

BLACKHEATH AND HALESOWEN METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales · Charity number 1134874

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2010-03-12
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address Central Methodist Church
High Street
Rowley Regis
West Midlands
B65 0EH

Phone 07503174402

Email centralmeth@gmail.com

Website www.bhmethodist.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE PURPOSES OF THE METHODIST CHURCH ARE AND SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE BEEN SINCE THE DATE OF UNION THE ADVANCEMENT OF -(A) THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DOCTRINAL STANDARDS AND THE DISCIPLINE OF THE METHODIST CHURCH;(B) ANY CHARITABLE PURPOSE FOR THE TIME BEING OF ANY CONNEXIONAL, DISTRICT, CIRCUIT, LOCAL OR OTHER ORGANISATION OF THE METHODIST CHURCH;(C) ANY CHARITABLE PURPOSE FOR THE TIME BEING OF ANY SOCIETY OR INSTITUTION SUBSIDIARY OR ANCILLARY TO THE METHODIST CHURCH;(D) ANY PURPOSE FOR THE TIME BEING OF ANY CHARITY BEING A CHARITY SUBSIDIARY OR ANCILLARY TO THE METHODIST CHURCH.

Activities: The circuit produces a quarterly preaching plan to ensure regular acts of worship take place at each of the 6 Methodist Churches in the circuit..These are open to all people without charge.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Dudley
- Sandwell
- Worcestershire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£122,932	£164,292	-	-
2024-08-31	£198,111	£285,814	-	-
2023-08-31	£385,851	£169,923	-	-
2022-08-31	£212,350	£150,797	-	-
2021-08-31	£152,722	£126,119	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Andrew Stephen Willey	Chair	2025-09-01
Antoinette Jackson		2023-09-26
Brenda Maureen Priest		2023-09-26
CATHY GRIMMITT		
Caroline Parker		2023-09-26
Christine Lees		2019-09-01
DAVID VERCOE		2012-04-17
David Gill		2023-09-26
Dr Gemma Ann Smith		2023-09-26
ELIZABETH LACON		2013-11-18
ERIC COLLINS		
GILL SMITH		
Geoffrey Michael Donnison		2023-09-26
Helen Emma Jane Newton		2023-09-26
JILL ANITA RUSHTON		
Janet Lear		2021-09-01
Janice Josephine Checketts		2023-09-26
Jean Marjorie Bennett		2023-09-26
Jennifer Olwen Beardsmore		2025-09-01
John Austin		2025-09-01
John Dee		2023-09-26
John Parker		2023-09-26
Jonathan James Jones		2023-09-26
Linda Jayne Morris		2023-09-26
MALCOLM PAUL WATCHORN		2023-09-26
Mary Elaine Hyde		2023-09-26
Maureen Stanley		2019-09-01

Name	Role	Appointed
Michael Parker		2023-09-26
Michael Timmins		2023-09-26
PAM LANE		
PETER ROBERTS		
Paul Howard Raybould		2023-09-26
Rachel Elizabeth Harris		2023-09-26
Rev Ben Haslam		2025-09-01
SUSAN ROSALIND SIMPSON		
Sarah Ann Austin		2025-09-01
Sarah Joy Rogers		2023-09-26
Stephanie Sambidge		2019-09-01
Stephanie Teresa Watchorn		2023-09-26
Stephen John Ratcliffe		2023-09-26
TRACY ANN TOLLEY		
Trevor Leighton Amphlett		2023-09-26
William Caldwell		2023-09-26

BLACKHEATH AND HALESOWEN METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1134874

Accounts

**BLACKHEATH & HALESOWEN METHODIST CIRCUIT
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

BLACKHEATH & HALESOWEN METHODIST CIRCUIT

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees'	Rev A Willey	(Appointed 1 September 2025)
	Ms J Lear	
	Ms M Stanley	
	Ms C Lees	
	Ms S Sambidge	
	Ms P Lane	
	Ms E Lacon	
	D Vercoe	
	E Collins	
	Ms G Smith	
	P Roberts	
	Ms J Rushton	
	Ms T Tolley	
	Ms C Grimmitt	
	Ms S Simpson	
	Ms J Beardsmore	(Appointed 1 September 2025)
	Mrs J Austin	(Appointed 1 September 2025)
	Mrs S Austin	(Appointed 1 September 2025)
	Mr K Browning	(Appointed 1 September 2025)
Charity number	1134874	
Registered office	Central Methodist Church High Street Rowley Regis West Midlands B650EH	
Independent examiner	TC Group Swinford House Albion Street Brierley Hill West Midlands DY5 3EE	

BLACKHEATH & HALESOWEN METHODIST CIRCUIT

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BLACKHEATH & HALESOWEN METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The trustees' present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's [governing document], the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

Blackheath & Halesowen Methodist Circuit is part of the Birmingham District of the Methodist Church.

The circuit continues to support ministry in local churches and their communities. Care and support are given to those of all communities and faiths as we follow Christ's command to love our neighbours.

The circuit is responsible for 3 churches: Central Methodist Church, Hasbury and Short Cross.

At the 1st September 2025, the Blackheath & Halesowen Circuit will be known as the Anchor Circuit. All assets will come under this umbrella. The Anchor Circuit will also be the receiving charity for the Methodist Church Gornal & Sedgley Circuit (charity number 1206227). The name should be in place, at the latest, by September 2026.

Mission Statement

The circuit's vision is to unite for God's inclusive mission "**Now or Never**" and to love God through worship, evangelism, learning and service.

The aims of the circuit are:

- To be a Christ-centred circuit for the community.
- To reflect the presence of Jesus Christ through our lifestyle.
- To be a Christian Methodist presence within the circuit.
- To be the agents of transformation by seeking justice and peace.

The Circuit has a Mission Strategy "**Now or Never**" for discipleship and growth over the next 5-10 years.

Public benefit

The trustees' have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Achievements and performance

Significant activities and achievements against objectives

Financial review

During the year, the circuit recorded total income from all sources amounting to £123k (2024 - £198k). The circuit disbursed £164k (2024 - £308k), giving a net deficit of income of expenditure of £41k (2024 - £110k) Total reserves at 31 August 2025 were £1,468k (2024 - £1,510k), which includes Freehold Land and Buildings of £634k (2024 - £634k).

