

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1134870

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND  
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024  
FOR  
NORTH KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

Levicks Audit Services Limited  
61 London Road  
Maidstone Kent  
ME16 8TX

**NORTH KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT**

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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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**NORTH KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Charities SORP (FRS 102) second edition.

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**Registered Charity number**

1134870

**Principal address:**

Union Street Methodist Church  
20 Brewer Street  
Maidstone  
Kent  
ME14 1RU

**Telephone:** 07444 335245

**Email:** northkentmethodistcircuit@gmail.com

**Website:** www.nkmethodists.org.uk

**Solicitors:**

Blake Morgan  
6 New Street  
London  
EC4A 3DJ

**Investment advisers:**

Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP)  
Central Buildings  
Oldham Street  
Manchester  
M1 1JQ

**Auditors:**

Levicks Audit Services Limited  
61 London Road  
Maidstone  
Kent  
ME16 8TX

**NORTH KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**Trustees**

**Charity trustees**

Alan Wood  
Ian Angel  
Peter Matthews  
Eileen Smith (Resigned 1 September 2023)  
Rev. Ronald Gareth West  
Dr Derek Gallagher (Resigned 1 September 2023)  
Patricia Robb  
Tunde Dipita-Williams  
Barry Errington  
Sylvia Angel  
Lynn Rainer (Resigned 1 September 2023)  
Rachel Smith  
Deacon Victor Downs  
Anthony Brown  
Ian Smith  
Robert Hardy  
Carol Waldock  
Glenis Davison  
Janet Errington  
Rev. Dr Bonni-Belle Pickard  
Chris Chare  
Roger Byard  
Mark Frost  
Sheila Sanderson  
Derek Jarvis  
Katherine High  
Rev. Robert Zachar  
Linda Smith (Deceased 2024)  
Tracey Burch  
Rev. Robin Selmes  
Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet (Resigned 31 August 2024)  
Alan Fielder  
Theresa Green (Resigned 1 September 2023)

Alan Rainer  
Rev. Naomi Oates  
Sin Fan Fu (Resigned 1 September 2023)  
Robert Hipkiss (Resigned 1 September 2023)  
Sheila Allison  
Peter Roberts  
Gill Gray  
Siu Kuen Tsang (Resigned 1 September 2023)  
Roger Gledhill  
Derek Goodger  
Jenny Gilbert  
Richard Bridges  
Henry Chung  
Stella Lea  
Fran Shepherd  
Karen Dudley  
Kate Hardy  
Simon Rowe  
Paul Skipp  
Kathy Skipp  
Rev. Alex Terrett  
Rev. Gill Le Boutillier-Scott (Resigned 31 August 2024)  
Jill Bridges  
Grace Chung  
Anne Downs  
Linda Gander  
Jim Bryant  
Dennis Makowski  
Dave Warrington  
Bill Prince  
Oscar Siu  
Rev. David Kitchenside (Appointed 1 September 2023)

## **NORTH KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES** **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

#### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

<b>Ministers</b>	Rev Bonni-Belle Pickard Rev Robin Selmes Rev Alex Terrett	Rev Naomi Oates Rev Robert Zachar Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet
<b>Circuit Stewards</b>	Mr Richard Bridges Mr Derek Goodger Mr Simon Rowe	Mr Roger Byard Mr Henry Chung
<b>Circuit Treasurer</b>	Mr Roger Byard	

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

##### **Governing document**

The charity is controlled by the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976) as amended 17 March 2011 and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

##### **Induction and training of new Trustees**

The board of trustees keeps the skill requirements for the trustee body under review. Training expenses are provided for new trustees together with an induction pack comprising a copy of the governing trust deed, a copy of last year's annual report and accounts, copies of the minutes of trustees' meetings (circuit meeting) and a copy of the Charity Commission's guidance "The essential trustee".

##### **Organisational structure**

The day to day management of the charity is vested in the circuit meeting appointed in accordance with the trust deed. The circuit meeting is composed of the trustees listed above.

