Berkshire and Hampshire Borders Methodist Circuit

England & Wales · Charity number 1134891

Details

Other names	BASINGSTOKE AND READING METHODIST CIRCUIT, READING AND SILCHESTER METHODIST CIRCUIT
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2010-03-12
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Wesley Methodist Church 84 Queens Road Reading RG1 4BW
Phone	0118 958 1505
Email	office@bhbcircuit.org.uk
Website	https://www.bhbcircuit.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 subsiduary 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: Promoting christianity by enabling the provision of regular acts of worship in local churches that are open to all. Facilitating the provision of sacred spaces for prayer, contemplation and activities within local communities. Encouraging christian teaching. Local and international Christian outreach, enabling teaching and support through pastoral work, courses and activities.

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Classification

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Hampshire
- Reading
- West Berkshire
- Wokingham

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-08-31	£627,061	£654,185	£8,743,340	12
2023-08-31	£1,855,899	£683,200	£8,526,700	12
2022-08-31	£532,789	£595,125	£7,327,717	14
2021-08-31	£582,484	£652,315	£6,827,666	15
2020-08-31	£600,077	£659,787	£6,415,017	15

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Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Martin Pieter Beukes	Chair	2019-09-01
ALISON MARGARET HUTCHINS		2024-09-01
ANDREW JOHN BILLINGTON		2024-09-01
Alan James Harland		2024-09-01
Andrew John House		2024-09-01
Brenda Caborn		2024-09-01
Charmian Harrison		2024-09-01
Christina Ann Westcombe		2024-09-01
Christine Mabel Margaret Thomas		2025-09-01
Christine Merryl Vallis		2024-09-01
David Edwin Cliffe		2024-09-01
David Michael Gunton		2024-09-01
Donald Kaye Fraser		2024-09-01
GRACE MERCER		2024-09-01
Georgina Valentina Tagoe		2024-09-01
Gillian Margaret Porter		2025-09-01
Gillian Mary Lawson		2024-09-01
Heather Elaine Symons		2024-09-01
Helen Batterby		2024-09-01
Helen Khan		2024-09-01
Ian Stuart Pollard		2024-09-01
JENNIFER MARY BARTTER		2024-09-01
Jacqueline Diane Bath		2024-09-01
Jeanette Louise Smith		2024-09-01
Joan Rosemary Greenhalgh		2024-09-01
Joanne Lesley Murray		2024-09-01
Jonathan Leslie Skeet		2024-09-01

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Name	Role	Appointed
Karen Anne Frost		2024-09-01
Kathleen Ann Eaves		2024-09-01
Keith Vaughan Cable		2024-09-01
Kenneth Fordjour		2024-09-01
Kim Suzanne Crawley		2024-09-01
Lesley Jean Skeavington		2024-09-01
Linda Ann Langridge		2024-09-01
Linda Irene May Hoe		2024-09-01
Margaret Ann Marina Hayes		2024-09-01
Martin John Goodwin		2024-09-01
Michael Albert Kimber		2024-09-01
Michael David Smith		2024-09-01
Michael Thomas Parker		2015-09-01
Pamela Dawn Guy		2024-09-01
Patricia Dorothy Kinchington		2024-09-01
Patricia Mary Jose		2024-09-01
Peter Howard Boardley C ENG		
Peter Jonathan Frank		2024-09-01
RICHARD JOHN KELLY		2024-09-01
RUTH MABEL TAYLOR		2024-09-01
Raymond William Chalk		2024-09-01
Rev Andrew David Fitchet		2024-09-01
Rev Christopher Evans		2024-09-01
Rev Claire Frances Simpson		2024-09-01
Rev David Glyn Jenkins		2024-09-01
Rev Helen Watson		2024-09-01
Rev JONATHAN SALMON		2024-09-01
Rev Jacqueline Anne Case		2024-09-01

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Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Jennifer Susan Dowding		2024-09-01
Rev John Paul Banks		2024-09-01
Rev RACHEL JANE BORGARS		2024-09-01
Rev Ruth Katherine Midcalf		2024-09-01
SARAH JOY ROSS		2024-09-01
Sarah Jane Whithorn		2024-09-01
Stuart James Armstrong		2024-09-01
Stuart Mills Daughters		2024-09-01
Terence John Rowell		2024-09-01
Tirivashe Manhera		2024-09-01
Tracy Jane Davis		2024-09-01

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Berkshire and Hampshire Borders Methodist Circuit

England & Wales - Charity number 1134891

Accounts

Registered Charity Number: 1134891

BASINGSTOKE & READING METHODIST CIRCUIT

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 August 2024

Rev 4

BASINGSTOKE & READING METHODIST CIRCUIT

Annual Report and Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 August 2024

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The Circuit

Basingstoke and Reading Methodist Circuit was formed on 1 September 2014 resulting from the merger of Basingstoke Methodist Circuit and Reading & Silchester Methodist Circuit. The Circuit is a separate legal entity within the Methodist Church and is required under Charity law to prepare separate accounts.

The Circuit is a registered charity (England & Wales) number 1134891.

There are 21 churches within the Circuit, with a total membership of 926. The churches are spread around Reading and Basingstoke and the neighbouring towns and villages of Bradfield, Burghfield Common, Mortimer, Tadley, and Silchester. Several have local ecumenical partnerships with Anglican, Baptist, and/or United Reformed churches.

Trustees

The Circuit's trustees are all members of the Circuit Meeting and are listed on page 2.

Executive and leadership functions

The Circuit Stewards (who are ex officio members of the Circuit Meeting) are responsible for ensuring that the decisions of the Circuit Meeting are executed. The following served as Circuit Stewards during the year:

Peter Boardley (also as Financial Secretary)
June Hardcastle (until 23 Nov '23)
Michael Parker
Terence Rowell
Stephen Appiah
Donald Fraser (from July 2024)

The Circuit Leadership Team gives a longer-term vision to the Circuit's affairs and comprises a mix of stipendiary and lay members of the Circuit Meeting. The following, also members of the Circuit Meeting, served on CLT this year: Reverends Beukes, Simpson, Watson, Kim, Banks, and Jenkins. and all circuit stewards; two representing local preachers and worship leaders (June Hardcastle and Paddy Jose); and Mary Ludlow and Peter Frank, representing lay employees. Marion Young, a member of the Circuit Meeting, is secretary to CLT.

Custodian trustees

The custodian trustees are the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

Contacting the Circuit

The Circuit's principal office is 84 Queen's Road, Reading RG1 4BW, telephone 0118 958 1505. The Circuit's website is www.basingstokereadingmethodists.uk

Bankers

The Circuit's bankers are the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church, 9 Bonhill Street, London EC2A 4PE; and CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ.

Auditors and professional advisers

The Circuit's auditors are James Cowper Kreston Audit, Reading Bridge House, George Street, Reading, RG1 8LS.

The Circuit engages advisers for legal affairs and property services as required.

Managing trustees

The managing trustees, who are all members of the Circuit Meeting are as follows:

The following, as members of the Circuit Meeting, are registered with the Charity Commission as managing trustees:

Mr	Stuart James	Armstrong	Mrs	Alison Margaret	Hutchins
Revd	John Paul	Banks	Revd	David Glyn	Jenkins
Mrs	Jennifer Mary	Bartter	Mrs	Sally Elizabeth	Johnson
Mrs	Jacqueline Diane	Bath	Mrs	Patricia Mary	Jose
Mrs	Helen	Batterby	Mr	Richard John	Kelly
Revd	Martin Pieter	Beukes	Miss	Helen	Khan
Mr	Andrew John	Billington	Revd	Jeongsook	Kim
Mr	Peter Howard	Boardley	Mr	Michael Albert	Kimber
Mr	Martin Keith	Borgars	Mrs	Patricia Dorothy	Kinchington
Revd	Rachel Jane	Borgars	Mrs	Linda Ann	Langridge
Mr	Keith	Cable	Mrs	Gillian Mary	Lawson
Mrs	Brenda	Caborn	Mr	Tirivashe	Manhera
Revd	Jacqueline Anne	Case	Mrs	Sandra	McKenzie
Mr	Raymond William	Chalk	Mrs	Grace	Mercer
Mr	David Edwin	Cliffe	Revd	Ruth Katherine	Midcalf
Mrs	Kim Suzanne	Crawley	Mrs	Joanne Lesley	Murray
Mr	Stuart Mills	Daughters	Mr	Michael Thomas	Parker
Mrs	Tracy	Davis	Mr	Ian Stuart	Pollard
Revd	Jennifer Susan	Dowding	Mrs	Sarah Joy	Ross
Mr	Richard Melvyn	Elston	Mr	Terence John	Rowell
Revd	Christopher	Evans	Revd	Jonathan	Salmon
Revd	Andrew David	Fitchet	Revd	Claire Frances	Simpson
Mr	Kenneth Adjei	Fordjour	Mrs	Lesley Jean	Skeavington
Mr	Peter Jonathan	Frank	Mr	Jonathan Leslie	Skeet
Mr	Donald Kaye	Fraser	Mrs	Jeanette Louise	Smith
Mrs	Karen Anne	Frost	Mrs	Heather Elaine	Symons
Mrs	Joan Rosemary	Greenhalgh	Mrs	Georgina Valentina	Tagoe
Mr	David Michael	Gunton	Mrs	Ruth Mabel	Taylor
Mrs	Pamela Dawn	Guy	Mrs	Christine	Vallis
Mr	Alan James	Harland	Revd	Helen	Watson
Mrs	Charmian	Harrison	Mrs	Christina Ann	Westcombe
Mrs	Margaret Ann Marina	Hayes	Mrs	Sarah Jane	Whithorn
Mrs	Linda Irene May	Hoe	Mrs	Patricia	Wilce
Ms	Kathleen	Houghton	Mrs	Marion Joy	Young
Mr	Andrew John	House			

The members of the Circuit Meeting (as managing trustees) have pleasure in presenting their annual report and the audited accounts for the year.

1. Objectives and activities

The Circuit strives to proclaim and reflect the love of God as a justice-seeking Church. In doing this we shall place people before buildings, mission before maintenance, and God over church. We seek to enable our churches to develop their local mission with the skills and support the Circuit Mission Groups and the provision of resources.

The Circuit's purpose is to provide resources to support ministry in local churches. The Circuit does this through the provision of ordained ministers and deacons, lay staff, and Circuit officers to support service and ministry from the Circuit's 19 churches to their local communities. The 19 Churches include the online Church of the Living Stream and counts the 2 Churches in Caversham as separate entities. The Circuit also has responsibility for the upkeep and maintenance of 13 manses and investment properties.

The Circuit produces a quarterly preaching plan to ensure regular acts of worship take place at each of the 16 Methodist Churches and 3 Local Ecumenical Partnerships in its geographical area. These are available to all people without charge. The Circuit is also directly involved with outreach work, with a particular emphasis on children and families, schools, and support for food banks.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)', when reviewing the Circuit's aims and objectives. The Circuit is pursuing its objectives through the following strategies by providing: the 19 Churches include the online Church of the Living Stream

- Staffing resources and other assistance to churches for ministry to their communities;
- Grants for outreach activities and improvements to churches' premises that will facilitate access to ministry;
- Training through study, mentoring, and examination for lay preachers and worship leaders;
- Training and support in safeguarding awareness;
- Opportunities for staff and members of church congregations to meet for fellowship, worship and learning; and
- Care for those who have retired from full-time service in the Methodist Church.

2. Achievements and performance

The Circuit has continued to benefit from strong and effective ministerial and lay leadership. This is now focussed through the CLT, which was formed in September 2015 and comprises representatives from ordained staff, the circuit stewards, and lay members of the circuit meeting as noted on Page 1. CLT's brief is to take a more strategic view in leading the Circuit through a period of change and guiding the allocation of resources in the most effective direction.

The Circuit has also continued to benefit from its large group of established local preachers. Currently, three individuals are 'on note' as intending local preachers and two are 'on trial' whilst they undertake training. Three individuals have completed training as worship leaders, and one is undertaking the Connexional course. Two of the Circuit's tutors have been training worship leaders in other circuits.

The circuit made grants and donations to Churches of £13,728 These went to Oakridge to support their food bank project, to Mortimer Church for their Welcome Mission, and their solar panels project. A transfer of funds was made to St Andrew's Church as part of their Model Trust Fund Trust. Further details can be found in Note 10 to the accounts.

The Circuit produced devotional resources for Advent 2023 that were distributed to all the Circuit's churches for use by individuals, small groups, or in worship. The Circuit is actively involved through lay staff with outreach projects in Basingstoke, with young people and the Town Centre Chaplaincy.

Local community organisations notably those promoting fitness and health, music and dance use church premises, and income from external lettings makes a valued contribution towards upkeep of church premises.

Much use is made of Zoom and similar platforms for broadcasting services across the internet. Many churches arrange and hold their own services, and others use the service organise by the Circuit each week. Churches have invested in technology to film services, and this has opportunities for use for example with concerts held at churches being made available to a wider audience. The Church at Kempshott decided to become an online Church and streams services during the week

The churches continue to develop ways and means for outreach into local neighbourhoods, for example, the quiet garden and Retreat Centre at Silchester and community cafés. Several churches have Messy Church; lunch, holiday, and after-school clubs; or tailored children, families, and youth work. Some churches have acted as a collection point for shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Much work is being done to support foodbanks across the Circuit's communities. Activities to support National Charities are a feature of some Churches as well as "Come and Meet" groups. Ecumenical as well as local Bible Study Groups are also a feature. The summer months allow Cream Teas to be served in the more rural areas of the Circuit. A number of Churches have or are progressing on the ECO Church programme with the development of Eco-friendly gardens where possible.

Many outreach projects are carried out in partnership with churches from other denominations, such as the REinspired and 'Open the Book' programmes for delivering religious education in schools. Wesley Methodist Church participated in 'Bed for the Night', an ecumenical initiative providing accommodation and food for the homeless in Reading. Oakridge Church Warm Hub and Soup Lunches and the Pantry at Wesley have developed contacts with foodbank users.

Agreement was reached regarding the merger of the two Circuits, which passed through Synod and Conference during the year. The new Circuit called the Hampshire and Berkshire Borders Circuit was inaugurated in September 2024. (See also Note 26 to the Statement of Financial Activities.)

3. Financial review

The attached Statement of Financial Affairs (SOFA) summarises the Circuit's income and expenditure for the year, supplemented by the Cash Flow statement and the Notes to the Financial Statements. The Balance Sheet shows the Circuit's assets, liabilities, and reserves.

The net expenditure for the year was £27,124 before investment gains (2023: net income of £1,172,699). The reduction of £1,199,823 resulted from the following:

	£
Churches' assessments were reduced	-21,272
Investment income and bank interest was higher	12,059
Rental income now also includes lettings from closed churches held by the Circuit	15,090
Property and Model Trust Funds were transferred from closed churches in 2023	-1,228,838
Maintenance and other costs for manses and closed churches were lower	13,742
Less was paid out to churches in grants	14,792
Other variations, net	-5,306
	-1,199,823

After recognising gains on investment properties and other assets of £238.764, net income for the year was £211,640 (2023: net income of £1,168,983 after investment losses of £3,716). Upward revaluation of freehold property increased funds by £5,000 (2023: £30,000).

The Balance Sheet summarises the Circuit's assets, liabilities, and funds. Net assets (and thus aggregate funds) at 31st August 2024 were £8,743,340 (2023: £8,526,700). The increase in net assets of £216,640 results from changes to assets and liabilities as follows:

	£
Investment valuation gains	238,764
Investment purchases less sales	1,848
Revaluation of operational properties	5,000
Model Trust and endowment funds transferred from closed churches	51,324
Net expenditure passing through Model Trust Fund	-51,758
Reduction in net current assets	-28,538
Increase in net assets	216,640

The Circuit's net assets are held in either endowment, restricted or unrestricted funds. A full analysis of the individual funds, and the objectives for which income and/or capital may be applied, is provided in Notes 20 to 22 in these financial statements. These funds may be summarised as follows:

	£	£
Endowment funds		
The income from these funds is applied to ministry within the Circuit but the capital is not available for use*		249,386
Restricted funds		
Available for financing capital schemes - Arthur Newbery Trust*	216,542	
Available for funding revenue expenditure as specified by donors	15,481	
		232,023
Unrestricted funds		
Manse capital fund (equivalent to the value of manse and investment properties)		7,820,000
Circuit Model Trust Funds, for financing churches' property and mission schemes through grants*		118,371
Funds available for financing Circuit occasional expenditure:		
Circuit development fund, for training and mission projects	30,882	
Youth work fund	1,051	
Kentwood fund, for supporting churches small building schemes	9,973	
		41,906
Funds for financing Circuit annual operating expenditure		
General funds, for all purposes	231,451	
Manse maintenance fund, for repairs, maintenance and refurbishment	50,203	
		281,654
Total funds		8,743,340

4. Reserves policies

The Circuit is required to have policies regarding the level of reserves to be held in respect of funds for financing Circuit's annual operating expenditure. Policies are not required in respect of other funds since these are not held primarily for revenue purposes and there are restrictions on how the funds may be used. The funds marked (*) are managed by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

The Circuit's annual operating expenditure includes the cost of ministerial and lay staff, provision of manses, travel and administrative expenses, and contributions to the Methodist Southampton District and Methodist Church central funds. This expenditure is funded by assessments on the Circuit's churches, investment income, rents on surplus manses, and contributions from the Model Trust Fund.

Assessments on churches were calculated as part of the Circuit's annual budget process. Increases in assessments on churches are limited to 10%, and not more than 95% of a church's income (70% if the church has no lettings income from its buildings). This will be reconsidered during the year 2024-25 because the merged Circuit will need to develop and agreed procedure

The Circuit's budget reflects the impact of anticipated changes in staffing levels, the maintenance needs of its residential property portfolio, and any amounts to be drawn from reserves to support the planned expenditure. The Circuit Meeting approves the budget and assessments, and the amounts to be carried forward in reserves.

Proposed drawings from the restricted funds of the Circuit to assist churches with building improvements and fund improvements to the manses are considered and approved on a case-by-case basis by the Circuit Meeting.

In setting its reserves policy the Circuit Meeting also considers the financial health of the churches in the Circuit which has impacted on their ability to fund the annual Circuit assessment. The Circuit's reserves policies are to maintain at least:

- A general fund balance of £150,000, sufficient to cover three months' running costs; and
- A manse maintenance fund balance of at least £50,000, sufficient also for three months' running costs of approximately £20,000 plus £30,000 for unexpected repairs to manses.

The balances on these reserves at 31 August 2024 were £231,451 and £50,203 respectively. The excess on General Fund over the policy of £150,000 will be used over the next three years in funding expected budget deficits,

The Circuit's budget for the year commencing 1 September 2024 was prepared before the merger with the Kennet and Test Valley Circuit was approved and shows net expenditure of £77,566 on General Fund and a surplus of £18,948 on Manse Maintenance Fund based solely on Basingstoke and Reading Circuit. KTV Circuit did the same. The General Fund deficit will be partly relieved by a transfer from Manse maintenance Fund of £19,000, being the anticipated excess over the policy of £50,000. The trustees consider the Circuit to be a going concern.