In line with Methodist guidelines, assets from closed churches pass to the circuit at the date of closure. A fair value is included within income and assets at the date of closure. Fair value takes into account a compulsory 40% levy for the Methodist Connexional Priority Fund which will be deducted if and when those buildings are sold. Any difference between the balance sheet values and the eventual realisable value is accounted for once the final net proceeds figure is certain.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern

BLACKHEATH & HALESOWEN METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Reserves policy

The General Fund derives its income principally from church contributions (known as assessments). This finances the day to day running costs of the circuit. The trustees believe that the balance on the General Fund should, under normal circumstances, be in the region of £200k, to cover foreseeable circuit running costs.

"Free Reserves" represents the balances on the General Fund, the Circuit Model Trust Fund and the Bequests Fund: £834k (2024 - £876k). Total reserves at 31 August 2025 were £1,468k (2024 - £1,510k) with £634k (2024 - £634k) represented by Freehold Land & Buildings.

Investment policy

To comply with Methodist Standing Orders, money for long term investment is lodged with TMCP "Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes" or with CFB "Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church". TMCP is the legal owner and custodian trustee of all Methodists Model Trust property, including legacies, endowments and accumulated funds. CFB manages a common deposit fund and a series of pooled investment funds for Methodist entities in Great Britain. Interest rates from deposits with TMCP and CFB reflect deposit rates available elsewhere. The investment policy of the circuit is aligned with those of TMCP and CFB, who take into account the social, environmental and ethical considerations that make investments suitable for the Methodist Church.

Interest received during the year end 31 August 2025 was £38,271 (2024 - £45,319).

Structure, governance and management

The circuit is governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976 and the Deed of Union 1932.

The trustees' who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Rev Dr J Suray	(Resigned 31 August 2025)
Rev A Willey	(Appointed 1 September 2025)
Ms J Lear	
Ms M Stanley	
Ms C Lees	
Ms S Sambidge	
Ms P Lane	
Ms E Lacon	
D Vercoe	
E Collins	
Ms G Smith	
P Roberts	
Ms J Rushton	
Ms T Tolley	
Ms C Grimmitt	
Ms S Simpson	
Ms J Beardsmore	(Appointed 1 September 2025)
Mrs J Austin	(Appointed 1 September 2025)
Mrs S Austin	(Appointed 1 September 2025)
Mr K Browning	(Appointed 1 September 2025)

Organisational structure

Individual Methodist churches are grouped within circuits, which are in turn grouped within districts. All districts, circuits and churches are part of the Methodist "Connexion". (See related parties below). Overall regulatory authority rests with the Methodist Conference, which meets once a year. The Connexional Office Implements decisions made by Conference and is also responsible for the stationing of presbyters and deacons (collectively known as ministers) within circuits.. Connexional decisions are passed to the districts for implementation, The District Synod meets twice a year.

BLACKHEATH & HALESOWEN METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Management

The circuit is governed by the trustees consisting of the circuit officers and representatives of each of the churches. The trustees hold at least three meetings each year. The responsibilities of the Circuit Meeting are laid down in Methodist Standing Orders. The circuit meeting is supported by the leadership team which consists of the ministers and circuit stewards, with a firm of accountants providing financial and administrative support. The circuit also provides voluntary support and leadership in the form of local preachers, circuit stewards and trustees. Other office holders support the churches with help and advice on property, finance, worship, and work with young people. We continue to serve the changing communities where the churches are located.

Relationship with wider network

Related parties

Methodist Church in Britain ("the Connexion")

Birmingham Methodist District

The churches within the circuit during 2024-25 were:

- Central Methodist Church
- Hasbury Methodist Church
- Short Cross Methodist Church

Individual churches make donations to central Methodist Funds, via the circuit bank account. Such transactions are treated as money received and passed onto external organisations.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees'.



Trustee

10 February 2026

BLACKHEATH & HALESOWEN METHODIST CIRCUIT

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES' OF BLACKHEATH & HALESOWEN METHODIST CIRCUIT

I report to the trustees' on my examination of the financial statements of Blackheath & Halesowen Methodist Circuit (the charity) for the year ended 31 August 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements 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.

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 financial statements to be reached.

Steve Thomas

Steven Thomas

Swinford House
Albion Street
Brierley Hill
West Midlands
DY5 3EE

Dated: 10 February 2026

BLACKHEATH & HALESOWEN METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	3	-	1,164
Charitable activities	4	70,482	101,425
Investments	5	52,450	55,363
Total income		<u>122,932</u>	<u>157,952</u>
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	6	164,292	308,208
Total expenditure		<u>164,292</u>	<u>308,208</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	10	-	39,951
Net expenditure and movement in funds		<u>(41,360)</u>	<u>(110,305)</u>
Reconciliation of funds:			
Fund balances at 1 September 2024		1,509,548	1,619,853
Fund balances at 31 August 2025		<u>1,468,188</u>	<u>1,509,548</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

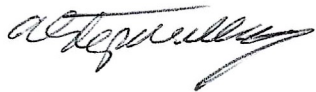
BLACKHEATH & HALESOWEN METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		2,942		3,883
Investment property	13		634,149		634,149
			<u>637,091</u>		<u>638,032</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	14	1,246		223	
Cash at bank and in hand		836,376		874,362	
		<u>837,622</u>		<u>874,585</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(6,525)		(3,069)	
Net current assets			<u>831,097</u>		<u>871,516</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>1,468,188</u>		<u>1,509,548</u>
Net assets excluding pension liability			<u>1,468,188</u>		<u>1,509,548</u>
			<u><u>1,468,188</u></u>		<u><u>1,509,548</u></u>
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds			<u>1,468,188</u>		<u>1,509,548</u>
			<u>1,468,188</u>		<u>1,509,548</u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees' on 10 February 2026



Trustee

BLACKHEATH & HALESOWEN METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's [governing document], the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees' have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees' continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees' in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

BLACKHEATH & HALESOWEN METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Computers	20% straight line
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The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Investment property

Investment property, which is property held to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation, is initially recognised at cost, which includes the purchase cost and any directly attributable expenditure. Subsequently it is measured at fair value at the reporting end date. The surplus or deficit on revaluation is recognised in profit or loss.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

BLACKHEATH & HALESOWEN METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees' are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Government grant income	-	1,164