##### **Charity circuit meeting**

Rev Bonni-Belle Pickard (Chair)  
Roger Byard (Treasurer)  
Mr James Walker (Secretary)

##### **Associated committees**

The circuit meeting has empowered sub committees to deal with debate and to formulate resolutions to be taken to the circuit meeting. These committees also have limited authority given by the circuit meeting to take minor decisions. The circuit meeting always has ultimate authority.

##### **Risk management**

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. The trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces and confirm that the systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that the necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks.

## **NORTH KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES** **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

#### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

##### **Objectives and aims**

The purpose of the Methodist Church of Great Britain is 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 of discipline of the Methodist Church;
- (b) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional District, Circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church;
- (c) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church;
- (d) Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist church.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the circuit's aims and objectives, and in planning future activities. The charity seeks to support the work of churches within its remit and to that end has deployed lay-workers onto projects to support the vulnerable in our communities. As the charity assesses the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on its work it will work to identify new projects that will address the needs of the marginalised in the communities the local churches serve and seek to support them through grants and loans to do so.

#### **ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

##### **Charitable activities**

In accordance with the objectives and aims above, the charity works to:

- (a) Provide the staff and facilities to enable mission to reach the community and grow the church family which in turn provides mutual support to those within it;
- (b) Provide support for organisations working in society to help the vulnerable where they need it e.g. street pastors working in towns late at night, and organisations providing food and shelter for the homeless;
- (c) Provide facilities and staff for groups to meet, run by the local church, for the homeless and vulnerable, the elderly, mothers with young children, and youth groups e.g. Boys Brigade and Girls Brigade;
- (d) Provide facilities for organisations not run by the local church e.g. playgroups, advice centres, youth projects and groups for people with learning difficulties.

##### **Investment performance**

The main investment is in the properties held as manses. These are revalued at the end of each year. The current revaluation shows a surplus of £2,211,755.

##### **Circuit aims**

The current aim of the North Kent Methodist Circuit is to empower the membership of the Circuit Churches for witness and mission. To achieve this aim the trustees hope to:

- (a) Concentrate resources to build up both existing and new congregations;
- (b) Develop a programme for working in new housing developments;
- (c) Engage in work with people on the margins particularly immigrant communities;
- (d) Encourage members to discern their gifts and provide training so that these may be utilised;
- (e) Encourage each church to be more connected to their community;
- (f) Encourage each church to deepen their life of prayer.

A review will take place each year to monitor the progress towards achieving these aims.

**NORTH KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT**  
**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

**North Kent Methodist Reserves Policy Statement - February 2016**

**Policy Statement**

The policy statement agreed at the 2012 Circuit Meeting remains in place with a commitment that 60% of reserves are to be used to facilitate Mission and Ministry and 40% to support buildings and other projects. Reserves continue to be used to support a Deacon, Lay workers and establishing new church groups within the Circuit. Subject to the approval of the Circuit Meeting grants of up to 25% of the cost of any church project can be awarded.

**Year ended 31 August 2024 Review**

North Kent continued to be a large Circuit extending from Dartford to Sittingbourne and Maidstone incorporating the Isle of Sheppey and the Medway Towns. At the beginning of the year under review there were 17 Methodist Churches, 1 Methodist Class and 3 LEPs. Following the departure of the lay pioneer mission enabler in the summer of 2023, the Methodist staff team consisted of 6 ministers and 1 Chinese Lay pastor. A member of the Anglican clergy and a lay URC minister worked with the LEPs.

The proposals brought by the Circuit Leadership Team to establish a restructured Circuit administrative support team were approved by the Circuit Meeting held in September 2023. The restructuring saw the appointment of a full time operations manager and a part time property officer (job share) from April 2024. These changes resulted in the redundancy of two of the part time lay workers, with the third of them remaining in a redefined role. Seven part time teachers continue to be employed at the Chinese School.