5. Investment policies

In accordance with the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church, the Circuit's investments are managed on its behalf by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP), Central Buildings, Oldham Street Manchester M1 1JQ. TMCP acts as custodian trustee for all properties held by Circuits, for all large bequests (ie over £20,000), and for the proceeds of the sale of any property where the Circuit was managing trustee. These sums are unitised investments or held on deposit.

Short term deposits are lodged with the Central Finance Board (CFB) of the Methodist Church.

The Circuit's investment policies are aligned with those of TMCP and the CFB because these organisations take into consideration the social, environmental and ethical issues, both negatively and positively, that make investments suitable for the Methodist Church.

6. Pay and remuneration policies

Ministers are stationed in the Circuit by the Methodist Conference. Ministers' remuneration is set nationally by the Methodist Church. Ministers are members of the Methodist Ministers Pension Scheme. Contribution rates are set nationally by the Methodist Church.

Lay employees are directly employed by the Circuit. Lay employee remuneration is based on the Methodist Church's guidance for the setting of pay rates for lay employees. Lay employee pay rates are in excess of the National Living Wage. The Circuit offers a pension scheme to its lay employees. The Circuit matches lay employee contributions up to 10% of salary. The minimum employer contribution rate is 6%. No member of staff is paid in excess of £60,000 per annum.

Information on the payment of expenses to trustees and remuneration of key management personnel is disclosed in the notes to the Circuit's accounts.

7. Structure and governance

The Circuit was established in accordance with the constitution of the Methodist Church. Its organisation is structured around its bi-annual circuit meeting. The Circuit also holds gatherings to which members of all churches are invited for worship, discussion, prayer and activities.

The members of the Circuit Meeting are the trustees of the Circuit. The Circuit Meeting comprises the Circuit staff and officers, and representatives from each church in the Circuit and the local preachers' meeting. Each church council and the local preachers meeting elect representatives to the Circuit Meeting annually. The Circuit officers are appointed annually by Circuit Meeting.

When appointed, trustees are asked to complete a related party questionnaire and, at the start of each Circuit Meeting, to declare any new conflicts of interest. No declarations were made this year.

The Circuit Meeting is supported by separate monthly meetings of ordained staff and circuit stewards to conduct day-to-day business and consider matters to be brought to the attention of the Circuit Meeting. The Circuit Leadership Team's responsibilities include circuit strategy and vision, resource planning and oversight of probationers and candidates. A number of focussed Mission Groups and 'Special Interest' Groups focus on prayer, preparation of worship materials, arranging Circuit gatherings and managing our property portfolio.

8. Administrative details

These details are provided on page 1 to these financial statements.

9. Principal risks and uncertainties

The major risks to which the Circuit is exposed have been identified by the Circuit Meeting and are listed below. A major risk is defined as one that, if realised could fundamentally affect the way in which the Circuit operates or achieves its outcomes in the next one to three years.

	Risk	Evaluation	Commentary
A	Churches cannot afford to pay their assessments. This would affect the ability of the Circuit to fund staffing	Moderate	The Circuit takes into account church income when setting assessments on churches.
B	The Circuit cannot maintain residential properties to appropriate standards	Low	Surveyors carry out inspections every five years to assist planning repairs and maintenance. There is sufficient in the Model Trust Fund for works needed in the medium term
C	The Circuit is unable to fill stations with presbyters, deacons or lay staff where appropriate.	Moderate	There is a Connexional shortage of presbyters, and sometimes vacancies cannot be filled immediately
D	The Circuit is unable to attract circuit stewards and other office holders with appropriate skills and expertise	Moderate	The Circuit is heavily dependent on such individuals and the time that they commit to the Circuit's life and work. At present most posts are filled.
E	Churches are unable to attract office holders with sufficient time, skills and expertise to enable them to continue operating	Moderate	If churches cease to operate, the Circuit may need to become managing trustee for the site.

10. Further information

If further information is required on the Circuit's life and witness, please first contact Mrs Marion Young, at the Circuit office (see page 1).

11. Statement of trustees' responsibilities

Charity law requires the Circuit Meeting to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of the Circuit as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing those financial statements, the Circuit Meeting are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue on that basis.

The Circuit Meeting are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Circuit Meeting



Rev Martin Beukes
Chair of Meeting 12 March 2025

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of Basingstoke & Reading Methodist Circuit

Opinion

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

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.
Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other information

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

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If , based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

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

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditors' Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.
Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation. Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below:

- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance and the entity's solicitors (or in-house legal team) around actual and potential legislation and claims;
- Enquiry of entity staff in tax and compliance functions to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Reviewing internal audit reports;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to support documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias,

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Councils website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 8 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Darren O'Connor BSc (Hons) FCCA FCA, Senior Statutory Auditor
For and on behalf of James Cowper Kreston Audit, Statutory Auditor
James Cowper Kreston Audit is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

Reading Bridge House
George Street
Reading
Berkshire
RG1 8LS

Date: 17 March 2025

BASINGSTOKE & READING METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 August 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds General Funds	Unrestricted Funds Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024
		£	£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Donations and legacies		-	-	-	-	-
Charitable income						
Assessments on churches		409,357	-	-	-	409,357
Other income	4	16,230	10,424	-	-	26,654
Investments						
Lettings income		-	150,135	-	-	150,135
Investment income and interest	3	29,301	7,543	1,832	2,239	40,915
Total income and endowments		454,888	168,102	1,832	2,239	627,061
EXPENDITURE						
Charitable expenditure						
Stipends, salaries and associated costs	5	325,593	-	-	-	325,593
Assessments and levies	6	108,816	3,472	-	-	112,288
Property running costs	7	-	116,736	-	-	116,736
Grants and donations	10	11,774	4,454	-	-	16,228
Administration and travel	8	34,824	-	-	-	34,824
Other outgoings	9	17,710	27,815	-	-	45,525
Raising funds						
Investment management costs		775	486	96	1,634	2,991
Total expenditure		499,492	152,963	96	1,634	654,185
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/losses		(44,604)	15,139	1,736	605	(27,124)
Investment realised & unrealised gains/(losses)						
Investment properties	15	-	210,000	-	-	210,000
Other investments	16	-	-	12,440	16,324	28,764
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		(44,604)	225,139	14,176	16,929	211,640
Transfers between funds		16,515	(16,652)	137	-	-
Revaluation of freehold property	14	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
Net movement in funds		(28,089)	213,487	14,313	16,929	216,640
Total funds brought forward		259,540	7,816,993	217,710	232,457	8,526,700
Total funds at 31 August 2024		231,451	8,030,480	232,023	249,386	8,743,340

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
The notes on pages 14 to 24 form part of these Financial Statements.

BASINGSTOKE & READING METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 August 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds General Funds £	Unrestricted funds Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Donations and legacies		-	-	-	-	-
Charitable income						
Assessments on churches		430,629	-	-	-	430,629
Other income	4	85,337	1,176,032	-	-	1,261,369
Investments						
Lettings income		-	135,045	-	-	135,045
Investment income and interest	3	22,862	3,649	1,053	1,292	28,856
Total income and endowments		538,828	1,314,726	1,053	1,292	1,855,899
EXPENDITURE						
Charitable expenditure						
Stipends, salaries and associated costs	5	329,524	-	-	-	329,524
Assessments and levies	6	109,296	3,269	-	-	112,565
Manse running costs	7	-	130,208	-	-	130,208
Grants and donations	10	18,000	12,900	120	-	31,020
Administration and travel	8	32,394	-	-	-	32,394
Other outgoings	9	16,704	27,870	-	-	44,574
Raising funds						
Investment management costs		807	329	93	1,686	2,915
Total expenditure		506,725	174,576	213	1,686	683,200
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/losses		32,103	1,140,150	840	(394)	1,172,699
Investment realised & unrealised gains/(losses)						
Investment properties	15	-	8,500	-	-	8,500
Other	16	-	-	(7,131)	(5,085)	(12,216)
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		32,103	1,148,650	(6,291)	(5,479)	1,168,983
Transfers between funds		(14,500)	14,500	-	-	-
Revaluation of freehold property	14	-	30,000			30,000
Net movement in funds		17,603	1,193,150	(6,291)	(5,479)	1,198,983
Total funds brought forward		241,937	6,623,843	224,001	237,936	7,327,717
Total funds at 31 August 2023		259,540	7,816,993	217,710	232,457	8,526,700

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 14 to 24 form part of these Financial Statements.

BASINGSTOKE & READING METHODIST CIRCUIT

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 August 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Freehold properties; manses	14		2,880,000		2,875,000
Investment properties	15		4,940,000		4,730,000
Investments	16		596,218		566,040
			8,416,218		8,171,040
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	17	33,218		132,703	
Central Finance Board deposits		335,737		296,342	
Cash at bank and in hand		30,941		16,187	
		399,896		445,232	
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	18	72,774		89,572	
Net Current Assets			327,122		355,660
NET ASSETS	19		8,743,340		8,526,700
FUNDS					
Endowment funds	20		249,386		232,457
Restricted funds	21		232,023		217,710
Unrestricted funds	22		8,261,931		8,076,533
			8,743,340		8,526,700

The Financial Statements were approved by the Managing Trustees on 12 March 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:-

Rev Martin Beukes
Chair of Meeting

Peter Boardley
Circuit steward & finance secretary

The notes on pages 14 to 25 form part of these Financial statements

BASINGSTOKE & READING METHODIST CIRCUIT

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Cash used in operating activities	25	(186,811)	(232,251)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		191,050	163,901
Proceeds from sale of property		-	-
Expenditure funded through investment portfolio		51,758	(5,919)
Purchase of investments		(2,648)	(12,514)
Investment sale proceeds		800	13,817
Cash provided by investing activities		240,960	159,285
(Reduction)/increase in cash and cash equivalents in year		54,149	(72,966)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		312,529	385,495
Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of year		**366,678**	**312,529**

1 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) as updated by Bulletin 1, and the Companies Act 2006. These statements are denominated in Sterling, rounded to the nearest £.

The Basingstoke and Reading Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The accounts have been prepared on the basis of historic cost except that investments and properties are shown at their market value.

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available to the Circuit at 31 August 2024 the trustees believe that the accounts should be prepared on a going concern basis.

Fund Accounting

The funds constitute:

Unrestricted funds which include general funds held for any purpose of the Circuit; the Circuit Model Trust Fund which has wide purposes defined in Standing Orders and is categorised as unrestricted; and other designated funds that are held for purposes agreed by the Circuit Meeting.

Restricted funds are funds that can only be used for specific restricted purposes as laid down by the donor.

Endowment funds which represent gifts that are held as capital to generate income that is available for either restricted or unrestricted purposes.

Income and endowments

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Circuit becomes entitled to the resources, the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources, and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Expenditure

Resources expended are accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred or a constructive obligation arises that results in the payment being unavoidable. The Circuit is not VAT registered so expenditure is stated inclusive of VAT where applicable.

Grants

Grants by the Circuit are recognised at the time of agreement to pay (without performance conditions), or when it is accepted there is an obligation to pay (if subject to performance conditions). Where grants are payable over more than one year, the accrual is discounted to net present value if the difference is material.

Connexional donations - acting as agent

The Circuit acts as agent in collecting from churches and then paying over their contributions to various Methodist Connexional funds and other external organisations. These transactions are therefore not reflected in the SOFA but are disclosed in Notes to the Accounts as required by the SORP (FRS102), module 19.12.

Ownership of Methodist property

Under the Methodist Church Act 1976 the ownership of Methodist property in England, Wales and Scotland was on 16 April 1977 automatically transferred to the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP). Property includes stocks, shares, unit trust investments and all other securities as well as land, buildings and chattels. TMCP holds such property as custodian trustees. The management of this property is vested in the relevant managing trustees who must act in accordance with the Model Trusts and the Standing Orders made under them. The property for which the Circuit are managing trustees is included in the Circuit's accounts.

1 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Tangible fixed assets
Assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost more than £2,500. Freehold property is stated at market value, which is reviewed annually. Office equipment and other plant is stated at cost. Depreciation is calculated on the straight line basis at 20% on office equipment and other plant but is not provided on freehold property since this is revalued annually.

Investment properties
Properties that are no longer required as manses are held as investment properties. They are stated at market value, which is reviewed annually.

Financial instruments
The Circuit only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Investments
Investments are included at market value at the Balance Sheet date. Investment income is included in the accounts when receivable and any gains or losses on revaluation at the year end are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The investments are in monetary assets. Except for the Briggs Trust funds which are managed by Lloyds Bank, the Circuit's investment assets are held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees. The valuations, at market value, are those as provided by Lloyds Bank and TMCP as at 31 August 2024.

Staff costs

The ministers are paid stipends at rates set by the Methodist Conference. The lay employees are paid salaries at rates set by the Circuit.

The Circuit makes payments to the Methodist Ministers Pension Fund and into a pension scheme for its lay employees. The charge represents the amount payable in respect of the year.

Ministers' manse costs
The Circuit is required to provide accommodation for each minister and their families, and ministers are expected to occupy them. The Circuit bears the cost of repairs and maintenance, premises insurance, council tax and water charges. These are not regarded as benefits in kind by HM Revenue & Customs.

2 CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and current factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The Circuit trustees make estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition,seldom equal the related actual results. The only estimates and assumptions that have significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

Land and buildings
The carrying values of land and buildings within tangible fixed assets and investment properties have been reviewed by the trustees based on a professional valuation for accounts purposes at the balance sheet date.

3 INTEREST & INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bank interest	17,784	-	-	-	17,784	11,964
Investment income	11,517	7,543	1,832	2,239	23,131	16,892
	29,301	7,543	1,832	2,239	40,915	28,856

4 OTHER INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Funding for staff member on sick leave	10,164	-	-	-	10,164	21,469
Ransom strip sale proceeds	-	-	-	-	-	5,500
Contributions towards 3Generate costs	-	5,403	-	-	5,403	-
Staffing and shared manse costs	6,066	2,021	-	-	8,087	4,032
Grant repaid by Tadley Common Church	-	3,000	-	-	3,000	1,500
Closed churches transferred to Circuit	-	-	-	-	-	1,165,000
Funds transferred from Trinity Basingstoke	-	-	-	-	-	63,868
	16,230	10,424	-	-	26,654	1,261,369

5 STAFF COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Stipends and salaries	252,048	-	-	-	252,048	247,165
National Insurance	21,224	-	-	-	21,224	20,029
Pension contributions	50,600	-	-	-	50,600	47,373
Apprenticeship levy	1,314	-	-	-	1,314	1,140
Relocation expenses	405	-	-	-	405	13,817
	325,591	-	-	-	325,591	329,524

The ministers are stationed in the Circuit by the Methodist Conference and are paid stipends at rates agreed by the Conference. The lay employees are employees of the Circuit and are paid salaries at rates set by the Circuit. The pay costs of both the ministers and lay employees are reflected in the accounts. The remuneration of those members of staff in senior management positions (ie on the Circuit Leadership Team) were £206,644 (2023: £198,936); and the full cost including employer pension and National Insurance contributions was £273,142 (2023: £261,289).

Salaries and pension contributions are in line with guidance provided by the Methodist Church.

The number of staff during the year was	14	12

No members of staff received emoluments amounting to over £60,000 in the year.
During the year, no trustee received any remuneration for the role of trustee.

6 ASSESSMENTS AND LEVIES

	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
District assessment	16,651	-	-	-	16,651	18,178
Methodist Church Fund	88,073	-	-	-	88,073	86,390
Contributions to District Advance Fund	-	3,472	-	-	3,472	3,269
United Reformed Church assessments	4,092	-	-	-	4,092	4,416
Church of England assessments	-	-	-	-	-	312
	108,816	3,472	-	-	112,288	112,565

7 MANSE AND OTHER PROPERTY RUNNING COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Insurance and utilities	-	48,024	-	-	48,024	27,458
Rent payable	-	5,850	-	-	5,850	19,200
Repairs and maintenance	-	62,862	-	-	62,862	83,550
	-	116,736	-	-	116,736	130,208

8 ADMINISTRATION AND TRAVEL

	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Telephone costs	7,865	-	-	-	7,865	7,451
Administrative expenses	8,957	-	-	-	8,957	8,802
Publications	2,740	-	-	-	2,740	1,974
Circuit office rent	3,600	-	-	-	3,600	3,600
Travel expenses	11,662	-	-	-	11,662	10,567
	34,824	-	-	-	34,824	32,394

9 OTHER OUTGOINGS

	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Audit fees	9,276	-	-	-	9,276	8,760
Professional fees						
Property management	-	23,463	-	-	23,463	26,197
Other expenditure	8,434	4,352	-	-	12,786	9,617
	17,710	27,815	-	-	45,525	44,574

10 GRANTS AND DONATIONS

The following grants were agreed and/or paid during the year and charged to the funds concerned (see Notes 19 - 22). Associated support costs are insignificant and have not been disclosed separately

	Paid	Accrued or (released)	Total 2024	Total 2023
General funds (unrestricted)	£	£	£	£
Reading University Chaplaincy	-	-	-	500
Churches Together in Berkshire	-	(500)	(500)	-
Citizens UK	3,000	-	3,000	-
Funds from Trinity Basingstoke transferred to St Andrews	12,544	-	12,544	-
Burghfield Common Church project lapsed	-	(1,500)	(1,500)	-
Tilehurst Methodist Church for lay employee	15,730	(17,500)	(1,770)	17,500
	31,274	(19,500)	11,774	18,000
Designated funds (unrestricted)				
Model Trust Fund				
Wesley Methodist Church for refurbishment of part of 84 Queens Road for other use			-	10,000
Circuit Development Fund				
Small grants paid to churches	4,454	-	4,454	2,900
	4,454	-	4,454	12,900
Benevolence fund (restricted)				
Payments		-	-	120
	35,728	**(19,500)**	**16,228**	**31,020**

11 VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS

The Circuit is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills and time in the furtherance of the work of the Circuit. Principally this contribution is by serving as circuit and manse stewards and serving on groups that plan circuit events and meetings, support the Circuit's safeguarding work and the Circuit's Strategic Executive Group.

No attempt has been made by the Trustees to value the non monetary contributions made by volunteers in monetary terms.

12 PAYMENTS TO TRUSTEES

Several of the Circuit staff are also trustees of the Circuit. The ministers are paid stipends and travel expenses at the rates agreed annually by the Methodist Conference. The lay employees who are Trustees are paid in line with the principles of the Methodist Church's policy for payment of lay employees. The ministers Rev'ds Simpson, Jenkins, Beukes, Jeongsook Kim, Banks, Watson and Deacon Maria Howard received stipends totalling £165,847; and the lay employees Mary Ludlow, Lee Frost, Peter Frank and Marion Young received salary payments of £62,823; the total was thus £228,670 (2023: £233,565).

Some of the members of the Circuit may have receive payments from the Circuit in their capacity as manse or property stewards where they have either carried out maintenance work at manses rather than employing a contractor or incurred expenses connected with their role. Other members of the Circuit meeting may be employed as a contractor in connection with their trade or business. These amounted to £nil during the year (2023: £nil).