BLACKHEATH & HALESOWEN METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Assessment income	69,854	97,014
Other charitable income	628	4,411
	<u>70,482</u>	<u>101,425</u>

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Rental income	14,179	10,044
Interest receivable	38,271	45,319
	<u>52,450</u>	<u>55,363</u>

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Direct costs		
Staff costs	47,926	80,022
Depreciation and impairment	941	-
Activity and welfare	79,136	124,456
Property and repair	19,004	63,675
Insurance	1,303	2,529
Office expenses	15,982	37,526
	<u>164,292</u>	<u>308,208</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	<u>164,292</u>	<u>308,208</u>

7 Net movement in funds

	2025 £	2024 £
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	941	-
Loss/(profit) on disposal of investment property	-	(39,951)
	<u>941</u>	<u>(39,951)</u>

BLACKHEATH & HALESOWEN METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

8 Trustees'

None of the trustees' (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

9 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Total	-	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Employment costs	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	47,926	80,022
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

10 Gains and losses on investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Gains/(losses) arising on:		
Sale of investment properties	-	39,951
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

11 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

BLACKHEATH & HALESOWEN METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Computers £
Cost	
At 1 September 2024	4,704
At 31 August 2025	4,704
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 September 2024	821
Depreciation charged in the year	941
At 31 August 2025	1,762
Carrying amount	
At 31 August 2025	2,942
At 31 August 2024	3,883

13 Investment property

	2025 £
Fair value	
At 1 September 2024 and 31 August 2025	634,149

The investment property is included in the accounts at cost which the trustees consider to be a close approximation of the market value.

14 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	-	223
Prepayments and accrued income	1,246	-
	1,246	223

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	1,725	1,499
Accruals and deferred income	4,800	1,570
	6,525	3,069

BLACKHEATH & HALESOWEN METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

16 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 September 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 August 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Circuit Model Trust Fund	607,486	27,380	(38,786)	-	-	596,080
Bequest Fund	16,290	777	(53)	-	-	17,014
Property Reserve Fund	634,149	-	-	-	-	634,149
General funds	251,623	94,775	(125,453)	-	-	220,945
	<u>1,509,548</u>	<u>122,932</u>	<u>(164,292)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,468,188</u>
Previous year:	At 1 September 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 August 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Circuit Model Trust Fund	590,304	34,461	(1,682)	(55,548)	39,951	607,486
Bequest Fund	15,497	837	(44)	-	-	16,290
Property Reserve Fund	754,075	-	-	(119,926)	-	634,149
General funds	259,977	122,654	(306,482)	175,474	-	251,623
	<u>1,619,853</u>	<u>157,952</u>	<u>(308,208)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>39,951</u>	<u>1,509,548</u>

17 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2024 - none).

BLACKHEATH AND HALESOWEN METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1134874

Accounts

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1134874

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024
FOR
BLACKHEATH & HALESOWEN METHODIST CIRCUIT**

Sandwell Accountancy Services Ltd
Certified Public Accountants
Suite A, Old Bank Buildings
Upper High Street
Cradley Heath
West Midlands
864 SHY

BLACKHEATH & HALESOWEN METHODIST CIRCUIT

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 August 2024

The trustees present their report with the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (F.RS 102), effective 1 January 2019.

Objectives And Activities

Blackheath & Halesowen Methodist Circuit is part of the Birmingham District of the Methodist Church.

The Circuit continues to support ministry in local churches and their communities. Care and support are given to those of all communities and faiths as we follow Christ's command to love our neighbours.

The circuit is responsible for 3 churches: Central Methodist Church, Hasbury and Short Cross.

Mission Statement

The circuit's vision is to unite for God's Inclusive mission "**Now or Never**" and to love God through worship, evangelism, learning and service.

The aims of the circuit are:

- To be a Christ-centred circuit-for the community.
- To reflect the presence of Jesus Christ through our lifestyle.
- To be a Christian Methodist presence within the circuit
- To be the agents of transformation by seeking justice and peace.

The Circuit has a Mission Strategy "**Now or Never**" for discipleship and growth over the next 5-10 years.

Review of the Year

Following the pandemic, we have enjoyed meeting in person again, though several churches now face challenges relating to membership numbers, buildings and difficulty in finding volunteers to fill key roles. The circuit leadership team continues to review the mission life of the circuit. Our full-time presbyter, Rev Dr Joseph Suray, continued to provide ministry throughout the year.

Public Benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commissioners' general guidance on public benefit and, in particular, to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing our objectives, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial Position

During the year, the circuit recorded total income from all sources amounting to £198K (2023 - £386K), The circuit disbursed £286K (2023 - £170K), giving a net deficit of income over expenditure of £88K (2023 - £216K surplus). Total reserves at 31 August 2024 were £1,510K (2023 - £1,620K). £634K represents Freehold Land & Buildings (2023 - £754K).

In line with Methodist guidelines, assets from closed churches pass to the circuit at the date of closure. A fair value is included within income and assets at the date of closure, Fair value takes into account a compulsory 40% levy for the Methodist Connexional Priority Fund which will be deducted if and when those buildings are sold. Any difference between the balance sheet values and the eventual realisable value is accounted for once the final net proceeds figure is certain.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Investment Policy and Performance

To comply with Methodist Standing Orders, money for long term investment is lodged with TMCP "Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes" or with CFB "Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church. TMCP is the legal owner and custodian trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including legacies, endowments and accumulated funds. CFB manages a common deposit fund and a series of pooled investment funds for Methodist entities in Great Britain. Interest rates from deposits with TMCP and CFB reflect deposit rates available elsewhere. The investment policy of the circuit is aligned with those of TMCP and CFB, who take into account the social, environmental and ethical considerations that make investments suitable for the Methodist Church.

Interest received during the year ended 31 August 2024 was £45,319 (2023 - £17,245).

Reserves Policies

"Free Reserves" represent the balance on the General Fund, the Circuit Model Trust Fund and the Bequests Fund: £874K (2023 - £837K). Total reserves at 31 August 2024 were £1,510K (2023 - £1,620K). £634K (2023 - £754K) represents Freehold Land & Buildings.

The General Fund derives its income principally from church contributions (known as assessments). This finances the day-to-day running costs of the circuit. The trustees believe that the balance on the General Fund should, under normal circumstances, be in the region of £200K, to cover foreseeable circuit running costs.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

The circuit is governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976 and the Deed of Union 1932.