Following the conclusion of the stationing process the Circuit saw the departure of Rev Gillian Le Boutillier-Scott and Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet from ministry in the Circuit as they pursue their calling elsewhere.

The year was marked with sadness following the decision to close the churches at Burham and Swanscombe. The Church in Burham had continued to provide an effective witness in the village even though its members were a class of Larkfield Methodist Church. However, the outcome of the recent quinquennial property review indicated that significant expenditure was likely to be incurred in repairs to the fabric of the church which was beyond the resources of the class and Larkfield Methodist Church. Reluctantly the decision was made to close the church with effect from 31 August 2024.

Swanscombe Methodist Church closed pursuant to the provisions of the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church again with effect from 31 August 2024 as the number of members had fallen below 12 for more than 4 quarters. Steps are being taken to dispose of both churches.

During the summer of 2024 Union Street Methodist Church temporarily ceased to worship in its building after reaching agreement to sell the community centre at the rear of the premises to a third party and needing space to store the equipment that had to be relocated. This is the first significant step towards an ambitious renovation project.

The Circuit continues to see a decline in membership, (mostly through age and death) which brings increasing financial pressure to bear both on individual churches and the Circuit. However, an increase in the Circuit Assessment met by the churches, a significant improvement in interest rates and prudent management resulted in a small surplus for the financial year and saw a halt to the deficits of recent years. That said grants from sources outside the Circuit remain in steep decline.

Whether a balanced budget can be sustained is open to question and will require further careful thought and management. To that end the Trustees agreed a budget for 2024-25 which provides for a 7% increase in the Circuit Assessment. However, it is believed that the amount to be raised through the Circuit Assessment during 2024-25 will represent a zenith and the Circuit Treasurer has indicated that a review of the way in which the Circuit Assessment is calculated will be undertaken for 2025-26.

**NORTH KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT**  
**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

In addition to purely financial matters, there continue to be questions about the viability of some congregations and church buildings. The Circuit conference at the beginning of the 2023-24 Connexional year to explore these issues in more depth only emphasised the importance to church members of place and being 'local'. This militates against the merger of churches or sharing (particularly lay) ministry. The availability of volunteers who are both capable and able with sufficient energy to undertake key church and Circuit roles continues to decline.

The trustees continue to look for ways in which to grow the Circuit churches despite the amount and complexity of the work required.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

**Current Reserves (unrestricted) at 31 August 2024**

Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP)	£581,155	
Central Finance Board (CFB)	£112,041	
Current Account (Co-operative Bank)	<u>£70,920</u>	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b><u>£764,116</u></b>

**Commitments**

*Lay Workers:*

Gravesend MC Daytime Hub grant of £3,000 for three years	£9,000	
MCMC Chinese Lay Pastor: £37,000 p.a. for one year	£37,000	
Redundancy payments – set aside	<u>£50,000</u>	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b><u>£96,000</u></b>
<b>Uncommitted Funds</b>		<b><u>£668,116</u></b>

**Reserves policy**

The Trustees consider the Circuit needs a reserve of £150,000 to cover budget deficits or unexpected problems. Manses are held as reserve capital should the Trustees not be able re-invite a Minister or obtain a replacement.

**Principal funding sources**

The principal source of funding is the Circuit Assessment, payment of which is shared between the individual churches within the Circuit. The Circuit Assessment is defined in the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church and is the income level set by the Circuit Meeting to maintain the Staff, other Circuit operating costs and the grants that the Circuit awards to individual projects across the Circuit. Other income is derived from grants made to the Circuit, rental of unused manses and investment income.

The Circuit Meeting acts as Managing Trustees in the sale or purchase of property for which it is responsible. (It does not own the property; all Methodist Property is owned by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP)). Proceeds from any disposal of property are directed to TMCP who, after deducting a levy to fund projects across the Methodist Connexion, transfer the residue to the Circuit's TMCP Model Trust Fund.

The Circuit does not employ any professional fund raisers or organisations raising funds directly from members of the public.

