

**Bury Circuit**  
**Trustees Annual Report**  
**For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

**Introduction**

This is the annual report from the Bury Circuit which covers mostly the Metropolitan Borough of Bury. The circuit consists of 14 Churches, one of which meets as a class of another church (although it does meet in its own building). We are a Circuit intent on being Biblically based and keen to share God's love throughout the area. We seek to discern God's mission in in our Circuit and work toward God's plan.

**Principle Aims**

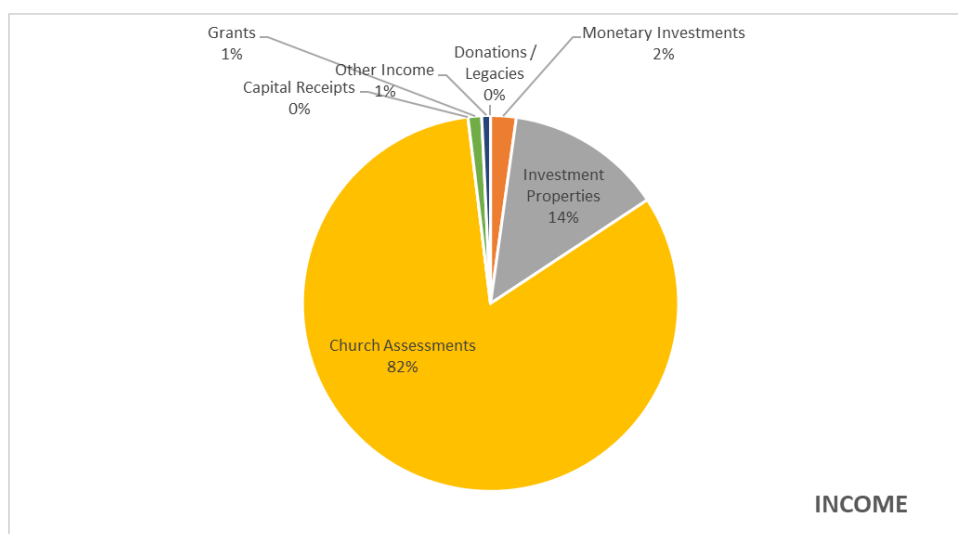
We are evangelically minded spreading God's love to all and to be a discipleship movement focused on God's mission in Jesus Christ. We also acknowledge that all are God's children, and we seek to help Churches where we can. We want to serve our local communities in the name of Christ.

**Review of the Year**

1. There is still an amount outstanding to be paid to Seedfield and TMCP have been approached to confirm the exact amount that was originally deposited. Some of the funds were redeemed this year to pay for new lights, a sound system and furniture at the church.
2. Brandlesholme continues to meet in their own building as a class of Bolton Road Methodist Church.
3. The 'new' church at Close continues as a separate entity in Radcliffe with the church at Living Waters still using the church, contributing to its upkeep.
4. The Pantries at Christ Church, Heaton Park, Bridge and Bolton Road continue, and this past year Bolton Road has also seen a continuation of its work supporting the homeless in Bury by offering them a warm space to sleep during the winter months.
5. The Circuit does continue to have a shortage of local preachers with more churches using Own Arrangement Services to meet worship needs.
6. More Messy Churches have started to meet up again, Holcombe Brook having recently re-started this youth service. Overall, youth activities continue to take place across the Circuit.
7. Church membership overall continues to decline which, if this trend is maintained, could ultimately cause church closures in the future.

