intends to be Biblically based and keen to share God's love throughout the area. We seek to discern God's mission in our Circuit and work towards God's plan.

Principle Aims

We are evangelically minded to spread God's love to all, and to be a discipleship movement focused on God's mission in Jesus Christ. We also acknowledge all are God's children and seek to help them where we can. We seek to serve our local communities in the name of Christ.

Review of the Year

This has been another unusual year when most churches could not meet in their buildings for most of the year and only in the later stages of the year were churches meeting at all. Different churches began service at different times of the spring and summer depending on their unique situation.

- 1) Some churches were able to meet eventually each Sunday although times had to be altered.
- 2) Many went to having services on alternate Sundays and all had shortened services with masks and, where necessary, social distancing
- 3) Many of our elderly congregations had services printed out and sent to them. Some were able to join a service on line but many had a printed copy
- 4) It was only recently that visitations began again. It is noteworthy that Jericho visited at Christmas and took out gifts. Other churches such as Whitefield and Bolton Road have visited older people in their community and delivered afternoon teas.
- 5) Asylum seekers are not meeting at present at Heaton Park and it is not certain when they will begin again
- 6) Oasis has started up again at Whitefield (to the obvious delight of some parents!) but has had to be limited in size.
- 7) Schools have been opened again but were not all that regular before the long holiday. There has been much less contact with them from our members. Ministers led "Zoom" assemblies, but are now taking them in person.

- 8) Social media has been used extensively and there have been several services broadcast from churches in the Circuit on Sundays using Zoom, Facebook Live and Youtube. There were also some mid-week services and prayer times as well as other meetings in the evenings. Many of these have decreased or diminished after it became possible to meet in person.
- 9) Some children's activities have been continued through lockdown including the beginnings of a Messy church and contact with children through social media every week.
- 10) Disadvantaged people can now meet in Prestwich for meals once a week and other churches have provided vouchers instead of the usual meal provision during school holidays.
- 11) Ramsbottom Pantry, who provide groceries for local people in need, have become part of Christ Church, Ramsbottom. A well-being cafe has started to provide somewhere the pantry clients can enjoy refreshments, find a listening ear and spiritual support.
- 12) Arrangements are under way to re-open Close as a joint project with the Anglican Church.
- 13) The Methodist Church's approval of the resolutions contained in the "God in love Unites us" report has resulted in some loss of members but the full extent of this is not yet clear.
- 14) Several churches have had outside services to encourage people and one church has started a meeting in a local park on the first Saturday of the month during the summer.

Income Trends

This has been an unusual year! The amount raised from assessments was slightly reduced from last year (97.3%) and the amount raised from lettings was also reduced (98.9%) even though for much of the year there were repairs at two of the properties. The amount raised from assessments was 91.7% of the total, which was slightly raised from the previous year (89.9%). Lettings made up 7.9% but other sources of income were much reduced at only 0.4%.

The Circuit Model Trust (CMT) increased by just over £70,000 because one of the circuit churches sold a field for £105,614. The net increase is therefore not truly an increase in Circuit Funds because the balance of that transaction resides in the CMT but will be reclaimed by the church next year.

Expenditure trends

The largest contribution to the expenditure was again the salaries and associated costs. They contributed 57.4% of the expenditure. This was raised from the previous year because of the increase in ministers stipends but also because there was a significant contribution from a second (part time) appointment of a lay pastor.

Property maintenance was raised significantly to 23.9% of the total a rise from 12.8% the previous year. This represents significant expenditure on two of our investment properties which required considerable modification when the occupants moved. The assessment from the District rose to 17% of

the total, a net increase of over £3000 on the year. Office expenses decreased because the Circuit Office was moved to the secretary's home. Other outgoings were low levels because of the pandemic. The district had just over £22,000 taken from it by TMCP as the 25% reduction on income; this is the normal contribution on sales of property.

Fund Balances

Overall, the net amount in the general funds decreased by over £47,000, while the net increase in the CMT was over £71,000. There was a slight increase in one of our legacy properties which only amounted to £233. The net loss leaves us with only £68,000 in general funds and this represents slightly less than two months reserves.

In the CMT it should be noted that about £83,000 is reserved for Tottington and £72, 593 is for Seedfield. Thus there only remains £195 655 and we have committed £50,000 to fund any modifications at Whitefield if they are able to raise the remainder of the money required for their modifications..

The amounts in the endowment funds are very low (£2491) and is held in permanent endowment. The restricted fund is low at only £162 which is reserved for transfer to Peru.

Plans for 2021/2

Plans for 2021-2 still have to be fluid as we are not certain what long term effects the pandemic will have. Many churches have had deaths (many not related to Covid) and it is not possible to assess church numbers for the coming year. This section will have to be therefore viewed with some caution!

Two of our churches are exploring the possibility of becoming a class of another (of our) churches. At present this does not appear to involve disposal of church buildings but we await further discussions

Surprisingly, funding has been relatively stable this year but how this will be in the future, now that churches have used up most of their reserves, is uncertain. The budget has been set rather lower this coming year partly because the Central Methodist church has not been asking for as much from Circuits and partly because all our manses are now in a reasonable state of repair.