**Investment policy and objectives**

Capital generated from the sale of redundant Churches or Manses is invested as trust funds with Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP). Funds are used for the purposes of mission in support of the policy aims.



## **NORTH KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES** **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

#### **STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the report of the trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, the Statement of Recommended Practice: Charities SORP (FRS 102) second edition and the provisions of the Trust Deed require the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Statement of Recommended Practice: Charities SORP (FRS 102) second edition and the provisions of the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

#### **STATEMENT OF DISCLOSURES TO THE AUDITORS**

In so far as the trustees are aware at the time of approving the trustees' annual report:

- There is no relevant information, being information needed by the auditor in connection with preparing their report, of which the auditor is unaware; and
- The trustees having made enquiries of the Circuit Meeting and the auditors that they ought to have individually taken, have each taken all steps that he/she is obliged to take as a trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Approved by order of the Circuit Meeting of trustees on 22 May 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

R S Byard - Trustee

## **NORTH KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT**

### **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF NORTH KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT** **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of North Kent Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including Financial Reporting Standard FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Practice.)

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Charity's affairs as at 31 August 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

#### **Basis of opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustee's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

#### **Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

## **NORTH KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT**

### **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF NORTHKENT METHODIST CIRCUIT** **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

#### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit;

#### **Responsibilities of Trustees**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities set out on page 7, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the Charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

We have been appointed auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report to you in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulation, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and planning audit work on the basis of the controls in place;

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions

**NORTH KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF NORTHKENT METHODIST CIRCUIT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

J A Griggs FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of  
Levicks Audit Services Limited  
Chartered accountants & statutory auditors  
61 London Road  
Maidstone  
Kent  
ME16 8TX

25 June 2025

**NORTH KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted fund	31.8.24 Total funds	31.8.23 Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>					
Donations income	2	505,468	61,196	566,664	548,822
Other trading income	3	44,858	-	44,858	17,077
Investment income	4	<u>36,060</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>36,060</u>	<u>23,326</u>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		586,386	61,196	647,582	589,225
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Hong Kong community integration	5	-	21	21	16,320
Grants and donations		1,206	-	1,206	17,862
Support costs	6	558,355	70,243	628,598	652,677
<b>Governance costs</b>	7	<u>6,780</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,780</u>	<u>6,600</u>
<b>Total resources expended</b>		566,341	70,264	636,605	693,459
<b>NET INCOME</b>		20,045	(9,068)	10,977	(104,234)
<b>Transfers between funds</b>		-	-	-	-
<b>Gains on revaluation of fixed assets</b>					
Revaluation of manses		<u>1,563,246</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,563,246</u>	<u>(1,254,861)</u>
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		1,583,291	(9,068)	1,574,223	(1,359,095)
<b>TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD</b>		4,344,227	9,543	4,353,770	5,712,865
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<u>5,927,518</u>	<u>475</u>	<u>5,927,993</u>	<u>4,353,770</u>

**NORTH KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT**

**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AT 31 AUGUST 2024**

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	31.8.24 Total funds £	31.8.23 Total funds £
	Notes				
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	11	5,170,889	-	5,170,889	3,608,081
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	12	4,531	-	4,531	12,536
Cash at bank		<u>763,641</u>	<u>475</u>	<u>764,116</u>	<u>749,430</u>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		768,172	475	768,647	761,966
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(11,543)</u>	-	<u>(11,543)</u>	<u>(16,277)</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>756,629</u>	<u>475</u>	<u>757,104</u>	<u>745,689</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>5,927,518</u>	<u>475</u>	<u>5,927,993</u>	<u>4,353,770</u>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<u><u>5,927,518</u></u>	<u><u>475</u></u>	<u><u>5,927,993</u></u>	<u><u>4,353,770</u></u>
<b>FUNDS</b>	15				
Unrestricted general funds				3,715,763	3,695,718
Unrestricted revaluation reserve				2,211,755	648,509
Restricted funds	16			<u>475</u>	<u>9,543</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>				<u><u>5,927,993</u></u>	<u><u>4,353,770</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 22 May 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