Expenses paid to members of the Circuit Meeting were as follows:	2024 £	2023 £
Travel expenses	10,112	8,450
Pulpit supply costs	6,175	4,075
Office equipment and furniture	1,813	1,408
Manse expenses reimbursed	2,139	1,950
Administration and other ministry expenses reimbursed	3,776	2,477
	24,015	18,360
Number of trustees who were paid expenses	19	16

13 PENSIONS

The ministers belong to the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme, which is a defined benefit scheme. The Circuit paid a contribution of 26.9% of stipend to the scheme in recent years. It is not possible to identify the Circuit's share of assets and liabilities. The results of the latest completed valuation as at 31 August 2023, and the previous interim valuation as at 31 August 2021, both assuming that the Scheme continues into the future, were as follows:

	2021 £'m	2023 £'m
Target level of assets	498.5	362.1
Actual value of assets	574.3	395.8
Surplus in assets	75.8	33.7
Funding level	115.19%	109.30%

As the Scheme was in deficit at 31 August 2020, a recovery plan was initiated; and, in view of the recovery in the financial markets, an interim valuation was undertaken as at 31 August 2021 and showed a much improved position. The most recent valuation was undertaken as at 31 August 2023 and shows a funding surplus. Circuits had been paying total contributions at 26.9% of stipend remuneration, but this rate reduced to 20.0% from 1 September 2024.

The Circuit belongs to a multi-employer defined contribution pension scheme operated by The Pensions Trust which is offered to lay employees. The Circuit matches their contributions to the scheme up to 10% of pay.

In line with FRS102 28.38, there is no contractual agreement and therefore the cost recognised is equal to the contributions payable for the period.

14 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Land £	Buildings £	Total £
Valuation			
At 1 September 2023	960,000	1,915,000	2,875,000
Revaluation change	5,000		5,000
At 31 August 2024	965,000	1,915,000	2,880,000
Depreciation			
At 1 September 2023	-	-	-
Provision for the year	-	-	-
At 31 August 2024	-	-	-
Net Book Value			
At 1 September 2023	960,000	1,915,000	2,875,000
At 31 August 2024	965,000	1,915,000	2,880,000

The manses were revalued by the trustees at 31 August 2024, following a professional valuation for accounts purposes as at that date by Haslams, Chartered Surveyors. The historical value of land and buildings if they had not been revalued was £2,209,435 (31 August 2023: £2,209,435).

15 INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

	Land £	Buildings £	Total £
Valuation			
At 1 September 2023	1,575,500	3,154,500	4,730,000
Revaluation change	72,000	138,000	210,000
At 31 August 2024	1,647,500	3,292,500	4,940,000

The manses were revalued by the trustees at 31 August 2023, following a professional valuation for accounts purposes as at that date by Haslams, Chartered Surveyors. The historical value of land and buildings if they had not been revalued was £3,442,569 (31 August 2023: £3,442,569).

16 INVESTMENTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Balance at 1 September 2023	350,727	364,252
Additions	800	12,514
Disposals	(2,648)	(13,822)
Unrealised gains/(losses)	28,764	(12,217)
	377,643	350,727
Cash held	218,575	215,313
Balance at 31 August 2024	596,218	566,040

Analysis of investments

Investments listed on a recognised Stock Exchange or held in common investment funds, unit trusts or other collective investment schemes	377,643	350,727
Other investments	100,204	95,876
Circuit Model Trust cash holdings	118,371	119,437
	596,218	566,040

17 DEBTORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Sundry debtors	3,673	25,103
Funds being transferred from Trinity Church Basingstoke after closure	-	63,868
Stipends paid in advance	24,795	21,048
Prepayments	4,750	22,684
	33,218	132,703

18 CREDITORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Assessments for September paid in advance	35,074	33,732
Other creditors	15,125	11,573
Grants payable to churches	-	19,000
Accruals	22,575	25,267
	72,774	89,572

19 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Fixed Assets	Investment Property	Other Investments	Current Assets (net)	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Funds, year ended 31 August 2024					
Endowment funds			249,386	-	249,386
Restricted funds			228,461	3,562	232,023
Unrestricted funds	2,880,000	4,940,000	118,371	323,561	8,261,932
	2,880,000	4,940,000	596,218	327,123	8,743,341
Funds, year ended 31 August 2023					
Endowment funds	-	-	232,457	-	232,457
Restricted funds	-	-	214,146	3,564	217,710
Unrestricted funds	2,875,000	4,730,000	119,437	352,096	8,076,533
	2,875,000	4,730,000	566,040	355,660	8,526,700

20 ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	Opening balances	Net income/ (expenditure)	Investment gains/(losses)	Transfers	Closing balances
Movements in year ended 31 August 2024	£	£	£	£	£
Arthur Newbery Trust 5446 (Trustees Investment Fund: TIF	361	-	-	-	361
Arthur Newbery Trust 4345 (TIF)	31,595	1,617	-	-	33,212
Arthur Newbery Trust 4763 (Methodist Managed Mixed Funds & TIF)	90,557	-	6,997	-	97,554
Arthur Newbery Trust 5447 (TIF)	337	-	-	-	337
Arthur Newbery Trust 3669 (TIF)	9,844	504	-	-	10,348
AJ Briggs Trust (managed by Lloyds Bank Private Banking)	99,763	(1,516)	9,327	-	107,574
	232,457	605	16,324	-	249,386
Movements in year ended 31 August 2023					
Arthur Newbery Trust 5446 (Trustees Investment Fund: TIF	362	(1)	-	-	361
Arthur Newbery Trust 4345 (TIF)	30,697	898	-	-	31,595
Arthur Newbery Trust 4763 (Methodist Managed Mixed Funds & TIF)	94,569	-	(4,012)	-	90,557
Arthur Newbery Trust 5447 (TIF)	337	-	-	-	337
Arthur Newbery Trust 3669 (TIF)	9,564	280	-	-	9,844
AJ Briggs Trust (managed by Lloyds Bank Private Banking)	102,407	(1,571)	(1,073)	-	99,763
	237,936	(394)	(5,085)	-	232,457

The investment income generated by funds 5446, 4763 and 3669 is used to fund the Circuit's day to day running costs. The investment income generated by funds 4345 and 3669 is held in the fund. The income generated by the AJ Briggs Trust is used to fund ministry in

21 RESTRICTED FUNDS

Movements in year ended 31 August 2024	£	£	£	£	£
Benevolence fund	3,562	-	-	-	3,562
Trinity Church Development Fund	-	6	-	140	146
Edith Bailey Bequest (supporting people)	11,200	573	-	-	11,773
Arthur Newbery Trust (financing capital schemes in the Circuit)	202,948	1,155	12,439	-	216,542
	217,710	1,734	12,439	140	232,023
Movements in year ended 31 August 2023					
Benevolence fund	3,682	(120)	-	-	3,562
Edith Bailey Bequest (supporting people)	10,882	318	-	-	11,200
Arthur Newbery Trust (financing capital schemes in the Circuit)	209,437	642	(7,131)	-	202,948
	224,001	840	(7,131)	0	217,710

The Benevolence Fund is held by the Circuit to support individuals in need. The Edith Bailey Bequest is to be used to support individuals in need. The Arthur Newbery Trust is available to fund capital schemes. The Fund for the Worker with the Deaf reserve contributed towards the cost of this post but has now been closed.

22 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	Opening balances	Net income or expenditure(-)	Investment Gains/Losses	Transfers	Closing balances
	£	£	£	£	£
Movements in year ended 31 August 2024					
General fund (day to day running costs)	259,540	(44,604)		16,515	231,451
Designated Funds:					
Manse Maintenance fund	50,246	11,957	-	(12,000)	50,203
Manses capital (value of manses)	7,605,000	-	215,000	-	7,820,000
Youth work fund	-	1,051	-	-	1,051
Circuit development fund (training, outreach, small projects	32,336	(1,454)	-	-	30,882
Kentwood Fund (grants for buildings projects)	9,973	-	-	-	9,973
Circuit Model Trust funds	119,438	3,585	-	(4,652)	118,371
	8,076,533	(29,465)	215,000	(137)	8,261,931
Movements in year ended 31 August 2023					
General fund (day to day running costs)	241,937	32,103	-	(14,500)	259,540
Designated Funds:					
Manse Maintenance fund	50,767	(15,021)	-	14,500	50,246
Manses capital (value of manses)	6,401,500	1,165,000	38,500	-	7,605,000
Youth work fund	2,500	(2,480)	-	(20)	-
Circuit development fund (training, outreach, small projects	43,716	(11,400)	-	20	32,336
Kentwood Fund (grants for buildings projects)	9,973	-	-	-	9,973
Circuit Model Trust fund	115,387	4,051	-	-	119,438
	6,865,780	1,172,253	38,500	-	8,076,533

23 TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

The transfers between funds represent amounts drawn down by authorisation of the Circuit Meeting

24 AGENCY COLLECTIONS AND PAYMENTS

The Circuit acted as agent in either the collection or facilitation of the monies tabulated below. None of these collections were for related parties as defined in Note 1 and do not appear elsewhere in these accounts.

	Receipts	Payments	Balance 31 August 2024
	£	£	£
Methodist Connexional Funds			
Methodist Church Fund	5,750	1,450	4,300
Funds for: Property	-		-
Mission in Britain	90	90	-
World Missions	243	210	33
Methodist Homes	300	-	300
Preachers and Leaders of Worship	200	-	200
All We Can	50	50	-
Support for Presbyters and Deacons			-
	6,633	1,800	4,833

The balance at 31 August 2024 is included in Other Creditors (see Note 18)

25 RECONCILIATION OF NET (OUTGOING)/ INCOMING RESOURCES TO NET CASH INFLOWS FROM OPERATIONS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net movement in funds	211,640	1,168,983
(Gains)/losses on investments		
Investment properties	(210,000)	(8,500)
Other investments	(28,764)	12,216
Investment income and rent from investments	(191,050)	(163,901)
Closed churches transferred to Circuit at no cost	-	(1,165,000)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	48,161	(99,153)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(16,798)	23,104
Net cash used in operating activities	(186,811)	(232,251)
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents		
CFB deposits	335,737	296,342
Cash at bank and in hand	30,941	16,187
	366,678	312,529

26 POST BALANCE SHEET EVENT

This Circuit merged with the Kennet & Test Valley Circuit (KTV) with effect from 1 September 2024. The merger was effected by transferring all the assets and liabilities from KTV into this Circuit so that KTV charity became simply a shell to be closed down as soon as practicable. The new enlarged Circuit became the Berkshire & Hampshire Borders Circuit with effect from 1 September 2024.

The net assets and funds thus transferred from the former KTV Circuit on 1 September 2024 were as follows:

	£
Fixed assets	1,855,426
Current assets	337,833
Less current liabilities	(6,940)
Net assets	2,186,319
Represented by:	
Unrestricted funds	1,994,634
Restricted funds	1,259
Endowment funds	190,426
	2,186,319

Berkshire and Hampshire Borders Methodist Circuit

England & Wales - Charity number 1134891

Accounts

Registered Charity Number: 1134891

BASINGSTOKE & READING METHODIST CIRCUIT

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 August 2023

BASINGSTOKE & READING METHODIST CIRCUIT

Annual Report and Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 August 2023

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Basingstoke & Reading Methodist Circuit
Southampton District, circuit number 26/4
Annual report for the year ended 31st August 2023

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The Circuit

Basingstoke and Reading Methodist Circuit was formed on 1 September 2014 as a result of the merger of Basingstoke Methodist Circuit and Reading & Silchester Methodist Circuit. The Circuit is a separate legal entity within the Methodist Church and is required under Charity law to prepare separate accounts.

The Circuit is a registered charity (England & Wales) number 1134891.

There are 21 churches within the Circuit, with a total membership of 926. The churches are spread around Reading and Basingstoke and the neighbouring towns and villages of Bradfield, Burghfield Common, Mortimer, Tadley and Silchester. Several have local ecumenical partnerships with Anglican, Baptist and/or United Reformed churches.

Trustees

The Circuit's trustees, who are all members of the Circuit Meeting, are listed on page 2.

Executive and leadership functions

The Circuit Stewards (who are ex officio members of the Circuit Meeting) are responsible for ensuring that the decisions of the Circuit Meeting are executed. The following served as Circuit Stewards during the year:

Peter Boardley (also as Financial Secretary)
June Hardcastle
Margaret Hayes
Marianne Sales
Michael Parker
Terence Rowell

The Circuit Leadership Team gives longer-term vision to the Circuit's affairs and comprises a mix of stipendiary and lay members of the Circuit Meeting. The following, who are also members of the Circuit Meeting, served on CLT this year: Reverends Beukes, Shaw, Browne, Watson, Jenkins and Fisher, and Deacon Maria Howard; all circuit stewards; two representing local preachers and worship leaders (June Hardcastle and Paddy Jose); and Mary Ludlow and Peter Frank, representing lay employees. Marion Young, who is also a member of the Circuit Meeting, is secretary to CLT.

Custodian trustees

The custodian trustees are the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

Contacting the Circuit

The Circuit's principal office is 84 Queen's Road, Reading RG1 4BW, telephone 0118 958 1505. The Circuit's website is www.basingstokereadingmethodists.uk

Bankers

The Circuit's bankers are the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church, 9 Bonhill Street, London EC2A 4PE; and CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ.

Auditors and professional advisers

The Circuit's auditors are James Cowper Kreston Audit, Reading Bridge House, George Street, Reading, RG1 8LS.

The Circuit engages advisers for legal affairs and property services as required.

Basingstoke & Reading Methodist Circuit
Southampton District, circuit number 26/4
Annual report for the year ended 31st August 2023

Managing trustees

The managing trustees, who are all members of the Circuit Meeting are as follows:

Dr Stephen Appiah
Rev John Banks
Mrs Diane Bath
Ms Angela Bell
Rev Martin Beukes
Mr Peter Boardley
Mr Keith Cable
Mrs Brenda Caborn
Rev Jackie Case
Mr Ray Chalk
Mr Peter Chapman
Ms Josephine Childs
Mr Jonathon Clark
Mr Cyril Clark
Mr David Cliffe
Mrs Kim Crawley
Mrs Jacqui Davies
Ms Tracy Davis
Mrs Jennifer Dimmock
Rev Jenny Dowding
Mrs Christine Embleton
Rev Chris Evans
Rev Valerie Fisher
Mr Ken Fordjour
Mr Peter Frank
Mr Donald Fraser
Mr Martin Goodwin
Mr Neil Graham
Ms Pan Guy
Mr Alan Harland
Mrs Charmian Harrison
Mrs Margaret Hayes
Mrs Linda Hoe
Mr Alan Holloway
Mrs Beverley Holloway
Ms Kathleen Houghton
Mr Andrew House
Mr Colin How
Ms Sue Jackson
Rev David Jenkins
Mr Simon Johnson
Mrs Paddy Jose
Miss Helen Khan
Rev Jeongsook Kim
Mr Michael Kimber
Mrs Patricia Kinchington
Mrs Linda Langridge
Mrs Gill Lawson
Mrs Jennifer Leighton
Mrs Rosemary Lister
Ms Tirivashe Manhera
Mr Chris Marsh
Mrs Sandra McKenzie
Mr Alan Meakin
Mrs Grace Mercer
Mr Mike Mercer
Rev Dr Ruth Midcalf
Mr Michael Parker
Mrs Ann Peddle
Mr Ian Pollard
Mrs Barbara Rayner
Mrs Hilary Reed
Mr Martin Riley
Mr Terry Rowell
Miss Marriane Sales
Rev Jonathan Salmon
Ms Claire Simpson
Mrs Margaret Simpson
Mr Vishal Singh
Mr Jonathon Skeet
Mr Steven Skelton
Mr Mike Smith
Rev Dr John Sumitra
Mrs Heather Symonds
Mrs Gina Tagoe
Mrs Ruth Taylor
Mrs Christine Vallis
Mr Keith Waite
Rev Helen Watson
Mr Robert (Robin) Watson
Mrs Sarah Whithorn
Mrs Marion Young
Mr Peter Young

Basingstoke & Reading Methodist Circuit
Southampton District, circuit number 26/4
Annual report for the year ended 31st August 2023

The members of the Circuit Meeting (as managing trustees) have pleasure in presenting their annual report and the audited accounts for the year.

1. Objectives and activities

The Circuit's vision statement is *"Inspired and led by the Holy Spirit, we shall love, resource and encourage one another; share Christ with our neighbour; and grow God's kingdom. In doing that, we shall place people before buildings; mission before maintenance; and God over church."* In February 2020 the Circuit adopted a mission strategy entitled 'Nourished and Fed: Ready to Share'

The Circuit's purpose is to provide resources to support ministry in local churches. The Circuit does this through the provision of ordained ministers and deacons, lay staff and Circuit officers to support service and ministry from the Circuit's 21 churches to their local communities. The Circuit also has responsibility for the upkeep and maintenance of 13 manses and investment properties.

The Circuit produces a quarterly preaching plan to ensure regular acts of worship take place at each of the 18 Methodist Churches and 3 Local Ecumenical Partnerships in its geographical area. These are available to all people without charge. The Circuit is also directly involved with outreach work, with a particular emphasis on children and families, schools, and support for foodbanks.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)', when reviewing the Circuit's aims and objectives. The Circuit is pursuing its objectives through the following strategies by providing:

- Staffing resources and other assistance to churches for ministry to their communities;
- Grants for outreach activities and improvements to churches' premises that will facilitate access to ministry;
- Training through study, mentoring and examination for lay preachers and worship leaders;
- Training and support in safeguarding awareness;
- Opportunities for staff and members of church congregations to meet for fellowship, worship and learning; and
- Care for those who have retired from full-time service in the Methodist Church.

2. Achievements and performance

The Circuit has continued to benefit from strong and effective ministerial and lay leadership. This is now focussed through the CLT, which was formed in September 2015 and comprises representatives from ordained staff, the circuit stewards, and lay members of the circuit meeting as noted on Page 1. CLT's brief is to take a more strategic view in leading the Circuit through a period of change and guiding the allocation of resources in the most effective direction.

The Circuit has also continued to benefit from its large group of established local preachers. Currently three individuals are 'on note' as intending local preachers and currently none are 'on trial' whilst they undertake training. Three individuals have completed training as worship leaders, and one is undertaking the Connexional course. Two of the Circuit's tutors have been training worship leaders in other circuits.

The Circuit Meeting approved grants to Wesley Methodist and Christ Church Woodley in connection with premises works and worship facilities. The Circuit also committed to making grants to Tilehurst Methodist Church towards the cost of its lay employee; and it made a grant of £500 to support the work of the Reading University Chaplaincy Service. Further details are provided in Note 10 to the Accounts.

The Circuit produced devotional resources for Advent 2022 that were distributed to all the Circuit's churches for use by individuals, small groups, or in worship. The Circuit is actively involved through lay staff with outreach projects in Basingstoke, with young people and the Town Centre Chaplaincy.