Organisational Structure

Individual Methodist churches are grouped within circuits, which are in turn grouped within districts. All districts, circuits and churches are part of the Methodist "Connexion". (See Related parties below.) Overall regulatory authority rests with the Methodist Conference, which meets once a year.

The Connexional Office implements decisions made by Conference and is also responsible for the stationing of presbyters and deacons (collectively known as ministers) within circuits. Connexional decisions are passed to the districts for implementation. The District Synod meets twice a year.

Governance

The district operates within a statutory framework of regulation and seeks to ensure that it follows Methodist Standing Orders.

Management

The circuit is governed by the trustees consisting of the circuit officers and representatives of each of the churches. The trustees hold at least three meetings each year. The responsibilities of the Circuit Meeting are laid down in Methodist Standing Orders. The circuit meeting is supported by the leadership team which consists of the ministers and circuit stewards. Sandwell Accountancy Services provides financial and administrative support. The circuit also provides voluntary support and leadership in the form of local preachers, circuit stewards and trustees. Other office holders support the churches with help and advice on property, finance, worship, and work with young people. We continue to serve the changing communities where the churches are located.

Related parties

Methodist Church in Britain ("the Connexion")

Birmingham Methodist District

The churches within the circuit during 2022-23 were:

Central Methodist Church

Hasbury Methodist Church Short

Cross Methodist Church

Individual churches make donations to central Methodist Funds, via the circuit bank account.

Such transactions are treated as money received and passed on to External Organisations.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity Number
1134874

Principal Address
2 Wall Close
Smethwick
867 6PG

Trustees

The members of Blackheath & Halesowen Circuit Meeting are the charity trustees, membership being made up of circuit staff, circuit office holders, and representatives appointed by the local churches.

Trustees who served between 1 September 2023 and signing date of accounts were:

Circuit staff
Rev Or J Suray

Other trustees
A Hadley
S Ward
Ms J Lear
Ms M Stanley
Ms J Betney-Rowden
Ms C Lees
Ms S Sambidge
Ms P Lane
Ms E Lacon
Ms T Upcott
D Vercoe
E Collins
Ms G Smith
P Roberts
Ms J Rushton
Ms T Tolley
Ms C Grimmit
Ms S Simpson

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), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provision of the trust deed, requires 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:

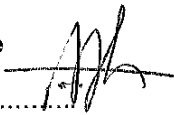
- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently using the accruals method
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue to operate

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the circuit and which enable the trustees to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the circuit and hence for taking reasonable steps to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and other irregularities.

Independent Examiners

Sandwell Accountancy Services have signified their willingness to continue in office.

Approved by order of the circuit meeting on 13 Feb 25 and signed on its behalf by:

Trustee 
.....

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Blackheath & Halesowen Methodist Circuit

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Blackheath & Halesowen Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

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

Independent examiner's statement

I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of the CPAA which is a listed body.

I have completed my examination and can confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by Section 30 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not agree with those records; or
3. The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



Swaranjit Singh Sohal
FCPA
Suite A, Old Bank Buildings
Upper High Street
Cradley Heath West
Midlands B64 SHY

13 FEB 2025

BLACKHEATH & HALESOWEN METHODIST CIRCUIT**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

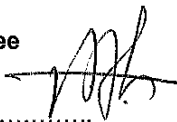
	Note	Unrestricted				Total	Total
		General Fund	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Bequest Fund	Property Res Fund	2023-24	2022-23
		£	£	£	£	£	
INCOME							
Assessments from churches	1	97,014			97,014	126,980	
Interest	2	10,021	34,461	837	45,319	17,245	
Other Income	3	15,827			15,827	11,850	
Gains on Realisation of Asset			39,951		39,951	229,776	
		122,862	74,412	837	198,111	385,851	
EXPENDITURE							
Employment Costs	4	(80,022)			(80,022)	(90,944)	
Manse Costs	5	(5,966)			(5,966)	(8,506)	
Administration	6	(83,036)	(1,682)	(44)	(84,762)	(19,808)	
Grants and Donations		(15,170)			(15,170)	(10,322)	
Investment Property Costs					0	(16,879)	
District Assessment Levy		(24,420)			(24,420)	(23,464)	
Connexional Assessment & Model Trust Levy		(75,474)			(75,474)	0	
		(284,088)	(1,682)	(44)	(285,814)	(169,923)	
Net Income/(Expenditure)		(161,226)	72,730	793	(87,703)	215,928	
Transfers Between Funds		152,872	(55,548)		(119,926)	(22,603)	0
Funds Brought Forward		259,977	590,304	15,497	754,075	1,619,853	1,403,925
Funds Carried Forward		251,623	607,486	16,290	634,149	1,509,547	1,619,853

BLACKHEATH & HALESOWEN METHODIST CIRCUIT**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024**

	Note	Unrestricted				Total	Total
		General Fund	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Bequest Fund	Property Res Fund	2023-24	2022-23
		£	£	£	£	£	
FIXED ASSETS							
Manses	7				634,149	634,149	634,149
Office Equipment	7	3,883				3,883	0
		3,883			634,149	638,032	634,149
CURRENT ASSETS							
Investment Property						0	119,926
Debtors and Prepayments	8	223				223	30,327
Cash at bank and in hand	2	250,586	607,486	16,290		874,362	836,891
		254,692	607,486	16,290	634,149	1,512,617	1,621,293
CURRENT LIABILITIES							
Creditors and Accruals	9	(3,069)				(3,069)	(1,440)
LIABILITIES DUE AFTER ONE YEAR							
		0				0	0
TOTAL NET ASSETS		251,623	607,486	16,290	634,149	1,509,548	1,619,853
CIRCUIT FUNDS							
General Funds		251,623				237,374	259,978
Circuit Model Trust Fund			607,486			710,231	590,304
Bequest Fund				16,290		15,947	15,496
Property Reserve Fund					634,149	634,149	754,075
TOTAL FUNDS		251,623	607,486	16,290	634,149	1,509,548	1,619,853

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorized for issue on 13 FEB 25 and were signed on its behalf by:

Trustee



BLACKHEATH & HALESOWEN METHODIST CIRCUIT

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024

1. Assessments from Churches

Central	12 X £2,126.36	25,516
Hasbury	12 X £3,699.87	44,398
Short Cross	12 X £2,594.16	31,130
Additional Central Cheque		2,126
Central Assessment Debtor Adjustment for 2024 Year		5,518
Central Assessment Debtor Adjustment that wasn't included in last year (2023)		(11,674)
		<u>97,014</u>