R S Byard  
Trustee

**NORTH KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT**

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

	Notes	31.8.24 £	31.8.23 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>			
Cash generated from operations	(a)	<u>(21,374)</u>	<u>(142,174)</u>
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities</b>		<b><u>(21,374)</u></b>	<b><u>(142,174)</u></b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>			
Additions of tangible fixed assets		-	-
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities</b>		<b><u>(21,374)</u></b>	<b><u>(142,174)</u></b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities:</b>			
Interest received		36,060	23,326
			<u>          </u>
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities</b>		<b><u>36,060</u></b>	<b><u>23,326</u></b>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>		<b>14,686</b>	<b>(118,848)</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period</b>		<b><u>749,430</u></b>	<b><u>868,278</u></b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>		<b><u><u>764,116</u></u></b>	<b><u><u>749,430</u></u></b>

**NORTH KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT**

**NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**(a) RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

	31.8.24 £	31.8.23 £
<b>Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)</b>	1,574,223	(1,359,095)
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Revaluation of freehold properties	(1,563,246)	1,254,861
Depreciation charges	438	653
 Interest received	 (36,060)	 (23,326)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	8,005	(11,597)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(4,734)	(3,670)
 <b>Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities</b>	 <b><u>(21,374)</u></b>	 <b><u>(142,174)</u></b>



## **NORTH KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT**

### **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

#### **1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

##### **Basis of accounting**

The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Charities SORP (FRS 102) second edition, the Charities Act 2011 and UK General Accepted Accounting Practice. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note below.

##### **Incoming resources**

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

##### **Resources expended**

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year-end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

##### **Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Fixtures and fittings	25% straight line
Freehold property	Not depreciated

##### **Property values**

Legal title of freehold property is held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes as custodian trustee. In accordance with Charity Commission guidance, these are recognised on the balance sheet of the North Kent Methodist Circuit.

Freehold property has previously been revalued annually as per the insurer's rebuild valuation. For the year ended 31 August 2023, the accounting policy remained the same but the tool used to provide those values changed. The Charity used the BCIS rebuild calculator to provide more reliable rebuild valuations. For the year ended 31 August 2024, freehold property was revalued to market value. The values were provided by an independent valuer. The accumulative amount of revaluation has been included in the revaluation reserve on the balance sheet. The comparative figure for revaluation reserve includes revalued amounts to 31 August 2023.

##### **Taxation**

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

##### **Pensions**

All Methodist Ministers in the Circuit are members of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme, which is a defined benefit scheme. The Charity is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme and therefore contributions are accounted for as if it were a defined contribution scheme. Contributions are therefore charged in the accounts as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

##### **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the Charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

**NORTH KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**2. DONATIONS INCOME**

	31.8.24	31.8.23
	£	£
Assessment or share	489,925	443,778
Grants	75,469	103,931
Collections and donations	<u>1,270</u>	<u>1,113</u>
	<u>566,664</u>	<u>548,822</u>

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	31.8.24	31.8.23
	£	£
Grants received from Methodism	75,469	95,531
Non-Methodist grants	<u>-</u>	<u>8,400</u>
	<u>75,469</u>	<u>103,931</u>

The aggregate amount of trustee donations without restrictions to the charity amounts to £1,250 (2023: £1,000).

The aggregate amount of trustee donations by trustees with restrictions to the charity amounts to £nil (2023: £nil).