As the restrictions for the Covid pandemic eased and were then lifted, churches were adapted to be Covid-secure so that they can continue to be used for worship or for activities organised or sponsored by the churches including cafes, Boys' or Girls' Brigades or youth clubs.

Local community organisations notably those promoting fitness and health, music and dance use church premises, and income from external lettings makes a valued contribution towards upkeep of church premises. Churches' finances had been stretched by the loss of lettings income during the enforced pandemic closures and afterwards.

Much use is made of Zoom and similar platforms for broadcasting services across the internet. Many churches arrange and hold their own services, and others use the service organise by the Circuit each week. Churches have invested in technology to film services, and this has opportunities for use for example with concerts held at churches being made available to a wider audience.

The churches continue to develop ways and means for outreach into local neighbourhoods, for example the quiet garden and Retreat Centre at Silchester and community cafés. Several churches have Messy Church; lunch, holiday and after-school clubs; or tailored children, families and youth work. Some churches have acted as a collection point for shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Much work is being done to support foodbanks across the Circuit's communities.

Many outreach projects are carried out in partnership with churches from other denominations, such as the REinspired and 'Open the Book' programmes for delivering religious education in schools, a weekly lunch club in Whitley, and the 'Loneliness Project' in Caversham. Wesley Methodist Church participated in 'Bed for the Night', an ecumenical initiative providing accommodation and food for the homeless in Reading. Trinity Basingstoke's Soup Lunch has developed contacts with foodbank users.

In May the Circuit began conversations with the Kennet and Test Valley (KTV) Circuit about the possibility of the two Circuits amalgamating, which in legal terms would mean KTV Circuit's assets and undertakings being absorbed into the Basingstoke & Reading Circuit. This has led to fruitful exploration of how best to support local churches in achieving our charitable goals while lightening the governance burden on local churches through centralised support.

3. Financial review

The attached Statement of Financial Affairs (SOFA) summarises the Circuit's income and expenditure for the year, supplemented by the Cash Flow statement and the Notes to the Financial Statements. The Balance Sheet shows the Circuit's assets, liabilities, and reserves.

The net income for the year was £1,172,699 before investment gains (2022: net expenditure of £62,336). The increase of £1,235,035 resulted from the following:

	£
Churches' assessments were increased	21,642
Investment income and bank interest was higher	17,707
Rental income from manses was higher with fewer voids and another property being let	30,606
Property and Model Trust Funds transferred from closed churches	1,228,838
Connexional funding was received in respect of a staff member on long-term sick leave	21,469
Manse maintenance and other costs were higher	-61,233
More was paid out to churches in grants	-15,520
Administrative expenses were higher	-7,559
Other variations, net	-915
	1,235,035

After recognising losses on investment properties and other assets of £3,716, net income for the year was £1,168,983 (2022: net income of £230,051 after investment gains of £292,387). Upward revaluation of freehold property increased funds by £30,000 (2022: £270,000).

The Balance Sheet summarises the Circuit's assets, liabilities, and funds. Net assets (and thus aggregate funds) at 31st August 2023 were £8,526,700 (2022: £7,327,717). The increase in net assets of £1,198,983 results from changes to assets and liabilities as follows:

	£
Investment valuation losses	-3,716
Investment sales less purchases	-1,303
Revaluation of operational properties	30,000
Property and transferred from closed churches	1,165,000
Net income passing through Model Trust Fund	5,919
Income in net current assets, including Funds to be transferred from closed churches	3,083
Increase in net assets	1,198,983

The Circuit's net assets are held in either endowment, restricted or unrestricted funds. A full analysis of the individual funds, and the objectives for which income and/or capital may be applied, is provided in Notes 20 to 22 in these financial statements. These funds may be summarised as follows:

	£	£
Endowment funds		
The income from these funds is applied to ministry within the Circuit, The capital is not available for use*		232,457
Restricted funds		
Available for financing capital schemes - Arthur Newbery Trust*	202,948	
Available for funding revenue expenditure as specified by donors	14,762	
		217,710
Unrestricted funds		
Manse capital fund (equivalent to the value of manse and investment properties)		7,605,000
Circuit Model Trust Fund, for financing churches' property and mission schemes through grants*		119,438
Funds available for financing Circuit occasional expenditure:		
Circuit development fund, for training and mission projects	32,336	
Youth work fund	-	
Kentwood fund, for supporting churches small building schemes	9,973	
		42,309
Funds for financing Circuit annual operating expenditure		
General funds, for all purposes	259,540	
Manse maintenance fund, for repairs, maintenance and refurbishment	50,246	
		309,786
Total funds		8,526,700

4. Reserves policies

The Circuit is required to have policies regarding the level of reserves to be held in respect of funds for financing Circuit annual operating expenditure. Policies are not required in respect of other funds since these are not held primarily for revenue purposes and there are restrictions on how the funds may be used. The funds marked (*) are managed by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

The Circuit's annual operating expenditure includes the cost of ministerial and lay staff, provision of manses, travel and administrative expenses, and contributions to the Methodist Southampton District and Methodist Church central funds. This expenditure is funded by assessments on the Circuit's churches, investment income, rents on surplus manses, and contributions from the Model Trust Fund.

Assessments on churches are calculated as part of the Circuit's annual budget process. Increases in assessments on churches are limited to 10%, and not more than 95% of a church's income (70% if the church has no lettings income from its buildings).

The Circuit's budget reflects the impact of anticipated changes in staffing levels, the maintenance needs of its residential property portfolio, and any amounts to be drawn from reserves to support the planned expenditure. The Circuit Meeting approves the budget and assessments, and the amounts to be carried forward in reserves.

Proposed drawings from the restricted funds of the Circuit to assist churches with building improvements and fund improvements to the manses are considered and approved on a case-by-case basis by the Circuit Meeting.

In setting its reserves policy the Circuit Meeting also considers the financial health of the churches in the Circuit which has impacted on their ability to fund the annual Circuit assessment. The Circuit's reserves policies are to maintain at least:

- A general fund balance of £150,000, sufficient to cover three months' running costs; and
- A manse maintenance fund balance of at least £50,000, sufficient also for three months' running costs of approximately £20,000 plus £30,000 for unexpected repairs to manses.

The balances on these reserves at 31 August 2023 were £259,540 and £50,246 respectively. The excess on General Fund over the policy of £150,000 will be used over the next three years in funding expected budget deficits,

The Circuit's budget for the year commencing 1 September 2023 shows net expenditure of £77,566 on General Fund and a surplus of £18,948 on Manse Maintenance Fund. The General Fund deficit will be partly relieved by a transfer from Manse maintenance Fund of £19,000, being the anticipated excess over the policy of £50,000. The trustees consider the Circuit to be a going concern.

5. Investment policies

In accordance with the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church, the Circuit's investments are managed on its behalf by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP), Central Buildings, Oldham Street Manchester M1 1JQ. TMCP acts as custodian trustee for all properties held by Circuits, for all large bequests (ie over £20,000) and for the proceeds of sale of any property where the Circuit was managing trustee. These sums are unitised investments or held on deposit.

Short term deposits are lodged with the Central Finance Board (CFB) of the Methodist Church.

The Circuit's investment policies are aligned with those of TMCP and the CFB because these organisations take into consideration the social, environmental and ethical issues, both negatively and positively, that make investments suitable for the Methodist Church.

6. Pay and remuneration policies

Ministers are stationed in the Circuit by the Methodist Conference. Ministers' remuneration is set nationally by the Methodist Church. Ministers are members of the Methodist Ministers Pension Scheme. Contribution rates are set nationally by the Methodist Church.

Lay employees are directly employed by the Circuit. Lay employee remuneration is based on the Methodist Church's guidance for the setting of pay rates for lay employees. Lay employee pay rates are in excess of the National Living Wage. The Circuit offers a pension scheme to its lay employees. The Circuit matches lay employee contributions up to 10% of salary. The minimum employer contribution rate is 6%. No member of staff is paid in excess of £60,000 per annum.

Information on the payment of expenses to trustees and remuneration of key management personnel is disclosed in the notes to the Circuit's accounts.

7. Structure and governance

The Circuit was established in accordance with the constitution of the Methodist Church. Its organisation is structured around its bi-annual circuit meeting. The Circuit also holds bi-annual gatherings to which members of all churches are invited for worship, discussion, prayer and activities.

The members of the Circuit Meeting are the trustees of the Circuit. The Circuit Meeting comprises the Circuit staff and officers, and representatives from each church in the Circuit and the local preachers' meeting. Each church council and the local preachers meeting elect representatives to the Circuit Meeting annually. The Circuit officers are appointed annually by Circuit Meeting.

When appointed, trustees are asked to complete a related party questionnaire and, at the start of each Circuit Meeting, to declare any new conflicts of interest. No declarations were made this year.

The Circuit Meeting is supported by separate monthly meetings of ordained staff and circuit stewards to conduct day-to-day business and consider matters to be brought to the attention of the Circuit Meeting. The Circuit Leadership Team's responsibilities include circuit strategy and vision, resource planning and oversight of probationers and candidates. A number of focussed 'Getting It Done' and 'Special Interest' Groups focus on prayer, preparation of worship materials, arranging Circuit gatherings and managing our property portfolio.

8. Administrative details

These details are provided on page 1 to these financial statements.

9. Principal risks and uncertainties

The major risks to which the Circuit is exposed have been identified by the Circuit Meeting and are listed below. A major risk is defined as one that, if realised could fundamentally affect the way in which the Circuit operates or achieves its outcomes in the next one to three years.

	Risk	Evaluation	Commentary
A	Churches cannot afford to pay their assessments. This would affect the ability of the Circuit to fund staffing	Moderate	The Circuit takes into account church income when setting assessments on churches.
B	The Circuit cannot maintain residential properties to appropriate standards	Low	Surveyors carry out inspections every five years to assist planning repairs and maintenance. There is sufficient in the Model Trust Fund for works needed in the medium term
C	The Circuit is unable to fill stations with presbyters, deacons or lay staff where appropriate.	Moderate	There is a Connexional shortage of presbyters, and sometimes vacancies cannot be filled immediately
D	The Circuit is unable to attract circuit stewards and other office holders with appropriate skills and expertise	Moderate	The Circuit is heavily dependent on such individuals and the time that they commit to the Circuit's life and work. At present most posts are filled.
E	Churches are unable to attract office holders with sufficient time, skills and expertise to enable them to continue operating	Moderate	If churches cease to operate, the Circuit may need to become managing trustee for the site.

10. Further information

If further information is required on the Circuit's life and witness, please first contact Mrs Marion Young, at the Circuit office (see page 1).

11. Statement of trustees' responsibilities

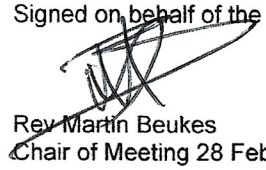
Charity law requires the Circuit Meeting to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of the Circuit as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing those financial statements, the Circuit Meeting are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue on that basis.

Basingstoke & Reading Methodist Circuit
Southampton District, circuit number 26/4
Annual report for the year ended 31st August 2023

The Circuit Meeting are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Circuit Meeting



Rev Martin Beukes
Chair of Meeting 28 February 2024

Basingstoke & Reading Methodist Circuit
Southampton District, circuit number 26/4
Annual report for the year ended 31st August 2023

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of Basingstoke & Reading Methodist Circuit

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Basingstoke & Reading Methodist Circuit (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

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

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

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

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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

- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance and the entity's solicitors (or in-house legal team) around actual and potential legislation and claims;
- Enquiry of entity staff in tax and compliance functions to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Reviewing internal audit reports;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to support documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias,

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Councils website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

Use of our report
This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 8 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Darren O'Connor BSc (Hons) FCCA FCA, *Senior Statutory Auditor*
For and on behalf of James Cowper Kreston Audit, Statutory Auditor

James Cowper Kreston Audit is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

Reading Bridge House
George Street
Reading
Berkshire
RG1 8LS

BASINGSTOKE & READING METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ended 31 August 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds General Funds	Unrestricted funds Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Donations and legacies		-	-	-	-	-
Charitable income						
Assessments on churches		430,629	-	-	-	430,629
Other income	4	85,337	1,176,032	-	-	1,261,369
Investments						
Lettings income		-	135,045	-	-	135,045
Investment income and interest	3	22,862	3,649	1,053	1,292	28,856
Total income and endowments		538,828	1,314,726	1,053	1,292	1,855,899
EXPENDITURE						
Charitable expenditure						
Stipends, salaries and associated costs	5	329,524	-	-	-	329,524
Assessments and levies	6	109,296	3,269	-	-	112,565
Manse running costs	7	-	130,208	-	-	130,208
Grants and donations	10	18,000	12,900	120	-	31,020
Administration and travel	8	32,394	-	-	-	32,394
Other outgoings	9	16,704	27,870	-	-	44,574
Raising funds						
Investment management costs		807	329	93	1,686	2,915
Total expenditure		506,725	174,576	213	1,686	683,200
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/losses		32,103	1,140,150	840	(394)	1,172,699
Investment realised & unrealised gains/(losses)						
Investment properties	15	-	8,500	-	-	8,500
Other	16	-	-	(7,131)	(5,085)	(12,216)
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		32,103	1,148,650	(6,291)	(5,479)	1,168,983
Transfers between funds		(14,500)	14,500	-	-	-
Revaluation of freehold property	14	-	30,000			30,000
Net movement in funds		17,603	1,193,150	(6,291)	(5,479)	1,198,983
Total funds brought forward		241,937	6,623,843	224,001	237,936	7,327,717
Total funds at 31 August 2023		259,540	7,816,993	217,710	232,457	8,526,700

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 14 to 24 form part of these Financial Statements.

BASINGSTOKE & READING METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ended 31 August 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022
		General Funds	Designated Funds			
		£	£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Donations and legacies		-	607	-	-	607
Charitable income						
Assessments on churches		408,987	-	-	-	408,987
Other income	4	-	7,607	-	-	7,607
Investments						
Lettings income		-	104,439	-	-	104,439
Investment income and interest	3	10,199	607	154	189	11,149
Total income and endowments		419,186	113,260	154	189	532,789
EXPENDITURE						
Charitable expenditure						
Stipends, salaries and associated costs	5	329,093	-	-	-	329,093
Assessments and levies	6	110,284	5,822	-	-	116,106
Manse running costs	7	-	68,975	-	-	68,975
Grants and donations	10	(16,100)	31,600	-	-	15,500
Administration and travel	8	24,835	-	-	-	24,835
Other outgoings	9	15,761	21,736	-	-	37,497
Raising funds						
Investment management costs		858	474	93	1,694	3,119
Total expenditure		464,731	128,607	93	1,694	595,125
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/losses		(45,545)	(15,347)	61	(1,505)	(62,336)
Investment realised & unrealised gains/(losses)						
Investment properties		-	318,750	-	-	318,750
Other investments	16	-	-	(11,256)	(15,107)	(26,363)
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		(45,545)	303,403	(11,195)	(16,612)	230,051
Transfers between funds		43,271	(43,271)	-	-	-
Revaluation of freehold property		-	270,000	-	-	270,000
Net movement in funds		(2,274)	530,132	(11,195)	(16,612)	500,051
Total funds brought forward		244,211	6,093,711	235,196	254,548	6,827,666
Total funds at 31 August 2022		241,937	6,623,843	224,001	237,936	7,327,717

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
The notes on pages 14 to 24 form part of these Financial Statements.

BASINGSTOKE & READING METHODIST CIRCUIT

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 August 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Freehold properties; manses	14		2,875,000		2,430,000
Investment properties	15		4,730,000		3,971,500
Investments	16		566,040		573,640
			8,171,040		6,975,140
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	17	132,703		33,550	
Central Finance Board deposits		296,342		368,510	
Cash at bank and in hand		16,187		16,985	
		445,232		419,045	
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	18	89,572		66,468	
Net Current Assets			355,660		352,577
NET ASSETS	19		8,526,700		7,327,717
FUNDS					
Endowment funds	20		232,457		237,936
Restricted funds	21		217,710		224,001
Unrestricted funds	22		8,076,533		6,865,780
			8,526,700		7,327,717

The Financial Statements were approved by the Managing Trustees on 28 February 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:-

Rev Martin Beukes
Chair of Meeting

Peter Boardley
Circuit steward & finance secretary

The notes on pages 14 to 24 form part of these Financial statements

BASINGSTOKE & READING METHODIST CIRCUIT

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Cash used in operating activities	25	(232,251)	(191,155)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		163,901	115,588
Proceeds from sale of property		-	-
Expenditure funded through investment portfolio		(5,919)	52,633
Purchase of investments		(12,514)	(5,435)
Investment sale proceeds		13,817	5,308
Cash provided by investing activities		159,285	168,094
(Reduction)/increase in cash and cash equivalents in year		(72,966)	(23,061)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		385,495	408,556
Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of year		**312,529**	**385,495**

1 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) as updated by Bulletin 1, and the Companies Act 2006. These statements are denominated in Sterling, rounded to the nearest £.

The Basingstoke and Reading Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The accounts have been prepared on the basis of historic cost except that investments and properties are shown at their market value.

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available to the Circuit at 31 August 2023 the trustees believe that the accounts should be prepared on a going concern basis.

Fund Accounting
The funds constitute:
Unrestricted funds which include general funds held for any purpose of the Circuit; the Circuit Model Trust Fund which has wide purposes defined in Standing Orders and is categorised as unrestricted; and other designated funds that are held for purposes agreed by the Circuit Meeting.

Restricted funds are funds that can only be used for specific restricted purposes as laid down by the donor.

Endowment funds which represent gifts that are held as capital to generate income that is available for either restricted or unrestricted purposes.

Income and endowments
All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Circuit becomes entitled to the resources, the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources, and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Expenditure
Resources expended are accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred or a constructive obligation arises that results in the payment being unavoidable. The Circuit is not VAT registered so expenditure is stated inclusive of VAT where applicable.

Grants
Grants by the Circuit are recognised at the time of agreement to pay (without performance conditions), or when it is accepted there is an obligation to pay (if subject to performance conditions). Where grants are payable over more than one year, the accrual is discounted to net present value if the difference is material.

Connexional donations - acting as agent
The Circuit acts as agent in collecting from churches and then paying over their contributions to various Methodist Connexional funds and other external organisations. These transactions are therefore not reflected in the SOFA but are disclosed in Notes to the Accounts as required by the SORP (FRS102), module 19.12.

Ownership of Methodist property
Under the Methodist Church Act 1976 the ownership of Methodist property in England, Wales and Scotland was on 16 April 1977 automatically transferred to the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP). Property includes stocks, shares, unit trust investments and all other securities as well as land, buildings and chattels. TMCP holds such property as custodian trustees. The management of this property is vested in the relevant managing trustees who must act in accordance with the Model Trusts and the Standing Orders made under them. The property for which the Circuit are managing trustees is included in the Circuit's accounts.

1 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Tangible fixed assets
Assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost more than £2,500. Freehold property is stated at market value, which is reviewed annually. Office equipment and other plant is stated at cost. Depreciation is calculated on the straight line basis at 20% on office equipment and other plant but is not provided on freehold property since this is revalued annually.