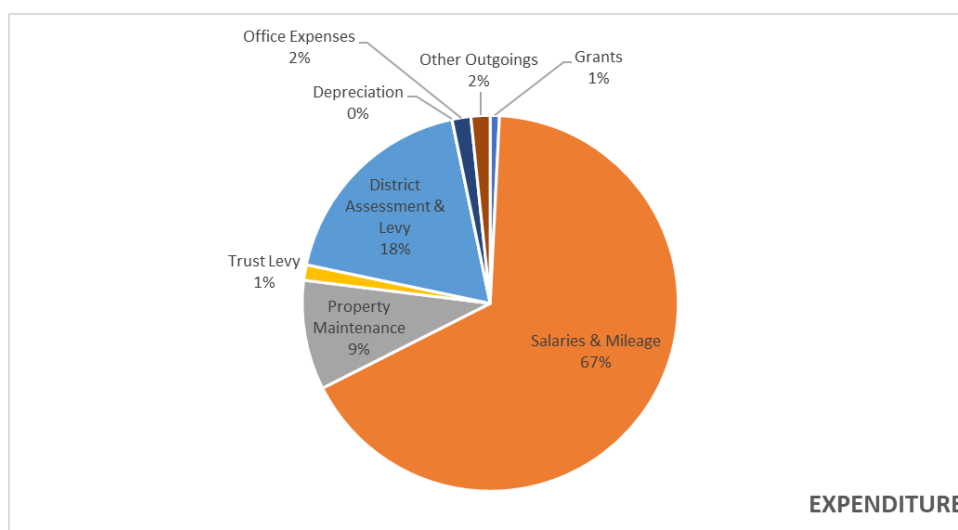
## Income Trends

Our income showed an overall 3% reduction against last year and the largest income was Assessments from Churches which accounted for 82% of the total income to the Circuit. Interest from TMCP did show a small income against last year and rent increases on the let manses aided income but due to a change in the Christ Church agreement, we also saw a decrease to the circuit of the rental income from Ripon Hall so overall, income from investment properties decreased by some 14%. The chart below shows the income at a glance:



## Expenditure Trends

Overall salaries showed a 4% increase on last year. The increase was less than the rise in salaries due to the Circuit no longer paying the salary of the Lay Worker at Christ Church. As can be seen on the chart below, and as expected, the largest two expenses for the circuit were Salaries and the District Assessment/Levy, at 67% and 18% respectively. The payment to Seedfield of some of the funds held in the TMCP account has contributed to reduced interest.



## Fund balances

We have had to transfer funds from the TMCP account, used for Circuit Reserves, to cover the cost of both salaries and the District Assessment as we were unable to recover the amounts needed from local churches without having a detrimental effect on their own activities. As a result of cash movements, we have a balance of £43,021 in the General Fund and £100,446 in the TMCP account.

The General Fund is therefore very low and will not cover 50% of the reserves needed for the Circuit (that being six months' salary & district assessments for the year).

## Plans for 2024/25

This is very difficult to predict as at the time of writing, we are in the process of stationing and next year will also need to look at appointing a new Superintendent. Currently we are in the position of having to use yet more of our reserves to cover costs and this is not sustainable long term.

We continue to be grateful for Bolton Road's oversight of Brandlesholme which allows them to operate in their own building and this will continue for the immediate future.

Churches also continue to cover their services with ever increasing Own Arrangements due to a lack of local preachers. Past 2024/25 the available preacher numbers could reduce even further.

At the end of this year Kathy Selby will retire and we continue to pray that the stationing process brings good news, and we can continue to do Gods work. David Somerville is due to retire in August 2026.

## Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charities Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 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 Number: 1134694

Date of Registration: 08/03/2010

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.

### **Circuit Ministers and Officers for 2023 – 2024**

Active Circuit Ministers	Rev. Kathy Selby Deacon Michelle Brocklehurst Rev. Jeremy Hackett Rev. David Somerville Rev. Blayze White Rev. Sally Thornton (part time)
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Circuit Lay Workers	Thomas King (paid) Richard Selby (paid until 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2023)
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Circuit Stewards	Sue Grant Roger Green Brian Sharples Lindsay Sweeney
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Administrator	Emma Twiss
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Lindsay Sweeney has acted as the principal officer overseeing the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the year.

Auditor	Brierly Coleman, 33 Turner Street, Manchester, M4 1DW
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Investment Bankers	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
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### **Purposes and Organisation**

The purposes of the Methodist Church are, and shall be deemed to have been since the date of the 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 any other organization 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 13 Methodist sites and one local Ecumenical Partnership within its boundaries. These are open to the public without charge. It also practices regular midweek worship at the local Methodist Home for the Aged. Pastoral work is, however, well resourced as is the teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses, and small groups on-line or in person. Religious assemblies are held in schools.

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 Circuit Treasurers Committee.

### **Related Parties**

The Circuit was up until recently part of the Bolton and Rochdale District (now the Northwest 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;

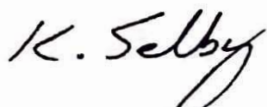
- The careful selection and training of those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment Principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes;
- Response, without delay to every complaint made which 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 in the proper authorities;
- In all these principles we will follow the appropriate legislation.