**3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES**

	31.8.24	31.8.23
	£	£
Rent received (net of costs)	<u>44,858</u>	<u>17,077</u>

Rents received are shown net of costs of £1,868 (2023 £3,323)

**4. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	31.8.24	31.8.23
	£	£
Interest and investment income	<u>36,060</u>	<u>23,326</u>

**NORTH KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS**

	31.8.24	31.8.23
	£	£
Hong Kong community integration	21	16,320
Donation to Emmanuel Church, Eastbourne	-	10,000
Wifi and recording equipment for churches	1,206	7,862
Support costs	<u>628,598</u>	<u>652,677</u>
	<u>629,825</u>	<u>686,859</u>

**6. SUPPORT COSTS**

	31.8.24	31.8.23
	£	£
Clergy expenses	17,236	18,137
Staff costs (note 9)	393,868	398,648
District Assessment	109,210	100,193
District Levy on Circuit Advance Fund	35,363	46,841
Insurance, utilities, etc	33,820	38,344
Repairs and maintenance including quinquennials	22,281	35,669
Telephone	1,205	1,371
Depreciation of fixtures and fittings	438	653
Printing, postage and stationery	2,089	2,037
Training	490	1,243
Resources for services	1,247	3,022
Computer and software	1,920	2,286
Property management fees	583	1,011
Bank charges	1,676	2,112
Sundry expenses	1,569	1,110
Bad debt	<u>5,603</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>628,598</u>	<u>652,677</u>

Support costs include £70,243 of salary expenses treated as restricted expenditure. The funding for these salary expenses is received by way of Methodist grant income also treated as restricted due to being given for a specific purpose.

**7. GOVERNANCE COSTS**

	31.8.24	31.8.23
	£	£
Auditors' remuneration – Audit of the financial statements	4,500	4,380
Auditor's remuneration – Other services	<u>2,280</u>	<u>2,220</u>
	<u>6,780</u>	<u>6,600</u>

**NORTH KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**8. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

Ministers who also serve as trustees of the charity received the following stipends for the year ending 31 August 2024: -

Rev Bonni-Belle Pickard, Rev Gillian Le Boutillier-Scott, Rev Robin Selmes, Rev Alexandra Terrett, Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet, Rev Robert Zachar and Rev Naomi Oates all received the basic stipend of £29,205 (2023: £27,104), except for Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet who received a stipend of £26,620 (2023: £27,104), Rev Naomi Oates who received a stipend of £26,785 (2023: £22,440) and Rev Gillian Le Boutillier-Scott £13,043 (2023: £13,281). Employer's pensions contributions of £7,678 (2023: £7,291) were paid by the charity for each minister named above except deacon Elizabeth Harfleet £7,161 (2023: £7,291), Rev Gillian Le Boutillier-Scott £3,509 (2023: £3,573) and Rev Naomi Oates £7,027 (2023: £6,036).

Each minister named above except for Rev Naomi Oates received a Computers in ministry allowance of £194 for the year (2023: £176).

Rev Bonni-Belle Pickard received a Superintendent's allowance of £2,921 for the year (2023: £2,710).

Rev Bonni-Belle Pickard and Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet received a General allowance of £1,000 and £1,218 for the year respectively (2023: £1,000 and £1,329).

None of the ministers named above received remuneration for being a trustee.

The below table shows Lay workers who were employed and also served as trustees. Their remuneration is shown only for the period they served as a trustee:-

	<b>Gross salary</b>	<b>(2023)</b>	<b>Employers pension</b>	<b>(2023)</b>
C Chare (employment ceased 17/4/24)	£10,359	£10,557	£422	£633
L Rainer (resigned as trustee 1/9/23, employment ceased 17/4/24)	£-	£4,341	£-	£-
O Siu	£26,928	£26,928	£1,616	£1,616

The lay employees listed above did not receive any remuneration for being a trustee. The authority for the circuit to pay remuneration to its trustees is detailed in its governing document, The Methodist Church Act 1976.

**Trustees' expenses**

No trustee was reimbursed expenses for their duties as a trustee for the year ended 31 August 2024 (2023: no trustees).

All Ministers and some Lay workers are required to be Trustees of the Charity by the Constitution of the Circuit Meeting laid down by the Methodist Church.