Investment properties
Properties that are no longer required as manses are held as investment properties. They are stated at market value, which is reviewed annually.

Financial instruments
The Circuit only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Investments
Investments are included at market value at the Balance Sheet date. Investment income is included in the accounts when receivable and any gains or losses on revaluation at the year end are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The investments are in monetary assets. Except for the Briggs Trust funds which are managed by Lloyds Bank, the Circuit's investment assets are held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees. The valuations, at market value, are those as provided by Lloyds Bank and TMCP as at 31 August 2023.

Staff costs

The ministers are paid stipends at rates set by the Methodist Conference. The lay employees are paid salaries at rates set by the Circuit.

The Circuit makes payments to the Methodist Ministers Pension Fund and into a pension scheme for its lay employees. The charge represents the amount payable in respect of the year.

Ministers' manse costs
The Circuit is required to provide accommodation for each minister and their families, and ministers are expected to occupy them. The Circuit bears the cost of repairs and maintenance, premises insurance, council tax and water charges. These are not regarded as benefits in kind by HM Revenue & Customs.

2 CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and current factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The Circuit trustees make estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition,seldom equal the related actual results. The only estimates and assumptions that have significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

Land and buildings
The carrying values of land and buildings within tangible fixed assets and investment properties have been reviewed by the trustees based on a professional valuation for accounts purposes at the balance sheet date.

3 INTEREST & INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bank interest	11,964	-	-	-	11,964	1,502
Investment income	10,898	3,649	1,053	1,292	16,892	9,647
	22,862	3,649	1,053	1,292	28,856	11,149

4 OTHER INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Funding for staff member on sick leave	21,469	-	-	-	21,469	-
Ransom strip sale proceeds	-	5,500	-	-	5,500	-
Grant of easement at Trinity Basingstoke	-	-			-	5,000
Staffing and shared manse costs	-	4,032	-	-	4,032	2,607
Grant repaid by Tadley Common Church	-	1,500			1,500	-
Closed churches transferred to Circuit	-	1,165,000	-	-	1,165,000	-
Funds transferred from Trinity Basingstoke	63,868	-	-	-	63,868	-
	85,337	1,176,032	-	-	1,261,369	7,607

5 STAFF COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Stipends and salaries	247,165	-	-	-	247,165	247,117
National Insurance	20,029	-	-	-	20,029	19,236
Pension contributions	47,373	-	-	-	47,373	60,174
Apprenticeship levy	1,140	-	-	-	1,140	1,306
Relocation expenses	13,817	-	-	-	13,817	-
Redundancy pay	-	-	-	-	-	1,260
	329,524	-	-	-	329,524	329,093

The ministers are stationed in the Circuit by the Methodist Conference and are paid stipends at rates agreed by the Conference. The lay employees are employees of the Circuit and are paid salaries at rates set by the Circuit. The pay costs of both the ministers and lay employees are reflected in the accounts. The remuneration of those members of staff in senior management positions (ie on the Circuit Leadership Team) were £198,936 (2022: £159,502); and the full cost including employer pension and National Insurance contributions was £261,289 (2022: £213,408).

Salaries and pension contributions are in line with guidance provided by the Methodist Church.

The number of staff during the year was	12	14

No members of staff received emoluments amounting to over £60,000 in the year.
During the year, no trustee received any remuneration for the role of trustee.

6 ASSESSMENTS AND LEVIES

	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
District assessment	18,178	-	-	-	18,178	17,295
Methodist Church Fund	86,390	-	-	-	86,390	88,281
Contributions to District Advance Fund	-	3,269	-	-	3,269	5,822
Cionnexional Property Fund levy on proceed	-	-			-	-
United Reformed Church assessments	4,416	-	-	-	4,416	4,388
Church of England assessments	312	-	-	-	312	320
	109,296	3,269	-	-	112,565	116,106

7 MANSE RUNNING COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Insurance and utilities	-	27,458	-	-	27,458	26,825
Rent payable	-	19,200	-	-	19,200	19,200
Repairs and maintenance	-	83,550	-	-	83,550	22,950
	-	130,208	-	-	130,208	68,975

8 ADMINISTRATION AND TRAVEL

	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Telephone costs	7,451	-	-	-	7,451	5,652
Administrative expenses	8,802	-	-	-	8,802	3,827
Publications	1,974	-	-	-	1,974	1,422
Circuit office rent	3,600	-	-	-	3,600	3,650
Travel expenses	10,567	-	-	-	10,567	10,284
	32,394	-	-	-	32,394	24,835

9 OTHER OUTGOINGS

	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Audit fees	8,760	-	-	-	8,760	8,100
Professional fees						
Property management	807	25,390	-	-	26,197	22,312
Sale of ransom strip	-	-			-	-
Other expenditure	7,137	2,480	-	-	9,617	7,085
	16,704	27,870	-	-	44,574	37,497

10 GRANTS AND DONATIONS

The following grants were agreed and/or paid during the year and charged to the funds concerned (see Notes 19 - 22). Associated support costs are insignificant and have not been disclosed separately

	Paid	Accrued or (released)	Total 2023	Total 2022
General funds (unrestricted)	£	£	£	£
Reading University Chaplaincy	500		500	500
Tilehurst Methodist Church for lay employee		17,500	17,500	
	500	17,500	18,000	500
Designated funds (unrestricted)				
Model Trust Fund				
Wesley Methodist Church for refurbishment of part of 84 Queens Road for other use	10,000	-	10,000	16,600
Tadley Common Methodist towards car park renewal	-	-	-	4,500
Kentwood Fund			-	
Small grants paid to churches	-	-	-	3,000
Circuit Devepment Fund				
Small grants paid to churches	2,900		2,900	
	12,900	-	12,900	24,100
Benevolence fund (restricted)				
Payments	120	-	120	100
	13,520	**17,500**	**31,020**	**24,700**

11 VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS

The Circuit is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills and time in the furtherance of the work of the Circuit. Principally this contribution is by serving as circuit and manse stewards and serving on groups that plan circuit events and meetings, support the Circuit's safeguarding work and the Circuit's Strategic Executive Group.

No attempt has been made by the Trustees to value the non monetary contributions made by volunteers in monetary terms.

12 PAYMENTS TO TRUSTEES

Several of the Circuit staff are also trustees of the Circuit. The ministers are paid stipends and travel expenses at the rates agreed annually by the Methodist Conference. The lay employees who are Trustees are paid in line with the principles of the Methodist Church's policy for payment of lay employees. The ministers Rev'ds Shaw, Browne, Jenkins, Beukes, Fisher and Watson and Deacon Maria Howard received stipends totalling £163,524; and the lay employees Mary Ludlow, Lee Frost, Peter Frank and Marion Young received salary payments of £70,041; the total was thus £233,565 (2022: £220,807).

Some of the members of the Circuit may have receive payments from the Circuit in their capacity as manse or property stewards where they have either carried out maintenance work at manses rather than employing a contractor or incurred expenses connected with their role. Other members of the Circuit meeting may be employed as a contractor in connection with their trade or business. These amounted to £nil during the year (2022: £nil).

Expenses paid to members of the Circuit Meeting were as follows:	2023 £	2022 £
Travel expenses	8,450	7,374
Pulpit supply costs	4,075	3,400
Office equipment and furniture	1,408	-
Manse expenses reimbursed	1,950	2,203
Administration and other ministry expenses reimbursed	2,477	1,284
	18,360	14,261
Number of trustees who were paid expenses	16	21

13 PENSIONS

The ministers belong to the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme, which is a defined benefit scheme. The Circuit pays a contribution of 26.9% of stipend to the scheme. It is not possible to identify the Circuit's share of assets and liabilities. The results of the latest completed valuation as at 31 August 2020, and a subsequent interim valuation as at 31 August 2021, both assuming that the Scheme continues into the future, were as follows:

	2020 £'m	2021 £'m
Target level of assets	501.7	498.5
Actual value of assets	487.5	574.3
Surplus/shortfall(-) in assets	-14.2	75.8
Funding level	97.16%	115.19%

As the Scheme was in deficit at 31 August 2020, a recovery plan was initiated; and, in view of the recovery in the financial markets, an interim valuation was undertaken as at 31 August 2021 and showed a much improved position. The most recent valuation was undertaken as at 31 August 2023, and the provisional results (based on an unaudited asset value) show a funding surplus. The Scheme's Actuary expects the final result also to show a surplus. Circuits had been paying total contributions at 26.9% of stipend remuneration since September 2013, and this contribution rate continues beyond 31 August 2023.

The Circuit belongs to a multi-employer defined contribution pension scheme operated by The Pensions Trust which is offered to lay employees. The Circuit matches their contributions to the scheme up to 10% of pay.

In line with FRS102 28.38, there is no contractual agreement and therefore the cost recognised is equal to the contributions payable for the period.

14 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Land £	Buildings £	Total £
Valuation			
At 1 September 2022	805,000	1,625,000	2,430,000
Revaluation change	15,000	15,000	30,000
Transferred (net) from investment properties	140,000	275,000	415,000
At 31 August 2023	960,000	1,915,000	2,875,000
Depreciation			
At 1 September 2022	-	-	-
Provision for the year	-	-	-
At 31 August 2023	-	-	-
Net Book Value			
At 1 September 2022	805,000	1,625,000	2,430,000
At 31 August 2023	960,000	1,915,000	2,875,000

The manses were revalued by the trustees at 31 August 2023, following a professional valuation for accounts purposes as at that date by Haslams, Chartered Surveyors. The historical value of land and buildings if they had not been revalued was £2,209,435 (31 August 2022: £1,870,655).

15 INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

	Land £	Buildings £	Total £
Valuation			
At 1 September 2022	1,326,300	2,645,200	3,971,500
Closed churches transferred to the Circuit	388,000	777,000	1,165,000
Revaluation change	1,200	7,300	8,500
Transferred (net) to fixed assets	(140,000)	(275,000)	(415,000)
At 31 August 2023	1,575,500	3,154,500	4,730,000

The manses were revalued by the trustees at 31 August 2023, following a professional valuation for accounts purposes as at that date by Haslams, Chartered Surveyors. The historical value of land and buildings if they had not been revalued was £3,442,569 (31 August 2022: £2,616,349).

16 INVESTMENTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Balance at 1 September 2022	364,252	390,488
Additions	12,514	5,435
Disposals	(13,822)	(5,308)
Unrealised gains/(losses)	(12,217)	(26,363)
	350,727	364,252
Cash held	215,313	209,388
Balance at 31 August 2023	566,040	573,640

Analysis of investments

Investments listed on a recognised Stock Exchange or held in common investment funds, unit trusts or other collective investment schemes	350,727	364,252
Other investments	95,876	94,002
Circuit Model Trust cash holdings	119,437	115,386
	566,040	573,640

17 DEBTORS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Sundry debtors	25,103	5,606
Funds being transferred from Trinity Church Basingstoke after closure	63,868	-
Stipends paid in advance	21,048	17,490
Prepayments	22,684	10,454
	132,703	33,550

18 CREDITORS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Assessments for September paid in advance	33,732	34,488
Other creditors	11,573	3,861
Grants payable to churches	19,000	1,500
Accruals	25,267	26,619
	89,572	66,468

19 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Fixed Assets	Investment Property	Other Investments	Current Assets (net)	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Funds, year ended 31 August 2023					
Endowment funds	-	-	232,457	-	232,457
Restricted funds	-	-	214,146	3,564	217,710
Unrestricted funds	2,875,000	4,730,000	119,437	352,096	8,076,533
	2,875,000	4,730,000	566,040	355,660	8,526,700
Funds, year ended 31 August 2022					
Endowment funds	-	-	237,936	-	237,936
Restricted funds	-	-	220,318	3,683	224,001
Unrestricted funds	2,430,000	3,971,500	115,386	348,894	6,865,780
	2,430,000	3,971,500	573,640	352,577	7,327,717

20 ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	Opening balances	Net income/ (expenditure)	Investment gains/(losses)	Transfers	Closing balances
Movements in year ended 31 August 2023	£	£	£	£	£
Arthur Newbery Trust 5446 (Trustees Investment Fund: TIF	362	(1)	-	-	361
Arthur Newbery Trust 4345 (TIF)	30,697	898	-	-	31,595
Arthur Newbery Trust 4763 (Methodist Managed Mixed Funds & TIF)	94,569	-	(4,012)	-	90,557
Arthur Newbery Trust 5447 (TIF)	337	-	-	-	337
Arthur Newbery Trust 3669 (TIF)	9,564	280	-	-	9,844
AJ Briggs Trust (managed by Lloyds Bank Private Banking)	102,407	(1,571)	(1,073)	-	99,763
	237,936	(394)	(5,085)	-	232,457
Movements in year ended 31 August 2022					
Arthur Newbery Trust 5446 (Trustees Investment Fund: TIF	359	3	-	-	362
Arthur Newbery Trust 4345 (TIF)	30,641	56	-	-	30,697
Arthur Newbery Trust 4763 (Methodist Managed Mixed Funds & TIF)	100,901	-	(6,332)	-	94,569
Arthur Newbery Trust 5447 (TIF)	337	-	-	-	337
Arthur Newbery Trust 3669 (TIF)	9,548	16	-	-	9,564
AJ Briggs Trust (managed by Lloyds Bank Private Banking)	112,762	(1,580)	(8,775)	-	102,407
	254,548	(1,505)	(15,107)	-	237,936

The investment income generated by funds 5446, 4763 and 3669 is used to fund the Circuit's day to day running costs. The investment income generated by funds 4345 and 3669 is held in the fund. The income generated by the AJ Briggs Trust is used to fund ministry in

21 RESTRICTED FUNDS

Movements in year ended 31 August 2023	£	£	£	£	£
Benevolence fund	3,682	(120)	-	-	3,562
Edith Bailey Bequest (supporting people)	10,882	318	-	-	11,200
Arthur Newbery Trust (financing capital schemes in the Circuit)	209,437	642	(7,131)	-	202,948
	224,001	840	(7,131)	0	217,710
Movements in year ended 31 August 2022					
Benevolence fund	3,682	-	-	-	3,682
Edith Bailey Bequest (supporting people)	10,862	20	-	-	10,882
Arthur Newbery Trust (financing capital schemes in the Circuit)	220,652	41	(11,256)	-	209,437
	235,196	61	(11,256)	0	224,001

The Benevolence Fund is held by the Circuit to support individuals in need. The Edith Bailey Bequest is to be used to support individuals in need. The Arthur Newbery Trust is available to fund capital schemes. The Fund for the Worker with the Deaf reserve contributed towards the cost of this post but has now been closed.

22 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	Opening balances £	Net income or expenditure(-) £	Investment Gains/Losses £	Transfers £	Closing balances £
Movements in year ended 31 August 2023					
General fund (day to day running costs)	241,937	32,103	-	(14,500)	259,540
Designated Funds:					
Manse Maintenance fund	50,767	(15,021)	-	14,500	50,246
Manses capital (value of manses)	6,401,500	1,165,000	38,500	-	7,605,000
Youth work fund	2,500	(2,480)	-	(20)	-
Circuit development fund (training, outreach, small projects	43,716	(11,400)	-	20	32,336
Kentwood Fund (grants for buildings projects)	9,973	-	-	-	9,973
Circuit Model Trust fund	115,387	4,051	-	-	119,438
	6,865,780	1,172,253	38,500	-	8,076,533
Movements in year ended 31 August 2022					
General fund (day to day running costs)	244,211	(45,545)	-	43,271	241,937
Designated Funds:					
Manse Maintenance fund	48,434	16,333	-	(14,000)	50,767
Manses capital (value of manses)	5,812,750	-	588,750	-	6,401,500
Youth work fund	2,500	-	-		2,500
Circuit development fund (training, outreach, small projects	50,607	(6,891)	-	-	43,716
Kentwood Fund (grants for buildings projects)	12,973	(3,000)	-	-	9,973
Circuit Model Trust fund	166,447	(21,789)	-	(29,271)	115,387
	6,337,922	(60,892)	588,750	-	6,865,780

23 TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

The transfers between funds represent amounts drawn down by authorisation of the Circuit Meeting

24 AGENCY COLLECTIONS AND PAYMENTS

The Circuit acted as agent in either the collection or facilitation of the monies tabulated below. None of these collections were for related parties as defined in Note 1 and do not appear elsewhere in these accounts.

	Receipts £	Payments £	Balance 31 August 2023 £
Methodist Connexional Funds			
Methodist Church Fund	3,400	1,250	2,150
Funds for: Property	150	150	-
Mission in Britain	150	150	-
World Missions	38	38	-
Methodist Homes	150	-	150
Preachers and Leaders of Worship	100	-	100
Methodist Ministers' Housing Society	100	100	-
Support for Presbyters and Deacons	100	100	-
	4,188	1,788	2,400

The balance at 31 August 2023 is included in Other Creditors (see Note 18)

25 RECONCILIATION OF NET (OUTGOING)/ INCOMING RESOURCES TO NET CASH INFLOWS FROM OPERATIONS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net movement in funds	1,168,983	230,051
(Gains)/losses on investments		
Investment properties	(8,500)	(318,750)
Other investments	12,216	26,363
Investment income and rent from investments	(163,901)	(115,588)
Closed churches transferred to Circuit at no cost	(1,165,000)	-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(99,153)	5,014
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	23,104	(18,245)
Net cash used in operating activities	(232,251)	(191,155)
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents		
CFB deposits	296,342	368,510
Cash at bank and in hand	16,187	16,985
	312,529	385,495

Circuit Office, 84 Queens Road,
Reading RG1 4BW
Telephone 0118 926 2910 or 07801 374338
Email: phboardley@btinternet.com

James Cowper Kreston Audit
Reading Bridge House,
George Street,
Reading RG1 8LS

Dear James Cowper Kreston Audit

The following representations are made on the basis of enquiries of management and staff with relevant knowledge and experience such as we consider necessary in connection with your audit of the charity's financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023. These enquiries have included inspection of supporting documentation where appropriate and are sufficient to satisfy ourselves that we can make each of the following representations. All representations are made to the best of our knowledge and belief.

General

1. We have fulfilled our responsibilities as trustees as set out in the terms of your engagement letter dated 14 February 2023, under the Charities Act 2011 for preparing financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view and for making accurate representations to you.
2. All the transactions undertaken by the charity have been properly reflected and recorded in the accounting records.
3. All the accounting records have been made available to you for the purpose of your audit. We have provided you with unrestricted access to all appropriate persons within the charity, and with all other records and related information requested, including minutes of all management and trustee meetings and correspondence with The Charity Commission.
4. The financial statements are free of material misstatements, including omissions.