Note Re Central

9 payments received during year to 31.8.24	25,294
Debtor at 31.8.24 (1 x £222.51) • see Note 13	222
	<u>25,516</u>

2. Bank balances at 31.08.2024 and Interest Received during 2023-24

	<u>Bank Balance</u> <u>On 31 August 2024</u>	<u>Interest in The Year</u> <u>To 31 August 2024</u>
HSBC 31045059	51,292	0
CFB 05389010	199,294	10,021
TMCP 17970	607,486	34,461
TMCP 18015	16,290	837
	<u>874,362</u>	<u>45,319</u>

3. Other Income

Rental from Springfield Road	10,044
Donation and Legacies	208
Other Charitable Donations	4,411
Grants Received	1,164
	<u>15,827</u>

4. Employment Costs

Salaries and Associated Costs 80,022

5. Manse Costs

Manse Maintenance 3,519
Manse Utilities 2,447

5,966

6. Administration

General Fund

Churches Maintenance 60,000
Other Expenses 313
Marketing 243
General Rates 319
Churches Insurance 2,529
Churches Utilities 769
Travelling – Ministers 5,877
Hotel Accommodation 296
Entertainment 20
Subsistence 149
Postage & Carriage 46
Computer & Software 217
Sundry Expenses 4,500
Mobile Phone – Ministers 674
Accountancy Fees 5,782
Professional Fees 1,056
Legal Fees 720
Repairs & Renewals 156
Bank Charges 73
Subscriptions 166
Training Costs 85
Office Expenses (954)

83,036

Circuit Model Trust Fund

TMCP Admin Fee 1,682

Bequest Fund

TMCP Admin Fee 44

84,762

7. Fixed Assets

Manses

10 Springfield Road	283,211
28 St Kenelm's Avenue	350,938
	<u>634,149</u>

Office Equipment (General Fund)

Laptop Asus	960
iPhone	1,199
Office Chairs	1,724
	<u>3,883</u>

8. Debtors

Central Assessment	223
	<u>223</u>

9. Creditors & Accrual

Creditors

J Suray – Expense for August 2024	314
Dudley Council – 28 St Kunelms	1,185
	<u>1,499</u>

Accrual

Accrual for 2024 year	1,570
	<u>3,069</u>

BLACKHEATH AND HALESOWEN METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1134874

Accounts

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1134874

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023
FOR
BLACKHEATH & HALESOWEN METHODIST CIRCUIT**

Sandwell Accountancy Services Ltd
Certified Public Accountants
Suite A, Old Bank Buildings
Upper High Street
Cradley Heath
West Midlands
B64 5HY

BLACKHEATH & HALESOWEN METHODIST CIRCUIT

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 August 2023

The trustees present their report with the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), effective 1 January 2019.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Blackheath & Halesowen Methodist Circuit is part of the Birmingham District of the Methodist Church.

The Circuit continues to support ministry in local churches and their communities. Care and support are given to those of all communities and faiths as we follow Christ's command to love our neighbours.

The circuit is responsible for 3 (formerly 6) churches: Central Methodist Church, Hasbury and Short Cross. Hurst Green, Crossway and Romsley ceased to meet during 2021-22.

Mission Statement

The circuit's vision is to unite for God's inclusive mission **"Now or Never"** and to love God through worship, evangelism, learning and service.

The aims of the circuit are:

- To be a Christ-centred circuit for the community.
- To reflect the presence of Jesus Christ through our lifestyle.
- To be a Christian Methodist presence within the circuit
- To be the agents of transformation by seeking justice and peace.

The Circuit has a Mission Strategy **"Now or Never"** for discipleship and growth over the next 5-10 years.

Review of the Year

Following the pandemic, we have enjoyed meeting in person again, though several churches now face challenges relating to membership numbers, buildings and difficulty in finding volunteers to fill key roles. The circuit leadership team continues to review the mission life of the circuit. Hurst Green and Crossway were sold during the year. Our two full-time presbyters, Rev Dr Joseph Suray and Rev Peter Brown, continued to provide ministry throughout the year.

Public Benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commissioners' general guidance on public benefit and, in particular, to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing our objectives, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial Position

During the year, the circuit recorded total income from all sources amounting to £386K (2022 - £730K). The circuit disbursed £170K (2022 - £148K), giving a net surplus of income over expenditure of £216K (2022 - 582K). Total reserves at 31 August 2023 were £1,620K (2022 - £1,404K). £754K represents Freehold Land & Buildings (2022 - £1,165K). No fund was in deficit at 31 August 2023.

In line with Methodist guidelines, assets from closed churches pass to the circuit at the date of closure. A fair value is included within income and assets at the date of closure. Fair value takes into account a compulsory 40% levy for the Methodist Connexional Priority Fund which will be deducted if and when those buildings are sold. Any difference between the balance sheet values and the eventual realisable value is accounted for once the final net proceeds figure is certain. Three churches were closed during 2021-22. Their estimated fair value of £530K was recorded in the 2021-22 circuit accounts. Eventual net proceeds of sale totalled £760K. The difference of £230K is shown as a realised gain in the 2022-23 circuit accounts.

Going Concern

The trustees of the circuit have every reason to believe that the circuit is a going concern. Assessment income received from the churches is not sufficient to cover the circuit costs, based on two ministers. Covid-19 has had financial implications for the circuit and all the churches within the circuit. However, the sale of Hurst Green, Crossway and Romsley means that the circuit now has considerable funds held within the Circuit Model Trust Fund. It is recognised that assessment income from the churches is not sufficient to cover the annual costs of the General Fund. Transfers from the Circuit Model Trust Fund into the General Fund will be available and necessary for the foreseeable future. Reserves policies are reviewed annually. There are no subsidiary undertakings.

Investment Policy and Performance

To comply with Methodist Standing Orders, money for long term investment is lodged with TMCP "Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes" or with CFB "Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church. TMCP is the legal owner and custodian trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including legacies, endowments and accumulated funds. CFB manages a common deposit fund and a series of pooled investment funds for Methodist entities in Great Britain. Interest rates from deposits with TMCP and CFB reflect deposit rates available elsewhere. The investment policy of the circuit is aligned with those of TMCP and CFB, who take into account the social, environmental and ethical considerations that make investments suitable for the Methodist Church.