**9. STAFF COSTS**

	<b>31.8.24</b>	<b>31.8.23</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	315,122	322,716
Social security costs	23,668	18,362
Pension costs	52,934	55,377
Apprenticeship levy	<u>2,144</u>	<u>2,193</u>
	<u><b>393,868</b></u>	<u><b>398,648</b></u>

**NORTH KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	31.8.24	31.8.23
Average number of employees	<u>21</u>	<u>19</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

**10. PENSION COMMITMENTS**

The Charity participates in a pension scheme providing benefits for Ministers and Deacons based on final pensionable pay. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity, being invested with the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme.

The pension charge for the year is shown in note 11. The contributions of the Charity and Ministers and Deacons from 1 September 2019 were set at 26.9% and 9.3% of earnings respectively.

The Charity contributes a matching 6% of salary to a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of 4 of the lay employees.

**11. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Freehold property £	Fixtures and Fittings £	Totals £
<b>COST OR VALUATION</b>			
At 1 September 2023	3,606,754	3,704	3,610,458
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
Revaluations	<u>1,563,246</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,563,246</u>
At 31 August 2024	<u>5,170,000</u>	<u>3,704</u>	<u>5,173,704</u>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>			
At 1 September 2023	-	2,377	2,377
Eliminated on disposal	-	-	-
Charge for year	<u>-</u>	<u>438</u>	<u>438</u>
At 31 August 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>2,815</u>	<u>2,815</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>			
At 31 August 2024	<u>5,170,000</u>	<u>889</u>	<u>5,170,889</u>
At 31 August 2023	<u>3,606,754</u>	<u>1,327</u>	<u>3,608,081</u>

The historical cost of freehold property is £2,958,245.

**NORTH KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**12. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	31.8.24	31.8.23
	£	£
Other debtors	<u>4,531</u>	<u>12,536</u>

**13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	31.8.24	31.8.23
	£	£
Other creditors	<u>11,543</u>	<u>16,277</u>

**14. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

All trustee's listed on page 2 of these financial statements, except for Rev Gareth West, Bill Prince and Deacon Victor Downs are also trustees of individual churches within the Circuit who contribute to the assessment income of the Circuit. Assessment income for year ended 31 August 2024 was £489,925 (2023: £443,778).

During the year ended 31 August 2024 the Circuit paid £893 (2023: £964) to Greenapple Graphics for printing services. Greenapple Graphics is owned and operated by Paul Skipp, a trustee of the North Kent Methodist Circuit. At 31 August 2024, North Kent Methodist Circuit owed Greenapple Graphics £nil (2023: £nil).

**15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

	At 1.9.23 £	Net movement in Funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.8.24 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	3,756,056	27,061	1,563,246	5,346,363
Circuit Model Trust Fund	<u>588,171</u>	<u>1,556,230</u>	<u>(1,563,246)</u>	<u>581,155</u>
	<u>4,344,227</u>	<u>1,583,291</u>	-	<u>5,927,518</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Restricted fund	9,543	(9,068)	-	475
	<u>9,543</u>	<u>(9,068)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>475</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>4,353,770</u>	<u>1,574,223</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,927,993</u>

**NORTH KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS continued**

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming Resources £	Resources expended £	Gains on revaluation Of fixed assets £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	556,362	(529,301)	-	27,061
Circuit Model Trust Fund	<u>30,024</u>	<u>(37,040)</u>	<u>1,563,246</u>	<u>1,556,230</u>
	<u>586,386</u>	<u>(566,341)</u>	<u>1,563,246</u>	<u>1,583,291</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Restricted fund	61,196	(70,264)	-	(9,068)
	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u><u>647,582</u></u>	<u><u>(636,605)</u></u>	<u><u>1,563,246</u></u>	<u><u>1,574,223</u></u>

**16. RESTRICTED FUNDS PURPOSES**

The restricted fund balance of £475 includes the remaining balance of a Kent County Council grant at £385 awarded to the Circuit for restricted use towards the educational integration, professional integration and social integration of the local Hong Kong community and a £90 balance remaining from a Methodist grant relating to a contribution towards the employment costs of the Gravesend Centre Manager.