Internal control and fraud

5. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control systems to prevent and detect fraud and error. We have disclosed to you the results of our risk assessment that the financial statements may be misstated as a result of fraud.
6. We have disclosed to you all instances of known or suspected fraud affecting the entity involving management, employees who have a significant role in internal control or others that could have a material effect on the financial statements.
7. We have also disclosed to you all information in relation to allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity's financial statements communicated by current or former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

Assets and liabilities

8. The charity has satisfactory title to all assets and there are no liens or encumbrances on the charity's assets, except for those that are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.
9. All actual liabilities, contingent liabilities and guarantees given to third parties have been recorded or disclosed as appropriate.
10. We have no plans or intentions that may materially alter the carrying value and, where relevant, the fair value measurements or classification of assets and liabilities reflected in the financial statements.

Accounting estimates

11. The methods, data and significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, and their related disclosures, are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement and disclosure that is reasonable in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework.

Loans and arrangements

12. The charity has not granted any advances or credits to, or made guarantees on behalf of, directors other than those disclosed in the financial statements.

Legal claims

13. We have disclosed to you all claims in connection with litigation that have been, or are expected to be, received and such matters, as appropriate, have been properly accounted for and disclosed in the financial statements.

Laws and regulations

14. We have disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.

Related parties

15. Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in the financial statements. We have disclosed to you all relevant information concerning such relationships and transactions and are not aware of any other matters which require disclosure in order to comply with legislative and accounting standards requirements.

Subsequent events

16. All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements which require adjustment or disclosure have been properly accounted for and disclosed.

Going concern

17. We believe that the charity's financial statements should be prepared on a going concern basis on the grounds that current and future sources of funding or support will be more than adequate for the charity's needs. We also confirm our plans for future action(s) required to enable the charity's to continue as a going concern are feasible. We have considered a period of twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements. We believe that no further disclosures relating to the charity's ability to continue as a going concern need to be made in the financial statements.

Grants and donations

18. All grants, donations and other income, the receipt of which is subject to specific terms or conditions, have been notified to you. There have been no breaches of terms or conditions in the application of such income.

Restricted grants and donations are as follows / listed overleaf:

19. We acknowledge our legal responsibilities regarding disclosure of information to you as auditors and confirm that so far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information needed by you in connection with preparing your audit report of which you are unaware.
20. Each director has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a director in order to make themself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that you are aware of that information.

Yours faithfully

Rev. M.P. Burkes

.....

Signed on behalf of the Trustees 28/2/2024

Berkshire and Hampshire Borders Methodist Circuit

England & Wales - Charity number 1134891

Accounts

Registered Charity Number: 1134891

BASINGSTOKE & READING METHODIST CIRCUIT

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 August 2022

BASINGSTOKE & READING METHODIST CIRCUIT

Annual Report and Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 August 2022

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Basingstoke & Reading Methodist Circuit
Southampton District, circuit number 26/4
Annual report for the year ended 31st August 2022

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The Circuit

Basingstoke and Reading Methodist Circuit was formed on 1 September 2014 as a result of the merger of Basingstoke Methodist Circuit and Reading & Silchester Methodist Circuit. The Circuit is a separate legal entity within the Methodist Church and is required under Charity law to prepare separate accounts.

The Circuit is a registered charity (England & Wales) number 1134891.

There are 23 churches within the Circuit, with a total membership of 1,032. The churches are spread around Reading and Basingstoke and the neighbouring towns and villages of Bradfield, Burghfield Common, Mortimer, Tadley and Silchester. Several have local ecumenical partnerships with Anglican, Baptist and/or United Reformed churches.

Trustees

The Circuit's trustees, who are all members of the Circuit Meeting, are listed on page 2.

Executive and leadership functions

The Circuit Stewards (who are ex officio members of the Circuit Meeting) are responsible for ensuring that the decisions of the Circuit Meeting are executed. The following served as Circuit Stewards during the year:

Alan Harland (also Circuit Treasurer)
Margaret Hayes
Marianne Sales
Michael Parker
Terence Rowell

The Circuit Leadership Team (CLT – formerly known as Strategic Executive Group) gives longer-term vision to the Circuit's affairs and comprises a mix of stipendiary and lay members of the Circuit Meeting. The following, who are also members of the Circuit Meeting, served on CLT this year: Reverends Midcalf, Shaw, Browne, Watson, Beukes and Deacon Maria Howard; all circuit stewards; two representing local preachers and worship leaders (June Hardcastle and Paddy Jose); and Mary Ludlow, representing lay employees. Marion Young, who is also a member of the Circuit Meeting, is secretary to CLT.

Custodian trustees

The custodian trustees are the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

Contacting the Circuit

The Circuit's principal office is 84 Queen's Road, Reading RG1 4BW, telephone 0118 958 1505. The Circuit's website is www.basingstokereadingmethodists.uk

Bankers

The Circuit's bankers are the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church, 9 Bonhill Street, London EC2A 4PE; and CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ.

Auditors and professional advisers

The Circuit's auditors are James Cowper Kreston, Reading Bridge House, George Street, Reading, RG1 8LS.

The Circuit engages advisers for legal affairs and property services as required.

Basingstoke & Reading Methodist Circuit
Southampton District, circuit number 26/4
Annual report for the year ended 31st August 2022

Managing trustees

The managing trustees, who are all members of the Circuit Meeting are as follows:

Dr Stephen Appiah
Rev David Bagwell
Mrs Diane Bath
Rev Martin Beukes
Mr Peter Boardley
Mr Tony Bonnett
Rev Audrey Browne
Mrs Dusty Brough
Mrs Patricia Brown
Mrs Brenda Caborn
Rev Jackie Case
Mr Ray Chalk
Mr Peter Chapman
Rev Jonathon Clark
Mr David Cliffe
Mrs Kim Crawley
Mrs Jacqueline Davies
Mrs Jan Davies
Ms Tracy Davis
Mrs Jennifer Dimmock
Rev Jenny Dowding
Mr John Drabble
Mrs Jill Draper
Mrs Gerry Duggan
Mrs Margaret Ellison
Mrs Christine Embelton
Rev Chris Evans
Rev Valerie Fisher
Mr Kenneth Fordjour
Mr Donald Fraser
Mr Peter Frank
Mr Martin Goodwin
Mr Neil Graham
Ms Pam Guy
Mrs June Hardcastle
Mr Alan Harland
Mrs Charmian Harrison
Mrs Margaret Hayes
Mr Colin Hinks
Mrs Linda Hoe
Mr Alan Holloway
Mrs Beverley Holloway
Deacon Maria Howard
Mr Paul Isgar
Rev David Jenkins
Mr Simon Johnson
Mrs Paddy Jose
Mr Michael Kimber
Mrs Patricia Kinchington
Miss Helen Khan
Mr Alvin Laird
Mrs Linda Langridge
Mrs Gill Lawson
Mrs Jennifer Leighton
Mrs Rosemary Lister
Mrs Mary Ludlow
Ms Ellen Ludlow
Mrs Valerie Main
Rev Lesley Martin
Rev James Mather
Mrs Sandra McKenzie
Mr Alan Meakin
Mrs Grace Mercer
Rev Dr Ruth Midcalf
Mrs Yvonne Moss
Mr Sam Nyamakope
Mr Michael Parker
Mrs Ann Peddle
Mr Ian Pollard
Mrs Hilary Reed
Mr Terry Rowell
Miss Marianne Sales
Rev Jonathan Salmon
Rev David Shaw
Mrs Margaret Simpson
Mr Jonathon Skeet
Mr Steven Skelton
Mr Norman Smart
Mr Michael Smith
Miss Ruth Stacey
Rev Dr John Sumitra
Mrs Heather Symons
Mrs Gina Tagoe
Mrs Ruth Taylor
Mrs Christine Vallis
Mr Keith Waite
Mr Tim Wale
Mr Richard Walkem
Ms Mary Walton
Ms Marion Wales
Mr Michael Warner
Mr Robert Watson
Rev Helen Watson
Mrs Rosemary Watts
Mrs Sarah Whithorn
Mrs Marion Young
Mr Peter Young

Basingstoke & Reading Methodist Circuit
Southampton District, circuit number 26/4
Annual report for the year ended 31st August 2022

The members of the Circuit Meeting (as managing trustees) have pleasure in presenting their annual report and the audited accounts for the year.

1. Objectives and activities

The Circuit's vision statement is *"Inspired and led by the Holy Spirit, we shall love, resource and encourage one another; share Christ with our neighbour; and grow God's kingdom. In doing that, we shall place people before buildings; mission before maintenance; and God over church."* In February 2020 the Circuit adopted a mission strategy entitled 'Nourished and Fed: Ready to Share'

The Circuit's purpose is to provide resources to support ministry in local churches. The Circuit does this through the provision of ordained ministers and deacons, lay staff and Circuit officers to support service and ministry from the Circuit's 23 churches to their local communities. The Circuit also has responsibility for the upkeep and maintenance of 4 manses and 9 investment properties.

The Circuit produces a quarterly preaching plan to ensure regular acts of worship take place at each of the 18 Methodist Churches and 5 Local Ecumenical Partnerships in its geographical area. These are available to all people without charge. The Circuit is also directly involved with outreach work, with a particular emphasis on children and families, schools, and support for foodbanks.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)', when reviewing the Circuit's aims and objectives. The Circuit is pursuing its objectives through the following strategies by providing:

- Staffing resources and other assistance to churches for ministry to their communities;
- Grants for outreach activities and improvements to churches' premises that will facilitate access to ministry;
- Training through study, mentoring and examination for lay preachers and worship leaders;
- Training and support in safeguarding awareness;
- Opportunities for staff and members of church congregations to meet for fellowship, worship and learning; and
- Care for those who have retired from full-time service in the Methodist Church.

2. Achievements and performance

The Circuit has continued to benefit from strong and effective ministerial and lay leadership. This is now focussed through the CLT, which was formed in September 2015 and comprises representatives from ordained staff, the circuit stewards, and lay members of the circuit meeting as noted on Page 1. CLT's brief is to take a more strategic view in leading the Circuit through a period of change and guiding the allocation of resources in the most effective direction.

The Circuit has also continued to benefit from its large group of established local preachers. Currently three individuals are 'on note' as intending local preachers and two more are 'on trial' whilst they undertake training. Thirteen individuals are training as worship leaders, and one is undertaking the Connexional course. Two of the Circuit's tutors are also training worship leaders in other circuits.

The Circuit Meeting approved grants to Tadley Common Methodist Church and the Caversham churches in connection with property enhancement works. The Circuit also made a grant of £500 to support the work of the Reading University Chaplaincy Service. Further details are provided in Note 10 to the Accounts.

The Circuit produced devotional resources for Advent 2021 that were distributed to all the Circuit's churches for use by individuals, small groups, or in worship. The Circuit is actively involved through lay staff with outreach projects in Basingstoke, with young people and the Town Centre Chaplaincy.

As the restrictions for the Covid pandemic eased and were then lifted, churches were adapted to be Covid-secure so that they can continue to be used for worship or for activities organised or sponsored by the churches including cafes, Boys' or Girls' Brigades or youth clubs.

Local community organisations notably those promoting fitness and health, music and dance use church premises, and income from external lettings makes a valued contribution towards upkeep of church premises. Churches' finances was been stretched by the loss of lettings income during the enforced pandemic closures and afterwards.

The lockdown periods brought significant changes to Sunday worship services. Much use continues to be made of Zoom and similar platforms for broadcasting services across the internet. Many churches arrange and hold their own services, and others use the service organise by the Circuit each week. Churches are investing in technology to film services, and this has opportunities for use for example with concerts held at churches being made available to a wider audience.

The churches continue to develop ways and means for outreach into local communities, for example the quiet garden at Silchester and community cafés. Several churches have Messy Church; lunch, holiday and after-school clubs; or tailored children, families and youth work. Some churches have acted as a collection point for shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Much work is being done to support foodbanks across the Circuit's communities.

Many outreach projects are carried out in partnership with churches from other denominations, such as the REinspired and 'Open the Book' programmes for delivering religious education in schools, a weekly lunch club in Whitley, and the 'Loneliness Project' in Caversham. Wesley Methodist Church participated in 'Bed for the Night', an ecumenical initiative providing accommodation and food for the homeless in Reading. Trinity Basingstoke's Soup Lunch has developed contacts with foodbank users.

3. Financial review

The attached Statement of Financial Affairs (SOFA) summarises the Circuit's income and expenditure for the year, supplemented by the Cash Flow statement and the Notes to the Financial Statements. The Balance Sheet shows the Circuit's assets, liabilities and reserves.

The net expenditure for the year was £62,336 before investment gains (2021: net expenditure of £69,831). The reduction in net expenditure of £7,495 resulted from the following:

	£
Churches' assessments were reduced	-40,863
Investment income and bank interest was higher	2,813
Rental income from manses was higher with fewer voids and another property being let	10,815
Less from sale of property access rights	-21,200
Staff costs were lower	28,079
Manse maintenance and other costs (net of contributions) were lower	5,457
Less paid out to churches in grants	15,100
Administrative and other expenses lower	5,083
Other variations, net	2,211
	7,495

After recognising gains on investment properties and other assets of £292,387, net income for the year was £230,051 (2021: net income of £179,249 after investment gains of £249,080). Upward revaluation of freehold property increased funds by £270,000 (2021: £250,000).

The Balance Sheet summarises the Circuit's assets, liabilities and funds. Net assets (and thus aggregate funds) at 31st August 2022 were £7,327,717 (2021: £6,827,666). The increase in net assets of £500,051 results from changes to assets and liabilities as follows:

	£
Investment valuation gains	292,387
Investment purchases less sales	127
Revaluation of operational properties	270,000
Net expenditure funded through investment portfolio (principally Model Trust Fund)	-52,633
Reduction in net current assets	-9,830
Increase in net assets	500,051

The Circuit's net assets are held in either endowment, restricted or unrestricted funds. A full analysis of the individual funds, and the objectives for which income and/or capital may be applied, is provided in Notes 20 to 22 in these financial statements. These funds may be summarised as follows:

	£	£
Endowment funds		
The income from these funds is applied to ministry within the Circuit, The capital is not available for use*		237,936
Restricted funds		
Available for financing capital schemes - Arthur Newbery Trust*	209,527	
Available for funding revenue expenditure as specified by donors	14,474	
		224,001
Unrestricted funds		
Manse capital fund (equivalent to the value of manse and investment properties)		6,401,500
Circuit Model Trust Fund, for financing churches' property and mission schemes through grants*		115,387
Funds available for financing Circuit occasional expenditure:		
Circuit development fund, for training and mission projects	43,716	
Youth work fund	2,500	
Kentwood fund, for supporting churches small building schemes	9,973	
		56,189
Funds for financing Circuit annual operating expenditure		
General funds, for all purposes	241,937	
Manse maintenance fund, for repairs, maintenance and refurbishment	50,767	
		292,704
Total funds		7,327,717

4. Reserves policies

The Circuit is required to have policies regarding the level of reserves to be held in respect of funds for financing Circuit annual operating expenditure. Policies are not required in respect of other funds since these are not held primarily for revenue purposes and there are restrictions on how the funds may be used. The funds marked (*) are managed by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

The Circuit's annual operating expenditure includes the cost of ministerial and lay staff, provision of manses, travel and administrative expenses, and contributions to the Methodist Southampton District and Methodist Church central funds. This expenditure is funded by assessments on the Circuit's churches, investment income, rents on surplus manses, and contributions from the Model Trust Fund.

Assessments on churches are calculated as part of the Circuit's annual budget process. Increases in assessments on churches are limited to 10%, and not more than 95% of a church's income (70% if the church has no buildings).

The Circuit's budget reflects the impact of anticipated changes in staffing levels, the maintenance needs of its residential property portfolio, and any amounts to be drawn from reserves to support the planned expenditure. The Circuit Meeting approves the budget and assessments, and the amounts to be carried forward in reserves.

Proposed drawings from the restricted funds of the Circuit to assist churches with building improvements and fund improvements to the manses are considered and approved on a case-by-case basis by the Circuit Meeting.

In setting its reserves policy the Circuit Meeting also considers the financial health of the churches in the Circuit which has impacted on their ability to fund the annual Circuit assessment. The Circuit's reserves policies are to maintain at least:

- A general fund balance of £150,000, sufficient to cover three months' running costs; and
- A manse maintenance fund balance of at least £50,000, sufficient also for three months' running costs of approximately £20,000 plus £30,000 for unexpected repairs to manses.

The balances on these reserves at 31 August 2022 were £241.937 and £50,767 respectively. The excess on General Fund over the policy of £150,000 will be used over the next three years in funding expected budget deficits,

The Circuit's updated budget for the year commencing 1 September 2022 shows net expenditure of £64,973 on General Fund and a surplus of £19,475 on Manse Maintenance Fund. The General Fund deficit will be partly relieved by a transfer from Manse maintenance Fund of £20,000, being the anticipated excess over the policy of £50,000. The trustees consider the Circuit to be a going concern.

5. Investment policies

In accordance with the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church, the Circuit's investments are managed on its behalf by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP), Central Buildings, Oldham Street Manchester M1 1JQ. TMCP acts as custodian trustee for all properties held by Circuits, for all large bequests (ie over £20,000) and for the proceeds of sale of any property where the Circuit was managing trustee. These sums are unitised investments or held on deposit.

Short term deposits are lodged with the Central Finance Board (CFB) of the Methodist Church.

The Circuit's investment policies are aligned with those of TMCP and the CFB because these organisations take into consideration the social, environmental and ethical issues, both negatively and positively, that make investments suitable for the Methodist Church.

6. Pay and remuneration policies

Ministers are stationed in the Circuit by the Methodist Conference. Ministers' remuneration is set nationally by the Methodist Church. Ministers are members of the Methodist Ministers Pension Scheme. Contribution rates are set nationally by the Methodist Church.

Lay employees are directly employed by the Circuit. Lay employee remuneration is based on the Methodist Church's guidance for the setting of pay rates for lay employees. Lay employee pay rates are in excess of the National Living Wage. The Circuit offers a pension scheme to its lay employees. The Circuit matches lay employee contributions up to 10% of salary. The minimum employer contribution rate is 6%. No member of staff is paid in excess of £60,000 per annum.

Information on the payment of expenses to trustees and remuneration of key management personnel is disclosed in the notes to the Circuit's accounts.

7. Structure and governance

The Circuit was established in accordance with the constitution of the Methodist Church. Its organisation is structured around its bi-annual circuit meeting. The Circuit also holds bi-annual gatherings to which members of all churches are invited for worship, discussion, prayer and activities.

The members of the Circuit Meeting are the trustees of the Circuit. The Circuit Meeting comprises the Circuit staff and officers, and representatives from each church in the Circuit and the local preachers' meeting. Each church council and the local preachers meeting elect representatives to the Circuit Meeting annually. The Circuit officers are appointed annually by Circuit Meeting.

When appointed, trustees are asked to complete a related party questionnaire and, at the start of each Circuit Meeting, to declare any new conflicts of interest. No declarations were made this year.

The Circuit Meeting is supported by separate monthly meetings of ordained staff and circuit stewards to conduct day-to-day business and consider matters to be brought to the attention of the Circuit Meeting. A Strategic Executive Group was set up in September 2015 following a review of the Circuit's governance. This group's responsibilities include circuit strategy and vision, resource planning and oversight of probationers and candidates. A number of focussed 'Getting It Done' and 'Special Interest' Groups focus on prayer, preparation of worship materials, arranging Circuit gatherings and managing our property portfolio.