Interest received during the year ended 31 August 2023 was £17,245 (2022 - £785).

Reserves Policies

"Free Reserves" represent the balance on the General Fund, the Circuit Model Trust Fund and the Bequests Fund: £866K (2022 - £239K). Total reserves at 31 August 2023 were £1,620K (2022 - £1,404K). £754K (2022 - £1,165K) represent Freehold Land & Buildings.

The General Fund derives its income principally from church contributions (known as assessments). This finances the day-to-day running costs of the circuit. The trustees believe that the balance on the General Fund should, under normal circumstances, be in the region of £200K, to cover foreseeable circuit running costs.

FUTURE EVENTS

After the end of the financial year, the following developments are reported:

- Romsley Methodist Church was sold in November 2023.
- Rev Peter Brown went into stationing, and he is due leave the circuit in August 2024. There are no plans to replace Peter. Rev Dr Joseph Suray will be the only circuit minister from September 2024.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

The circuit is governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976 and the Deed of Union 1932.

Organisational structure

Individual Methodist churches are grouped within circuits, which are in turn grouped within districts. All districts, circuits and churches are part of the Methodist "Connexion". (See **Related parties** below.) Overall regulatory authority rests with the Methodist Conference, which meets once a year. The Connexional Office implements decisions made by Conference and is also responsible for the stationing of presbyters and deacons (collectively known as ministers) within circuits. Connexional decisions are passed to the districts for implementation. The District Synod meets twice a year.

Governance

The district operates within a statutory framework of regulation and seeks to ensure that it follows Methodist Standing Orders.

Management

The circuit is governed by the trustees consisting of the circuit officers and representatives of each of the churches. The trustees hold at least three meetings each year. The responsibilities of the Circuit Meeting are laid down in Methodist Standing Orders. The circuit meeting is supported by the leadership team which consists of the ministers and circuit stewards. Sandwell Accountancy Services provides financial and administrative support. The circuit also provides voluntary support and leadership in the form of local preachers, circuit stewards and trustees. Other office holders support the churches with help and advice on property, finance, worship, and work with young people. We continue to serve the changing communities where the churches are located.

Related parties

Methodist Church In Britain ("the Connexion")

Birmingham Methodist District

The churches within the circuit during 2022-23 were:

Central Methodist Church

Hasbury Methodist Church

Short Cross Methodist Church

Individual churches make donations to central Methodist Funds, via the circuit bank account. Such transactions are treated as money received and passed on to External Organisations.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity Number

1134874

Principal Address

2 Wall Close
Smethwick
B67 6PG

Trustees

The members of Blackheath & Halesowen Circuit Meeting are the charity trustees, membership being made up of circuit staff, circuit office holders, and representatives appointed by the local churches.

Trustees who served between 1 September 2022 and signing date of accounts were:

Circuit staff

Rev Dr J Suray
Rev P Brown

Other trustees

A Hadley (appointed 1 September 2022)
S Ward (appointed 1 September 2022)
Ms J Lear
Ms M Stanley
Ms J Betney-Rowden
Ms C Lees
Ms S Sambidge
P Jones
Ms E Lacon
Ms T Upcott
D Vercoe
E Collins
Ms G Smith
P Roberts
Ms J Rushton
Ms T Tolley
Ms C Grimmlitt

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), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provision of the trust deed, requires 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:

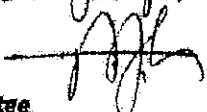
- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently using the accruals method
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue to operate

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the circuit and which enable the trustees to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the circuit and hence for taking reasonable steps to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and other irregularities.

Independent Examiners

Sandwell Accountancy Services have signified their willingness to continue in office.

Approved by order of the circuit meeting on 20 February 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Rev Dr. Joseph B. Scray


Trustee

20 February 2024

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Blackheath & Halesowen Methodist Circuit

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Blackheath & Halesowen Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

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

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of the CPAA which is a listed body.

I have completed my examination and can confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by Section 30 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not agree with those records; or
3. The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



Swaranjit Singh Sohal
FCPA
Suite A, Old Bank Buildings
Upper High Street
Cradley Heath
West Midlands
B64 5HY

20 February 2024

BLACKHEATH & HALESOWEN METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES for the year ended 31 August 2023

Note	Unrestricted				Total	Total
	General Fund	Circuit Model	Requests	Property	2022-23	2021-22
	£	Trust Fund £	Fund £	Res Fund £	£	£
INCOME						
Assessments from churches	1	126,980			126,980	117,294
Interest	2	5,018	11,744	483	17,245	785
Other income	3	11,850			11,850	81,159
Gains from sales of closed church	4		229,776		229,776	530,630
		143,848	241,520	483	385,851	729,868
EXPENDITURE						
Employment costs	5	90,944			90,944	84,670
Manse costs	6	8,506			8,506	0
Administration	7	19,741	24	43	19,808	5,675
District assessment	8	23,256	208		23,464	22,764
Grants and donations	9	10,322			10,322	0
Investment property costs	10	16,879			16,879	34,511
		169,648	232	43	169,923	147,620
Net income/(expenditure)		(25,800)	241,288	440	215,928	582,248
Transfers between funds		70,000	340,704	(410,704)	0	0
Funds brought forward		215,777	8,312	15,056	1,164,779	1,403,924
Funds carried forward		259,977	590,304	15,496	754,075	1,619,852
		1,403,924	1,403,924	1,403,924	1,403,924	1,403,924

BLACKHEATH & HALESOWEN METHODIST CIRCUIT

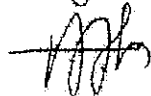
BALANCE SHEET 31 AUGUST 2023

Name	Unrestricted				Total	Total
	General Fund	Quadrant	Bequests	Property	2023-24	2022-23
	£	£	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS						
Monies				634,149	634,149	634,149
				634,149	634,149	634,149
CURRENT ASSETS						
Investment Property				119,926	119,926	590,630
Debtors and prepayments	30,327				30,327	29,391
Circuit bank accounts	231,091	590,304	15,496		836,891	710,755
	261,418	590,304	15,496	119,926	987,144	770,776
CURRENT LIABILITIES						
Creditors and accruals					(1,440)	(1,001)
LIABILITIES DUE AFTER ONE YEAR						
					0	0
TOTAL NET ASSETS						
	259,978	590,304	15,496	754,075	1,619,853	1,403,924
CIRCUIT FUNDS						
General Fund	259,978				259,978	215,777
Circuit Model Trust Fund		590,304			590,304	8,312
Bequests Fund			15,496		15,496	15,056
Property Reserve Fund				754,075	754,075	1,164,770
TOTAL FUNDS	259,978	590,304	15,496	754,075	1,619,853	1,403,924

