

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

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 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 Grimmitt

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

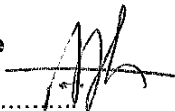
The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the circuit and which enable the trustees to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 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
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Cradley Heath West
Midlands B64 SHY

13 FEB 2025

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

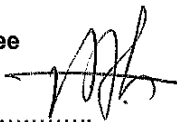
	Note	Unrestricted				Total	Total
		General Fund	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Bequest Fund	Property Res Fund	2023-24	2022-23
		£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME							
Assessments from churches	1	97,014				97,014	126,980
Interest	2	10,021	34,461	837		45,319	17,245
Other Income	3	15,827				15,827	11,850
Gains on Realisation 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**

	<u>Note</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>				<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
		<u>General</u>	<u>Circuit Model</u>	<u>Bequest</u>	<u>Property Res</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2022-23</u>
		<u>Fund</u>	<u>Trust Fund</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund</u>		
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>							
Manses	7				634,149	634,149	634,149
Office Equipment	7	3,883				3,883	0
		3,883			634,149	638,032	634,149
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>							
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
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>							
Creditors and Accruals	9	(3,069)				(3,069)	(1,440)
<u>LIABILITIES DUE AFTER ONE YEAR</u>							
		0				0	0
TOTAL NET ASSETS		251,623	607,486	16,290	634,149	1,509,548	1,619,853
<u>CIRCUIT FUNDS</u>							
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
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5. Manse Costs

Manse Maintenance	3,519
Manse Utilities	2,447
	<u>5,966</u>

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)
	<u>83,036</u>

Circuit Model Trust Fund

TMCP Admin Fee	1,682
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Bequest Fund

TMCP Admin Fee	44
	<u>84,762</u>

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>