8. Administrative details

These details are provided on page 1 to these financial statements.

9. Principal risks and uncertainties

The major risks to which the Circuit is exposed have been identified by the Circuit Meeting and are listed below. A major risk is defined as one that, if realised could fundamentally affect the way in which the Circuit operates or achieves its outcomes in the next one to three years.

	Risk	Evaluation	Commentary
A	Churches cannot afford to pay their assessments. This would affect the ability of the Circuit to fund staffing	Moderate	The Circuit takes into account church income when setting assessments on churches.
B	The Circuit cannot maintain residential properties to appropriate standards	Low	Surveyors carry out inspections every five years to assist planning repairs and maintenance. There is sufficient in the Model Trust Fund for works needed in the medium term
C	The Circuit is unable to fill stations with presbyters, deacons or lay staff where appropriate.	Moderate	There is a Connexional shortage of presbyters, and sometimes vacancies cannot be filled immediately
D	The Circuit is unable to attract circuit stewards and other office holders with appropriate skills and expertise	Moderate	The Circuit is heavily dependent on such individuals and the time that they commit to the Circuit's life and work. At present most posts are filled.
E	Churches are unable to attract office holders with sufficient time, skills and expertise to enable them to continue operating	Moderate	If churches cease to operate, the Circuit may need to become managing trustee for the site.

10. Further information

If further information is required on the Circuit's life and witness, please first contact Mrs Marion Young, at the Circuit office (see page 1).

11. Statement of trustees' responsibilities

Charity law requires the Circuit Meeting to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of the Circuit as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing those financial statements, the Circuit Meeting are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue on that basis.

The Circuit Meeting are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Circuit Meeting

Rev Martin Beukes
Chair of Meeting 28 February 2023

Basingstoke & Reading Methodist Circuit
Southampton District, circuit number 26/4
Annual report for the year ended 31st August 2022

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of Basingstoke & Reading Methodist Circuit

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Basingstoke & Reading Methodist Circuit (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 August 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 8 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act.. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate, or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

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

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are

required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

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

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

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

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

- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance and the entity's solicitors (or in-house legal team) around actual and potential legislation and claims;
- Enquiry of entity staff in tax and compliance functions to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Reviewing internal audit reports;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to support documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias,

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Councils website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

Darren O'Connor BSc (Hons) FCCA FCA, *Senior Statutory Auditor*
For and on behalf of James Cowper Kreston Audit, Statutory Auditor

James Cowper Kreston Audit is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

Reading Bridge House
George Street
Reading
Berkshire
RG1 8LS

2/3/23

BASINGSTOKE & READING METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 August 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022
		General Funds	Designated Funds			
		£	£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Donations and legacies		-	607	-	-	607
Charitable income						
Assessments on churches		408,987	-	-	-	408,987
Other income	4	-	7,607	-	-	7,607
Investments						
Lettings income		-	104,439	-	-	104,439
Investment income and interest	3	10,199	607	154	189	11,149
Total income and endowments		419,186	113,260	154	189	532,789
EXPENDITURE						
Charitable expenditure						
Stipends, salaries and associated costs	5	329,093	-	-	-	329,093
Assessments and levies	6	110,284	5,822	-	-	116,106
Manse running costs	7	-	68,975	-	-	68,975
Grants and donations	10	(16,100)	31,600	-	-	15,500
Administration and travel	8	24,835	-	-	-	24,835
Other outgoings	9	15,761	21,736	-	-	37,497
Raising funds						
Investment management costs		858	474	93	1,694	3,119
Total expenditure		464,731	128,607	93	1,694	595,125
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/losses		(45,545)	(15,347)	61	(1,505)	(62,336)
Investment realised & unrealised gains/(losses)						
Investment properties		-	318,750	-	-	318,750
Other investments	16	-	-	(11,256)	(15,107)	(26,363)
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		(45,545)	303,403	(11,195)	(16,612)	230,051
Transfers between funds		43,271	(43,271)	-	-	-
Revaluation of freehold property		-	270,000	-	-	270,000
Net movement in funds		(2,274)	530,132	(11,195)	(16,612)	500,051
Total funds brought forward		244,211	6,093,711	235,196	254,548	6,827,666
Total funds at 31 August 2022		241,937	6,623,843	224,001	237,936	7,327,717

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
The notes on pages 14 to 24 form part of these Financial Statements.

BASINGSTOKE & READING METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 August 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds General Funds	Unrestricted funds Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2021
		£	£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Donations and legacies		-	-	-	-	-
Charitable income						
Assessments on churches		449,850	-	-	-	449,850
Other income	4	431	30,243	-	-	30,674
Investments						
Lettings income		-	93,624	-	-	93,624
Investment income and interest	3	7,259	832	110	135	8,336
Total income and endowments		457,540	124,699	110	135	582,484
EXPENDITURE						
Charitable expenditure						
Stipends, salaries and associated costs	5	357,172	-	-	-	357,172
Assessments and levies	6	105,738	13,839	-	-	119,577
Manse running costs	7	-	74,432	-	-	74,432
Grants and donations	10	500	30,000	100	-	30,600
Administration and travel	8	23,264	-	-	-	23,264
Other outgoings	9	11,041	33,566	-	-	44,607
Raising funds						
Investment management costs		513	502	65	1,583	2,663
Total expenditure		498,228	152,339	165	1,583	652,315
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/losses		(40,688)	(27,640)	(55)	(1,448)	(69,831)
Investment realised & unrealised gains/(losses)						
Investment properties	15	-	191,250	-	-	191,250
Other	16	-	-	27,789	30,041	57,830
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		(40,688)	163,610	27,734	28,593	179,249
Transfers between funds		58,610	(58,610)	-	-	-
Revaluation of freehold property	14	-	250,000			250,000
Net movement in funds		17,922	355,000	27,734	28,593	429,249
Total funds brought forward (revised)		226,289	5,738,711	207,462	225,955	6,398,417
Total funds at 31 August 2021		244,211	6,093,711	235,196	254,548	6,827,666

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 14 to 24 form part of these Financial Statements.

BASINGSTOKE & READING METHODIST CIRCUIT

BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 August 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Freehold properties; manses	14		2,430,000		3,195,000
Investment properties	15		3,971,500		2,617,750
Investments	16		573,640		652,509
			6,975,140		6,465,259
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	17	33,550		38,564	
Central Finance Board deposits		368,510		383,142	
Cash at bank and in hand		16,985		25,414	
		419,045		447,120	
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	18	66,468		84,713	
Net Current Assets			352,577		362,407
NET ASSETS	19		7,327,717		6,827,666
FUNDS					
Endowment funds	20		237,936		254,548
Restricted funds	21		224,001		235,196
Unrestricted funds	22		6,865,780		6,337,922
			7,327,717		6,827,666

The Financial Statements were approved by the Managing Trustees on 28 February 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:-

.....
Rev Martin Beukes
Chair of Meeting

.....
Alan Harland
Member of Circuit Meeting; and Circuit steward & treasurer during this financial year

The notes on pages 14 to 24 form part of these Financial statements

BASINGSTOKE & READING METHODIST CIRCUIT

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Cash used in operating activities	25	(191,155)	(151,938)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		115,588	101,960
Proceeds from sale of property		-	-
Expenditure funded through investment portfolio		52,633	83,782
Purchase of investments		(5,435)	(40,980)
Investment sale proceeds		5,308	42,748
Cash provided by investing activities		168,094	187,510
(Reduction)/increase in cash and cash equivalents in year		(23,061)	35,572
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		408,556	372,984
Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of year		**385,495**	**408,556**

1 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) as updated by Bulletin 1, and the Companies Act 2006. These statements are denominated in Sterling, rounded to the nearest £.

The Basingstoke and Reading Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The accounts have been prepared on the basis of historic cost except that investments and properties are shown at their market value.

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available to the Circuit at 31 August 2022 the trustees believe that the accounts should be prepared on a going concern basis.

Fund Accounting
The funds constitute:
Unrestricted funds which include general funds held for any purpose of the Circuit; the Circuit Model Trust Fund which has wide purposes defined in Standing Orders and is categorised as unrestricted; and other designated funds that are held for purposes agreed by the Circuit Meeting.

Restricted funds are funds that can only be used for specific restricted purposes as laid down by the donor.

Endowment funds which represent gifts that are held as capital to generate income that is available for either restricted or unrestricted purposes.

Income and endowments
All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Circuit becomes entitled to the resources, the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources, and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Expenditure
Resources expended are accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred or a constructive obligation arises that results in the payment being unavoidable. The Circuit is not VAT registered so expenditure is stated inclusive of VAT where applicable.

Grants
Grants by the Circuit are recognised at the time of agreement to pay (without performance conditions), or when it is accepted there is an obligation to pay (if subject to performance conditions). Where grants are payable over more than one year, the accrual is discounted to net present value if the difference is material.

Connexional donations - acting as agent
The Circuit acts as agent in collecting from churches and then paying over their contributions to various Methodist Connexional funds and other external organisations. These transactions are therefore not reflected in the SOFA but are disclosed in Notes to the Accounts as required by the SORP (FRS102), module 19.12.

Ownership of Methodist property
Under the Methodist Church Act 1976 the ownership of Methodist property in England, Wales and Scotland was on 16 April 1977 automatically transferred to the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP). Property includes stocks, shares, unit trust investments and all other securities as well as land, buildings and chattels. TMCP holds such property as custodian trustees. The management of this property is vested in the relevant managing trustees who must act in accordance with the Model Trusts and the Standing Orders made under them. The property for which the Circuit are managing trustees is included in the Circuit's accounts.

1 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Tangible fixed assets
Assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost more than £2,500. Freehold property is stated at market value, which is reviewed annually. Office equipment and other plant is stated at cost. Depreciation is calculated on the straight line basis at 20% on office equipment and other plant but is not provided on freehold property since this is revalued annually.

Investment properties
Properties that are no longer required as manses are held as investment properties. They are stated at market value, which is reviewed annually.

Financial instruments
The Circuit only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Investments
Investments are included at market value at the Balance Sheet date. Investment income is included in the accounts when receivable and any gains or losses on revaluation at the year end are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The investments are in monetary assets. Except for the Briggs Trust funds which are managed by Lloyds Bank, the Circuit's investment assets are held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees. The valuations, at market value, are those as provided by Lloyds Bank and TMCP as at 31 August 2022.

Staff costs

The ministers are paid stipends at rates set by the Methodist Conference. The lay employees are paid salaries at rates set by the Circuit.

The Circuit makes payments to the Methodist Ministers Pension Fund and into a pension scheme for its lay employees. The charge represents the amount payable in respect of the year.

Ministers' manse costs
The Circuit is required to provide accommodation for each minister and their families, and ministers are expected to occupy them. The Circuit bears the cost of repairs and maintenance, premises insurance, council tax and water charges. These are not regarded as benefits in kind by HM Revenue & Customs.

2 CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and current factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The Circuit trustees make estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition,seldom equal the related actual results. The only estimates and assumptions that have significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

Land and buildings
The carrying values of land and buildings within tangible fixed assets and investment properties have been reviewed by the trustees based on a professional valuation for accounts purposes at the balance sheet date.

3 INTEREST & INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bank interest	1,502	-	-	-	1,502	467
Investment income	8,697	607	154	189	9,647	7,869
	10,199	607	154	189	11,149	8,336

4 OTHER INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Insurance claims	-	-	-	-	-	1,389
Ransom strip sale proceeds	-	-	-	-	-	26,200
Grant of easement at Trinity Basingstoke	-	5,000			5,000	-
Staffing and shared manse costs	-	2,607	-	-	2,607	2,654
Other	-	-	-	-	-	431
	-	7,607	-	-	7,607	30,674

5 STAFF COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Stipends and salaries	247,117	-	-	-	247,117	276,785
National Insurance	19,236	-	-	-	19,236	20,971
Pension contributions	60,174	-	-	-	60,174	54,007
Apprenticeship levy	1,306				1,306	1,504
Relocation expenses	-				-	3,906
Redundancy pay	1,260				1,260	-
	329,093	-	-	-	329,093	357,173

The ministers are stationed in the Circuit by the Methodist Conference and are paid stipends at rates agreed by the Conference. The lay employees are employees of the Circuit and are paid salaries at rates set by the Circuit. The pay costs of both the ministers and lay employees are reflected in the accounts. The remuneration of those members of staff in senior management positions (ie on the Circuit Leadership Team) were £159,502 (2021: £165,602); and the full cost including employer pension and National Insurance contributions was £213,408 (2020: £220,904).

Salaries and pension contributions are in line with guidance provided by the Methodist Church.

The number of staff during the year was	14	15

No members of staff received emoluments amounting to over £60,000 in the year.
During the year, no trustee received any remuneration for the role of trustee.

6 ASSESSMENTS AND LEVIES

	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
District assessment	17,295	-	-	-	17,295	16,104
Methodist Church Fund	88,281	-	-	-	88,281	84,383
Contributions to District Advance Fund	-	5,822	-	-	5,822	10,045
Cionnexional Property Fund levy on proceeds		-			-	3,794
United Reformed Church assessments	4,388	-	-	-	4,388	4,916
Church of England assessments	320	-	-	-	320	335
	110,284	5,822	-	-	116,106	119,577

7 MANSE RUNNING COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Insurance and utilities	-	26,825	-	-	26,825	27,972
Rent payable	-	19,200	-	-	19,200	19,200
Repairs and maintenance	-	22,950	-	-	22,950	27,260
	-	68,975	-	-	68,975	74,432

8 ADMINISTRATION AND TRAVEL

	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Telephone costs	5,652	-	-	-	5,652	8,090
Administrative expenses	3,827	-	-	-	3,827	2,309
Publications	1,422	-	-	-	1,422	1,699
Circuit office rent	3,650	-	-	-	3,650	4,400
Travel expenses	10,284	-	-	-	10,284	6,766
	24,835	-	-	-	24,835	23,264

9 OTHER OUTGOINGS

	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Audit fees	8,100	-	-	-	8,100	6,720
Professional fees						
Property management	576	21,736	-	-	22,312	26,912
Sale of ransom strip	-	-			-	7,230
Other expenditure	7,085	-	-	-	7,085	3,745
	15,761	21,736	-	-	37,497	44,607

10 GRANTS AND DONATIONS

The following grants were agreed and/or paid during the year and charged to the funds concerned (see Notes 19 - 22). Associated support costs are insignificant and have not been disclosed separately

	Paid	Accrued or (released)	Total 2022	Total 2021
General funds (unrestricted)	£	£	£	£
Reading University Chaplaincy	500		500	500
Wesley Methodist Church accrual released	-	(16,600)	(16,600)	-
	500	(16,600)	(16,100)	500
Designated funds (unrestricted)				
Model Trust Fund				
Wesley Methodist Church for refurbishment of part of 84 Queens Road for other use	16,600	-	16,600	30,000
Tadley Common Methodist towards car park renewal	4,500	-	4,500	-
Kentwood Fund			-	
Small grants paid to churches	3,000	-	3,000	-
Circuit Devepment Fund				
Small grants paid to churches	7,500		7,500	
	31,600	-	31,600	30,000
Benevolence fund (restricted)				
Payments	-	-	-	100
	32,100	**(16,600)**	**15,500**	**30,600**

11 VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS

The Circuit is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills and time in the furtherance of the work of the Circuit. Principally this contribution is by serving as circuit and manse stewards and serving on groups that plan circuit events and meetings, support the Circuit's safeguarding work and the Circuit's Strategic Executive Group.

No attempt has been made by the Trustees to value the non monetary contributions made by volunteers in monetary terms.

12 PAYMENTS TO TRUSTEES

Several of the Circuit staff are also trustees of the Circuit. The ministers are paid stipends and travel expenses at the rates agreed annually by the Methodist Conference. The lay employees who are Trustees are paid in line with the principles of the Methodist Church's policy for payment of lay employees. The ministers Rev'ds Shaw, Browne, Jenkins, Beukes, Mather, Midcalf and Watson and Deacon Maria Howard received stipends totalling £167.617; and the lay employees Mary Ludlow, Peter Frank and Marion Young received salary payments of £53,190; the total was thus £220,807 (2021: £250,296).

Some of the members of the Circuit meeting have received payments from the Circuit in their capacity as manse or property stewards where they have either carried out maintenance work at manses rather than employing a contractor or incurred expenses connected with their role. Other members of the Circuit meeting have been employed as a contractor in connection with their trade or business. These amounted to £nil during the year (2021: £nil).

Expenses paid to members of the Circuit Meeting were as follows:	2022 £	2021 £
Travel expenses	7,374	3,883
Pulpit supply costs	3,400	2,340
Manse expenses reimbursed	2,203	1,711
Administration and other ministry expenses reimbursed	1,284	1,157
	14,261	9,091
Number of trustees who were paid expenses	21	16

13 PENSIONS

The ministers belong to the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme. This is a defined benefit scheme. The Circuit pays a contribution of 26.9% of stipend to the scheme. It is not possible to identify the Circuit's share of assets and liabilities. The results of the latest completed valuatrion as at 31 August 2020, and a subsequent interim valuation as at 31 August 2021, both assuming that the Scheme continues into the future, were as follows:

	2020 £'m	2021 £'m
Target level of assets	501.7	498.5
Actual value of assets	487.5	574.3
Surplus/shortfall(-) in assets	-14.2	75.8
Funding level	97.16%	115.19%

As the Scheme was in deficit at 31 August 2020, a recovery plan was initiated; and, in view of the recovery in the financial markets, an interim valuation was undertaken as at 31 August 2021 and showed a much improved position. Circuits had been paying total contributions at 26.9% of stipend remuneration since September 2013, and this contribution rate is now expected to continue beyond 31 August 2023.

The Circuit belongs to a multi-employer defined contribution pension scheme operated by The Pensions Trust which is offered to lay employees. The Circuit matches their contributions to the scheme up to 10% of pay.

In line with FRS102 28.38, there is no contractual agreement and therefore the cost recognised is equal to the contributions payable for the period.

14 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Land £	Buildings £	Total £
Valuation			
At 1 September 2021	1,065,000	2,130,000	3,195,000
Revaluation change	85,000	185,000	270,000
Transferred to investment properties	(345,000)	(690,000)	(1,035,000)
At 31 August 2022	805,000	1,625,000	2,430,000
Depreciation			
At 1 September 2021	0	0	0
Provision for the year	0	0	0
At 31 August 2022	0	0	0
Net Book Value			
At 1 September 2021	1,065,000	2,130,000	3,195,000
At 31 August 2022	805,000	1,625,000	2,430,000

The manses were revalued by the trustees at 31 August 2022, following a professional valuation for accounts purposes as at that date by Haslams, Chartered Surveyors. The historical value of land and buildings if they had not been revalued was £1,870,655 (31 August 2021: £2,695,511).