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 20 February 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

Rev Dr. Joseph B. Suray

Trustee



20 February 2024

BLACKHEATH & HALESOWEN METHODIST CIRCUIT

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023

1. Assessments from Churches

Central	12 x £3,078.30	36,940
Hasbury	12 x £4,280.76	51,369
Short Cross	12 x £3,222.59	<u>38,671</u>
		<u>126,980</u>

Note re Central

Unpaid assessments at 1.9.22	5,518
Unpaid assessment converted to Circuit Grant - see Note 9	(5,518)
9 payments received during year to 31.8.23	27,705
Debtor at 31.8.22 (3 x £3,078.30) - see Note 13	<u>9,235</u>
	<u>36,940</u>

2. Bank balances at 31.8.23 and Interest Received during 2022-23

	<u>Bank balance</u> <u>on 31 August 2023</u>	<u>Interest in year</u> <u>to 31 August 2023</u>
HSBC 31045059	30,856	0
CFB 05389010	200,234	5,018
TMCP 17970	590,304	11,745
TMCP 18015	15,497	483
	<u>836,891</u>	<u>17,246</u>

3. Other Income

Net rental from Springfield Road	7,771
B&H Printing account closed	3,929
Circuit away day contribution	<u>150</u>
	<u>11,850</u>

4. Gains from sales of closed churches

		<u>Sales</u> <u>Proceeds</u>	<u>CPF Levy</u>		<u>Gain 2022-23</u>	<u>Gain 2021-22</u>
Hurst Green	Jan-23	732,039	(268,816)	61%	139,863	323,684
	Nov-23	540	(0,216)			
Crossway	Mar-23	255,428	(78,171)	23%	55,212	122,015
Romsley	Nov-23	159,337	(39,735)	16%	34,701	91,903
					<u>229,776</u>	<u>539,603</u>
Total net proceeds		<u>760,406</u>				

5. Employment costs

Wages	69,328
Social Security costs	6,378
Pension costs	<u>15,238</u>
	<u>90,944</u>

There were two full-time ministers during the year. The family worker left in February 2023.

6. Manse costs

St Kenelm's Avenue	5,506
BWO circuit – see Note 11	<u>3,000</u>
	<u>8,506</u>

The manse at Springfield Road is rented out. Costs incurred by the letting agent are netted against rental income. Costs incurred by the circuit are included within investment property costs – Note 10.

7. Administration

General Fund

Staff expenses claims	10,475
Bank charges	65
Sandwell Accounting	5,730
Insurance	1,385
Office costs, including new laptop and wifi	<u>2,086</u>
	19,741

Circuit Model Trust Fund

TMCP admin fees	24
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Bequests Fund

TMCP admin fees	43
	<u>19,808</u>

8. District Assessment

District Assessment paid monthly

Paid over by District to central Methodism	20,181
Retained for District running costs	<u>3,075</u>
	23,256

Annual Levy on Circuit Model Trust Fund

Balance on CMTF 31.8.22 was £8,311.56	
Levy 2.5% up on balances up to £100K	208

23,464

9. Grants and Donations

Gift for Ian Howarth collection	300
Grant to Central - see below	6,000
Grant to Central re PA system	3,200
Opening debtor re Hurst Green written off	822
	<u>10,322</u>

Payment to Central CFB account 9.12.22	482.50
Unpaid assessments written off - see note 1	5,517.50
	<u>6,000.00</u>

10. Investment property costs

Hurst Green	6,658
Crossway	4,367
Romsley	4,163
Other property costs, Including Springfield Road	1,691
	<u>16,879</u>

11. Manse

10 Springfield Road	283,211
28 St Kenelm's Avenue	350,938
	<u>634,149</u>

The manse at Springfield Road is rented out. A contribution towards the cost of Joseph's manse is made annually to Birmingham (West) & Oldbury Circuit.

Manse are valued at "fair value". The trustees believe that this value is not more than market value.

12. Investment Property

		<u>Hurst</u> <u>Green</u>	<u>Crossway</u>	<u>Romsley</u>
Estimated valuation at 1 September 2022	530,630	323,684	122,045	84,901
Additions (gain realised 2022-23)	229,776	139,863	55,212	34,701
Disposal proceeds in 2022-23	(640,480)	(463,223)	(177,257)	0
Value at 31 August 2023 = Amount received November 2023	119,926	324	0	119,602

13. Debtors and Creditors

	<u>Debtors/ Prepayments</u>	<u>Creditors/ Accruals</u>
Old loan to Hasbury brought forward and carried forward	20,000	
Central assessments unpaid at 31.8.23 (3 x £3,078.30)	9,235	
Insurance prepaid re Romsley	1,092	
Sandwell Accounting		(1,440)
	<u>30,327</u>	<u>(1,440)</u>

14. Money received and passed to external organisations

Money received re 2020-21, but not paid over until after 31.8.22	730.60
Donations for Methodist funds received from churches during 2022-23	642.78
Paid over to Methodist funds in 2022-23	<u>(1,373.38)</u>
Balance still to be paid	<u>0.00</u>

BLACKHEATH AND HALESOWEN METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1134874

Accounts

RESERVES POLICY

Report on behalf of

Blackheath and Halesowen Circuit

(Circuit Meeting)

To

Birmingham District

(*Circuit Meeting/District)

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

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

(iii) We have agreed a Reserves Policy which is set out overleaf and is recorded in the trustees' minutes and our Annual Report

(iv) We recognise the need to be accountable as charity trustees for all the money which comes into our hands and will provide further information as required by the Circuit/District/Connexion

(v) Our Report is attached overleaf

* please delete as appropriate



To be completed by Receiving Body

The

Birmingham District

*Circuit Meeting/District received the RESERVES POLICY of

Blackheath and Halesowen Circuit

*Church Council/Circuit Meeting/District

Policy accepted and acknowledgement sent to the trustees

YES / NO

Policy noted and the following enquiries made of the trustees

Responses received and any further action taken

*Circuit/District

Signatures Date.....