Reserves of the circuit have been reduced to a level below which they should not be allowed to decrease. However we do not have enough information about how churches will be able to meet their assessments this coming year.

Jez Hackett agreed to stay for a further period of 5 years but we will lose a minister in the coming year. Chris Haines has decided to become a mission partner with the World Church, working with partner churches overseas. The Circuit has agreed that we would apply for a probationer minister but will have to see whether (s)he materialises and will not know the result of our application until January.

Plans for a digital evangelist have not materialised fully. Jez has agreed to apportion 30% of his time to the post in the coming year; his churches have still to see what effect this will have on them although there are tentative plans for how this will work.

After several years of discussions about selling the building, Close will re-open again this coming year as a joint project with the Anglican Church. Another church is already meeting there (as they were getting flooded in their accommodation). The venture is still waiting final approval from the Methodist church hierarchy but will almost certainly happen.

Many of these plans cannot be set in stone as there are still considerable uncertainty about the long term effects of the pandemic and whether the congregations will come back to church again.

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charities annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 2015 as applicable to the Financial Reporting Standard (FRSSE) 2015.

Full Name of Charity: Bury Methodist Circuit

Registration Charity Number 1134694

Date of Registration:

Main Communication Address; Bury Circuit Office, c/o 409, Bolton Road, Bury, BL8 2PH.

Members of the Bury Methodist Circuit Meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of circuit office holders, ministers, and representatives appointed by the local churches. Full membership is shown at appendix A

Circuit Ministers and Officers for 2019-20

Active Circuit Ministers	Rev Kathy Selby Deacon Michelle Brocklehurst Rev Jeremy Hackett Rev Chris Haines Rev David Somerville Rev Sally Thornton (half time)
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Circuit Lay workers	Thomas King (paid) Richard Selby (paid, part-time)
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Circuit Stewards	Sue Grant Roger Green
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Ken Jones (part Year)
June Leeming (part Year)
Brian Sharples

Administrator

Emma Twiss

Roger Green acted as the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the year

Auditor

Brierley Coleman, 40 Princess Street, Manchester
M1 6DE

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

Purposes and Organisation

The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the date of Union the advancement of:

- 1) The Christian Faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and discipline of the Methodist church;
- 2) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, District, Circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church;
- 3) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church;
- 4) Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church

The Circuit produces a quarterly preaching plan to ensure regular acts of worship take place in the 14 Methodist sites and 1 Local Ecumenical Partnership within its boundaries. These are open to the public without charge. It also ensures regular midweek worship at the local Methodist Home for the Aged. Of course during the lockdown all this activity has ceased and is only now beginning again. Pastoral work is, however, still resourced as is the teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups on-line and now in person again. Religious assemblies are taken in schools. These moved on-line but are now starting in person again.

The Charity objective is to act as a Resource provider within the area of Bury for the Methodist Church.

Public Benefit

We confirm that the Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commissions guidance on public benefit.

Structure, Governance and Management

The governing documents for the Circuit are the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976). Detailed governance arrangements are outlined in the Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD).

Day to day management of the Circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership Team along with the Local Preachers Meeting and the Circuit Treasurers Committee.

Related Parties

The Circuit is part of the Bolton and Rochdale District and is accountable to the Methodist Conference.

Risk Management

Major risks have been identified by the Circuit Treasurer's committee and the Circuit Leadership Team. These are regularly reviewed. Income and expenditure are monitored in total, and are compared with the approved annual Budget at regular intervals to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's recreation 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;
- the careful selection and training of 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;
- response, without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, and co-operating with the police and local authority in any investigation;
- to seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care;
- to seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust;
- to seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities;

- in all these principles we will follow the appropriate legislation.

The Bury Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy. It commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

Reserves Policy

The recommended reserves policy is to keep about 6 months in reserve. This is more important this year as we do not know whether the churches will all survive the Covid pandemic.

The amount in general funds (£68,022) is clearly insufficient and it might be thought that the £351,616 in the CMT fund will increase this beyond the limit. However, of the amount in the CMT fund £72,593 is held in reserve for Seedfield and over £81, 000 is held for Tottington. We have also committed £50,000 to the Whitefield Oasis project so effectively we have only just short of £150,000 attributable to the Circuit. In total therefore we have about £218,000 in reserve for any emergencies. This is slightly over the 6 months projected expenditure for Circuit but not so far over that we could release anything further for other projects. We intend therefore to keep that amount in reserve as we have no indications that there will be any further sums coming to boost the reserves.

The income from endowment funds is for use with Youth work, which has not been spent this last year but we anticipate that we will spend it next year if we are allowed to given the Covid situation. The amount for Peru will eventually be spent in Peru or one of the agencies which fund Peruvian projects.

Signed.

Date

Rev Kathy Selby
(Superintendent)

Roger Green
(Treasurer)

Emma Twiss
(Secretary)

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Signed.

K. Selby

Date 15.3.22

R. Green

Emma Twiss

Rev Kathy Selby
(Superintendent)

Roger Green
(Treasurer)

Emma Twiss
(Secretary)