The Bury Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of the 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 of six months operating costs is not possible and has not been met this year. Reserves are severely depleted not just in the circuit but across all churches within.

Signed and dated: 12/12/2024



Rev Kathy Selby  
(Superintendent)



Lindsay Sweeney  
(Treasurer)



Emma  
(Secretary)

## Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2024

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023-24
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>							
1 Donations and legacies							0
2 Income from monetary investments	1	1,027	7,351				8,378
3 Income from investment properties	2	51,453					51,453
4 Assessments on Churches	3	313,739					313,739
5 Capital Receipts	4	-					0
6 Grants received	5	4,460					4,460
7 Other charitable income		2,656				99	2,755
<b>8 Total income</b>		<b>373,334</b>	<b>7,351</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>380,784</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>							
9 Grants and donations	5	3,312					3,312
10 Salaries and associated costs	6	281,573					281,573
11 Property maintenance	7	39,752					39,752
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy	8		5,613				5,613
13 District Assessment & Levy	8	77,284	462				77,746
14 Depreciation							0
15 Office expenses	9	6,814					6,814
16 Other outgoings	10	6,966					6,966
<b>17 Total charitable expenditure</b>		<b>415,701</b>	<b>6,075</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>421,776</b>
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments	13	-	63,088				-63,088
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties							
<b>20 Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>-42,367</b>	<b>-61,813</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>-104,080</b>
21 Transfers between funds	11	40,000	-				40,000
22 Other gains/(losses)							
<b>23 Net movement in funds</b>		<b>-2,367</b>	<b>-61,813</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>-64,080</b>
24 Total funds brought forward		45,388	162,259				207,647
<b>25 Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>43,021</b>	<b>100,446</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>143,566</b>

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Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024

Notes to the Accounts		General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2023/24	Totals 2022/23		
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Fixed Assets										
Circuit Manses & Equipment		3,631,065					3,631,065	2,531,489	R	
Investment properties							0		R	
Investments							0			
Total fixed assets		3,631,065	0	0	0	0	3,631,065	2,531,489		
Current Assets										
Debtors							0		S	
Loans by the Circuit							0			
Investments with TMCP			100,446			2,443	102,889	164,601		
Central Finance Board Deposits		26,943					26,943	15,017	T	
Cash at Bank and in hand		16,079					16,079	30,371		
Total current assets		43,021	100,446	0	0	2,443	145,910	209,989		
Current liabilities										
Creditors (due in under 1 year)							0		U	
Grants payable within 2023-24							0		V	
Total current liabilities		0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Net current assets/liabilities		43,021	100,446	0	0	2,443	145,910	209,989		
Total assets less current liabilities		3,674,086	100,446	0	0	2,443	3,776,975	2,741,478		
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)										
Grants payable after 2022-23							0		V	
Loans to the Circuit							0			
Net assets		3,674,086	100,446	0	0	2,443	3,776,975	2,741,478	W	
Funds of the Circuit										
General Fund (Unrestricted)		3,674,086					3,674,086	2,576,877	W	
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			100,446				100,446	162,258		
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)				0			0	0		
Total Unrestricted Funds							3,774,532	2,739,135		
Restricted Funds					0		0	0		
Endowment Funds						2,443	2,443	2,343		
Total Funds		3,674,086	100,446	0	0	0	3,776,975	2,741,478		

Signed

Circuit Treasurer

Name of Circuit ..... BURY ..... No 06108

### 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.

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 i.e. all R&P accounts
- the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts Delete if not applicable i.e. 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 ..... D. Smith

Name of independent examiner: ..... DANIEL SMITH

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner: ..... FCCA

Name of firm (where appropriate): ..... COWILLS

Address: FOURTH FLOOR, UNIT 5B, THE PARKLANDS, LOSTOCK

..... BOLTON ..... Post Code: BL6 4SD

Date: ..... 30.6.2025

\* delete or circle as appropriate

## Declarations and Scrutiny

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



Signature of treasurer

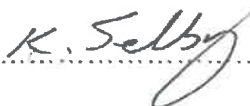
Date 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Name and address of treasurer : Lindsay Sweeney; 2 First Avenue, Tottington, BURY, BL8 3JA

### Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were presented to the Circuit meeting held on: 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Signature of the Chair of the meeting: .....



Name of the Chair of the meeting: Kathy Selby

Date 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024

### 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 ..... BURY ..... Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2024 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