* Please delete as appropriate

RESERVES POLICY of

Blackheath and Halesowen Circuit (Circuit Meeting)

1. General Funds - 31/08/2021	£70,694
2. TMCP Trusts (CMTF £8,510, Bequest £15,029)	£23,539
3. Designated Funds (Manse £27,380, Removals £1,200)	£28,580
4. Family Worker – restricted fund	£25,994
5. Endowment Funds	NIL

Reserves policy for General Funds

General funds are held for the payment of stipends, salaries and general circuit expenditure. Reserves at 31.8.21 represent 7.7 months' expenditure. Whilst this is above the recommended level of 4-6 months for Methodist bodies, we feel this temporary high level of general fund reserves is necessary with only three churches responsible for the annual circuit assessment.

Reserves Policy for Other Funds

Circuit Model Trust Fund £8,510. This represents remaining funds from the sale of Long Lane Methodist Church. This is unrestricted and can be used for "any Methodist purpose".

Bequest £15,029. This is the Madeley Bequest, formerly held by Crossway, which transferred to the circuit on the closure of Crossway. The money is held at TMCP and has the same status as the Circuit Model Trust Fund: it is unrestricted and can be used for "any Methodist purpose".

Designated Fund £28,580. The circuit meeting agreed that rental income from the Springfield Road property, from September 2021, should be designated towards the employment of a Family Worker.

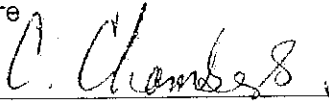
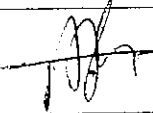
An annual transfer of £300 is made from the General Fund and held within the Designated Fund, to be used for future removal costs of new ministers to the circuit.

Family Worker fund £25,994. This is a restricted fund, ring-fenced for transactions relating to that role. Income is from church pledges and a district grant, made specifically for that purpose. At present there is no family worker, so the fund is currently "frozen", with no income going in and no expenditure coming out.

This Reserves Policy has been approved by

Blackheath and Halesowen Circuit Meeting
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(Circuit Meeting)

Treasurer	Trustee
Full Name Christine Chambers	Full Name Rev Dr Joseph Suray
Signature 	Signature 

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Blackheath & Halesowen	Circuit
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2021

Birmingham	District	Circuit no	O5-21
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number	1134874
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If not a registered charity Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs Gift Aid number

(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Ministers:

Rev Dr Joseph B Suray
Rev Peter Brown

Circuit Stewards:

Mr A Frate
Mrs J Parkes
Mr A Potter
Mrs J Betney-Rowden
Mrs J Lear

Treasurer:

Mrs C Chambers

SECTION A

	General Fund	TMCP Trusts	Designated Fund	Family Worker Fund (Restricted)	Totals this year	Totals last year
	£	£	£	£	£	£
a1 RECEIPTS						
a2 Assessment/Share	104,910				104,910	118,300
a3 Capital receipts						
a4 Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	138	29			167	681
a5 Grants				9,000	9,000	9,000
a6 Other receipts		15,029	9,654	14,012	38,695	41,216
a7 TOTAL RECEIPTS	105,048	15,058	9,654	23,012	152,772 (a8)	169,197

SECTION B

b1 PAYMENTS						
b2 Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs	78,961			11,602	90,563	103,459
b3 Manse Costs	2,861		3,935		6,796	7,179
b4 Administration etc	2,770	17		200	2,987	3,338
b5 District Assessment	22,704	218			22,922	22,462
b6 Grants & donations	1,800				1,800	10,000
b7						
b8 Other payments	1,051				1,051	2,822
b9 TOTAL PAYMENTS	110,147	235	3,935	11,802	126,119 (b9)	149,260

SECTION C

c1 NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a7-b9)	(5,099)	14,823	5,719	11,210	26,653	19,937
c2 Total funds brought forward from last year		76,093	8,716	22,561	14,784	122,154 (c6)	102,217
c3 Sub total	(c1+c2)	70,994	23,539	28,280	25,994	148,807	122,154
c4 Transfers and adjustments		(300)		300			
c5 TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR (c3+c4)		70,694	23,539	28,580	25,994	148,807 (c8)	122,154 (c6)

SECTION D

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (these amounts should not be included in total receipts/payments above)			
d1 Balance brought forward from last year			
d2 Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		2,035	2,742
d3 Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		2,035	2,742
d4 BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)			

SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATION REPORTING TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING**SECTION E** Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Circuit Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross receipts and payments totals of the Circuit. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold of £250,000, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the Circuit and connected Circuit Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1 Circuit Ladies					1,715	1,715
e2 Men's Supper					670	670
e3 B&H Printing	2	649	(647)		4,650	4,003
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	2	649	(647)		7,036 (e11)	6,388 (e12)
e9 Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	152,772 (a8)	126,119 (b8)	26,653	(c7)	122,154 (c6)	148,807 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	152,774	126,788	26,006		129,189 (x)	155,195 (y)
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2021**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash In hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	9,860	5,197
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	103,578	120,071
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	8,716	23,539
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL	122,154 (c6)	148,807 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance totals above) (e12)	7,035 (e11)	6,388 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	129,189 (x)	155,195 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2020	At 31 August 2021
g1 Investments (Include Endowments)		
g2 Land and Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	603,598	634,149
g3 Due from Hurst Green £18,271, due from Hasbury £20,000	38,721	38,721
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5 Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

f5 Include only CFB Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

g1 Include any other Investments (not the cash element of TMCP trust accounts this is inserted in line f5)

Name of Circuit BLACKHEATH & HALESOWEN No. 21

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment 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 C. Chambers Date 26.10.2021.

Name and address of treasurer Christine Chambers

48 Woodbury Road, Halesowen, West Midlands, B62 9AW

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 30.11.2021.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting JH

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev Dr Joseph Suray

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

BLACKHEATH & HALESOWEN Circuit

Charity Number . 1134874

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the .. Blackheath and Halesowen 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.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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.

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 *A J Rolinson*

Name of independent examiner A J Rolinson

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner /

Name of firm (where appropriate) /

Address 12 Ennerdale Drive, Halesowen, West Midlands

Post Code B63 1HL

Date *20.10.2021*

* delete or circle as appropriate

Sep-21