15 INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

	Land £	Buildings £	Total £
Valuation			
At 1 September 2021	869,250	1,748,500	2,617,750
Revaluation change	112,050	206,700	318,750
Transferred from fixed assets	345,000	690,000	1,035,000
At 31 August 2022	1,326,300	2,645,200	3,971,500

The manses were revalued by the trustees at 31 August 2022, following a professional valuation for accounts purposes as at that date by Haslams, Chartered Surveyors. The historical value of land and buildings if they had not been revalued was £2,616,349 (31 August 2021: £1,791,493).

16 INVESTMENTS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Balance at 1 September 2021	390,488	334,426
Additions	5,435	40,980
Disposals	(5,308)	(42,748)
Unrealised gains/(losses)	(26,363)	57,830
	364,252	390,488
Cash held	209,388	262,021
Balance at 31 August 2022	573,640	652,509
Analysis of investments		
Investments listed on a recognised Stock Exchange or held in common investment funds, unit trusts or other collective investment schemes	364,252	390,487
Other investments	94,002	95,575
Circuit Model Trust cash holdings	115,386	166,447
	573,640	652,509

17 DEBTORS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Sundry debtors	5,305	6,976
Stipends paid in advance	17,490	20,118
Prepayments	10,755	11,470
	33,550	38,564

18 CREDITORS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Assessments for September paid in advance	34,488	34,264
Other creditors	3,861	2,776
Grants payable to churches	1,500	18,100
Accruals	26,619	29,573
	66,468	84,713

19 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Fixed Assets	Investment Property	Other Investments	Current Assets (net)	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Funds, year ended 31 August 2022					
Endowment funds	-	-	237,936	-	237,936
Restricted funds	-	-	220,318	3,683	224,001
Unrestricted funds	2,430,000	3,971,500	115,386	348,894	6,865,780
	2,430,000	3,971,500	573,640	352,577	7,327,717
Funds, year ended 31 August 2021					
Endowment funds	-	-	254,548	-	254,548
Restricted funds	-	-	231,514	3,682	235,196
Unrestricted funds	3,195,000	2,617,750	166,447	358,725	6,337,922
	3,195,000	2,617,750	652,509	362,407	6,827,666

20 ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	Opening balances	Net income/ (expenditure)	Investment gains/(losses)	Transfers	Closing balances
Movements in year ended 31 August 2022	£	£	£	£	£
Arthur Newbery Trust 5446 (Trustees Investment Fund: TIF	359	3	-	-	362
Arthur Newbery Trust 4345 (TIF)	30,641	56	-	-	30,697
Arthur Newbery Trust 4763 (Methodist Managed Mixed Funds & TIF)	100,901	-	(6,332)	-	94,569
Arthur Newbery Trust 5447 (TIF)	337	-	-	-	337
Arthur Newbery Trust 3669 (TIF)	9,548	16	-	-	9,564
AJ Briggs Trust (managed by Lloyds Bank Private Banking)	112,762	(1,580)	(8,775)	-	102,407
	254,548	(1,505)	(15,107)	-	237,936
Movements in year ended 31 August 2021					
Arthur Newbery Trust 5446 (Trustees Investment Fund: TIF	359	-	-	-	359
Arthur Newbery Trust 4345 (TIF)	30,599	42	-	-	30,641
Arthur Newbery Trust 4763 (Methodist Managed Mixed Funds & TIF)	85,268	-	15,633	-	100,901
Arthur Newbery Trust 5447 (TIF)	337	-	-	-	337
Arthur Newbery Trust 3669 (TIF)	9,535	13	-	-	9,548
AJ Briggs Trust (managed by Lloyds Bank Private Banking)	99,857	(1,503)	14,408	-	112,762
	225,955	(1,448)	30,041	-	254,548

The investment income generated by funds 5446, 4763 and 3669 is used to fund the Circuit's day to day running costs. The investment income generated by funds 4345 and 3669 is held in the fund. The income generated by the AJ Briggs Trust is used to fund ministry in

21 RESTRICTED FUNDS

Movements in year ended 31 August 2022	£	£	£	£	£
Benevolence fund	3,682	-	-	-	3,682
Edith Bailey Bequest (supporting people)	10,772	20	-	-	10,792
Arthur Newbery Trust (financing capital schemes in the Circuit)	220,742	41	(11,256)	-	209,527
	235,196	61	(11,256)	0	224,001
Movements in year ended 31 August 2021					
Benevolence fund	3,782	(100)	-	-	3,682
Edith Bailey Bequest (supporting people)	10,757	15	-	-	10,772
Arthur Newbery Trust (financing capital schemes in the Circuit)	192,923	30	27,789	-	220,742
	207,462	(55)	27,789	0	235,196

The Benevolence Fund is held by the Circuit to support individuals in need. The Edith Bailey Bequest is to be used to support individuals in need. The Arthur Newbery Trust is available to fund capital schemes. The Fund for the Worker with the Deaf reserve contributed towards the cost of this post but has now been closed.

22 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	Opening balances	Net income or expenditure(-)	Investment Gains/Losses	Transfers	Closing balances
	£	£	£	£	£
Movements in year ended 31 August 2022					
General fund (day to day running costs)	244,211	(45,545)	-	43,271	241,937
Designated Funds:					
Manse Maintenance fund	48,434	16,333	-	(14,000)	50,767
Manses capital (value of manses)	5,812,750	-	588,750	-	6,401,500
Youth work fund	2,500	-	-		2,500
Circuit development fund (training, outreach, small projects)	50,607	(6,891)	-	-	43,716
Kentwood Fund (grants for buildings projects)	12,973	(3,000)	-	-	9,973
Circuit Model Trust fund	166,447	(21,789)	-	(29,271)	115,387
	6,337,922	(60,892)	588,750	-	6,865,780
Movements in year ended 31 August 2021					
General fund (day to day running costs); restated	226,289	(40,688)	-	58,610	244,211
Designated Funds:					
Manse Maintenance fund	50,535	(3,101)	-	1,000	48,434
Manses capital (value of manses) - restated	5,371,500	-	441,250	-	5,812,750
Youth work fund	2,500	-			2,500
Circuit development fund (training, outreach, small projects)	50,607	-	-	-	50,607
Kentwood Fund (grants for buildings projects)	12,973	-	-	-	12,973
Circuit Model Trust fund	250,596	(24,539)	-	(59,610)	166,447
	5,965,000	(68,328)	441,250	-	6,337,922

23 TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

The transfers between funds represent amounts drawn down by authorisation of the Circuit Meeting

24 AGENCY COLLECTIONS AND PAYMENTS

The Circuit acted as agent in either the collection or facilitation of the monies tabulated below. None of these collections were for related parties as defined in Note 1 and do not appear elsewhere in these accounts.

	Receipts	Payments	Balance 31 August 2022
	£	£	£
Methodist Connexional Funds			
Methodist Church Fund	4,390	2,240	2,150
Funds for: Property	1,963	1,963	-
Mission in Britain	749	749	-
World Missions	266	210	56
Methodist Homes	300	150	150
All We Can	50	50	-
Preachers and Leaders of Worship	200	100	100
Methodist Ministers' Housing Society	972	972	-
Support for Presbyters and Deacons	100	100	-
	8,990	6,534	2,456

The balance at 31 August 2022 is included in Other Creditors (see Note 18)

25 RECONCILIATION OF NET (OUTGOING)/ INCOMING RESOURCES TO NET CASH INFLOWS FROM OPERATIONS

	2022 £	2021 £
Net movement in funds	230,051	179,249
(Gains)/losses on investments		
Investment properties	(318,750)	(191,250)
Other investments	26,363	(57,830)
Investment income and rent from investments	(115,588)	(101,960)
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	5,014	4,279
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(18,245)	15,574
Net cash used in operating activities	(191,155)	(151,938)
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents		
CFB deposits	368,510	383,142
Cash at bank and in hand	16,985	25,414
Net cash used in operating activities	385,495	408,556

Berkshire and Hampshire Borders Methodist Circuit

England & Wales - Charity number 1134891

Accounts

Registered Charity Number: 1134891

BASINGSTOKE & READING METHODIST CIRCUIT

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 August 2021

BASINGSTOKE & READING METHODIST CIRCUIT

Annual Report and Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 August 2021

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Basingstoke & Reading Methodist Circuit
Southampton District, circuit number 26/4
Annual report for the year ended 31st August 2021

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The Circuit

Basingstoke and Reading Methodist Circuit was formed on 1 September 2014 as a result of the merger of Basingstoke Methodist Circuit and Reading & Silchester Methodist Circuit. The Circuit is a separate legal entity within the Methodist Church and is required under Charity law to prepare separate accounts.

The Circuit is a registered charity (England & Wales) number 1134891.

There are 23 churches within the Circuit, with a total membership of 1,032. The churches are spread around Reading and Basingstoke and the neighbouring towns and villages of Bradfield, Burghfield Common, Mortimer, Tadley and Silchester. Several have local ecumenical partnerships with Anglican, Baptist and/or United Reformed churches.

Trustees

The Circuit's trustees, who are all members of the Circuit Meeting, are listed on page 2.

Executive and leadership functions

The Circuit Stewards (who are ex officio members of the Circuit Meeting) are responsible for ensuring that the decisions of the Circuit Meeting are executed. The following served as Circuit Stewards during the year:

Alan Harland (also Circuit Treasurer)
Margaret Hayes
Terence Rowell
Marianne Sales

The Strategic Executive Group (SEG) gives longer-term vision to the Circuit's affairs and comprises a mix of stipendiary and lay members of the Circuit Meeting. The following, who are also members of the Circuit Meeting, served on SEG this year: Reverends Midcalf, Shaw, Browne, Moffoot, Beukes and Deacon Maria Howard; three circuit stewards (Alan Harland ex officio Finance, Margaret Hayes and Marianne Sales); two representing local preachers and worship leaders (June Hardcastle and Paddy Jose); and Mary Ludlow, representing lay employees. Marion Young, who is also a member of the Circuit Meeting, is secretary to SEG.

Custodian trustees

The custodian trustees are the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

Contacting the Circuit

The Circuit's principal office is 84 Queen's Road, Reading RG1 4BW, telephone 0118 958 1505. The Circuit's website is www.basingstokereadingmethodists.uk

Bankers

The Circuit's bankers are the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church, 9 Bonhill Street, London EC2A 4PE; and CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ.

Auditors and professional advisers

The Circuit's auditors are James Cowper Kreston, Reading Bridge House, George Street, Reading, RG1 8LS.

The Circuit engages advisers for legal affairs and property services as required.

Basingstoke & Reading Methodist Circuit
Southampton District, circuit number 26/4
Annual report for the year ended 31st August 2021

Managing trustees

The managing trustees, who are all members of the Circuit Meeting are as follows:

Dr Stephen Appiah
Mrs Diane Bath
Mrs Tessa Bennett
Rev Martin Beukes
Mr Peter Boardley
Mr Tony Bonnett
Rev Audrey Browne
Mrs Dusty Brough
Mrs Patricia Brown
Mrs Brenda Caborn
Rev Jackie Case
Mr Ray Chalk
Mr Peter Chapman
Rev Jonathon Clark
Mr David Cliffe
Mrs Jacqueline Davies
Mrs Jan Davies
Rev Jenny Dowding
Mr John Drabble
Mrs Jill Draper
Mrs Gerry Duggan
Mrs Margaret Ellison
Mrs Christine Embelton
Rev Chris Evans
Rev Valerie Fisher
Mr Kenneth Fordjour
Mr Donald Fraser
Mr Peter Frank
Mr Martin Goodwin
Mr Neil Graham
Mr David Gunton
Ms Pam Guy
Mrs June Hardcastle
Mr Alan Harland
Mrs Charmian Harrison
Mrs Margaret Hayes
Mr Colin Hinks
Mr Alan Holloway
Mrs Beverley Holloway
Deacon Maria Howard
Mr Paul Isgar
Rev David Jenkins
Mrs Paddy Jose
Mr Michael Kimber
Mrs Patricia Kinchington
Miss Helen Khan
Mr Alvin Laird
Mrs Linda Langridge
Mrs Gill Lawson
Mrs Jennifer Leighton
Mrs Rosemary Lister
Mrs Mary Ludlow
Mrs Valerie Main
Rev Lesley Martin
Rev James Mather
Mrs Sandra McKenzie
Mr Alan Meakin
Mrs Grace Mercer
Rev Dr Ruth Midcalf
Rev Andrew Moffoot
Mrs Yvonne Moss
Mr Sam Nyamakope
Mr Michael Parker
Mrs Ann Peddle
Mr James Peddle
Mrs Hilary Reed
Mr Terry Rowell
Miss Marianne Sales
Rev Jonathan Salmon
Rev David Shaw
Mrs Margaret Simpson
Mr Jonathon Skeet
Mrs Maz Slater
Miss Samantha Slater
Mr Norman Smart
Mr Michael Smith
Miss Ruth Stacey
Rev Dr John Sumitra
Mrs Heather Symons
Mrs Gina Tagoe
Ms Janet Talbot
Mrs Ruth Taylor
Mr Keith Waite
Mr Tim Wale
Mr Richard Walkem
Ms Mary Walton
Ms Marion Wales
Mr Michael Warner
Mr Robert Watson
Mrs Sarah Whithorn
Mrs Marion Young
Mr Peter Young

Basingstoke & Reading Methodist Circuit
Southampton District, circuit number 26/4
Annual report for the year ended 31st August 2021

The members of the Circuit Meeting (as managing trustees) have pleasure in presenting their annual report and the audited accounts for the year.

1. Objectives and activities

The Circuit's vision statement is *"Inspired and led by the Holy Spirit, we shall love, resource and encourage one another; share Christ with our neighbour; and grow God's kingdom. In doing that, we shall place people before buildings; mission before maintenance; and God over church."* In February 2020 the Circuit adopted a mission strategy entitled 'Nourished and Fed: Ready to Share'

The Circuit's purpose is to provide resources to support ministry in local churches. The Circuit does this through the provision of ordained ministers and deacons, lay staff and Circuit officers to support service and ministry from the Circuit's 23 churches to their local communities. The Circuit also has responsibility for the upkeep and maintenance of 6 manses and 7 investment properties.

The Circuit produces a quarterly preaching plan to ensure regular acts of worship take place at each of the 18 Methodist Churches and 5 Local Ecumenical Partnerships in its geographical area. These are available to all people without charge. The Circuit is also directly involved with outreach work, with a particular emphasis on children and families, schools, and support for foodbanks.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)', when reviewing the Circuit's aims and objectives. The Circuit is pursuing its objectives through the following strategies by providing:

- Staffing resources and other assistance to churches for ministry to their communities;
- Grants for outreach activities and improvements to churches' premises that will facilitate access to ministry;
- Training through study, mentoring and examination for lay preachers and worship leaders;
- Training and support in safeguarding awareness;
- Opportunities for staff and members of church congregations to meet for fellowship, worship and learning; and
- Care for those who have retired from full-time service in the Methodist Church.

2. Achievements and performance

The Circuit has continued to benefit from strong and effective ministerial and lay leadership. This is now focussed through the Strategic Executive Group, which was formed in September 2015 and comprises representatives from ordained staff, the circuit stewards, and lay members of the circuit meeting. The Group's brief is to take a more strategic view in leading the Circuit through a period of change and guiding the allocation of resources in the most effective direction.

The Circuit has also continued to benefit from its large group of established local preachers. Currently two individuals are 'on note' as intending local preachers and two more are 'on trial' whilst they undertake training. Churches continued to develop worship using a variety of forms and technology through 21 accredited worship leaders with five more in training.

The Circuit Meeting approved a grant of £30,000 from Model Trust Fund to Tilehurst Methodist Church to support ongoing work with families and young people, and £500 was allowed to support work of Churches Together in Berkshire. Further details are provided in Note 10 to the Accounts.

The Circuit produced devotional resources for Advent 2020 that were distributed to all the Circuit's churches for use by individuals, small groups, or in worship. The Circuit is actively involved through lay staff with outreach projects in Basingstoke, with young people and the Town Centre Chaplaincy.

Sadly, all churches remained to closed for times during the year as part of the nationwide efforts to counter the coronavirus pandemic. As the restrictions were, churches have been adapted to be Covid-secure so that they can continue to be used for worship or for activities organised or sponsored by the churches. Such activities include cafes, Boys' or Girls' Brigades or youth clubs, or by local

community organisations notably those promoting fitness and health, music and dance. The income from external lettings makes a valued contribution towards upkeep of church premises, and churches' finances will have been stretched by the loss of lettings income during the enforced closures and afterwards.

The lockdown periods brought significant changes to Sunday worship services. Much use has been made of Zoom and similar platforms for broadcasting services across the internet. Many churches arrange and hold their own services, and others use the service organise by the Circuit each week. Churches are investing in technology to film services, and this has opportunities for use for example with concerts held at churches being made available to a wider audience.

The churches have continued to develop ways and means for outreach into local communities, for example the quiet garden at Silchester and community cafés. Several churches have Messy Church; lunch, holiday and after-school clubs; or tailored children, families and youth work. Whilst much of this had been put on hold due to coronavirus, many activities have since resumed. Some churches act as a collection point for shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Much work is being done to support foodbanks across the Circuit's communities.

Many outreach projects are carried out in partnership with churches from other denominations, such as the REinspired and 'Open the Book' programmes for delivering religious education in schools, a weekly lunch club in Whitley, and the 'Loneliness Project' in Caversham. Wesley Methodist Church participated in 'Bed for the Night', an ecumenical initiative providing accommodation and food for the homeless in Reading. Trinity Basingstoke's Soup Lunch has developed contacts with foodbank users.

3. Financial review

The attached Statement of Financial Affairs (SOFA) summarises the Circuit's income and expenditure for the year, supplemented by the Cash Flow statement and the Notes to the Financial Statements. The Balance Sheet shows the Circuit's assets, liabilities and reserves.

The net expenditure for the year was £69,831 before investment gains (2020: net expenditure of £59,710). The increase in net expenditure of £10,121 resulted from the following:

	£
Churches' assessments were reduced	27,285
Donations received were less than the prior year	12,982
Investment income and bank interest was less	4,648
Rental income from manses was higher with fewer void periods	-8,286
Proceeds received (gross) from sale of a ransom strip	-26,200
Staff costs were higher	16,749
Manse maintenance and other costs (net of contributions) were lower	-40,677
Grant to Tilehurst Methodist Church to support lay employee salary	30,000
Other grants to churches were less	-7,220
Other variations, net	840
	10,121

After recognising gains on investment properties and other assets of £249,080, net income for the year was £179,249 (2020: net expenditure of £67,960 after investment losses of £8,250). Upward revaluation of freehold property increased funds by £250,000 (2020: £nil).

The Balance Sheet summarises the Circuit's assets, liabilities and funds. Net assets (and thus aggregate funds) at 31st August 2021 were £6,827,666 (2020, revised: £6,398,417). The increase in net assets of £429,249 results from changes to assets and liabilities as follows:

	£
Investment valuation gains	249,080
Investment sales less purchases	-1,768
Revaluation of operational properties	250,000
Net expenditure funded through investment portfolio (principally Model Trust Fund)	-83,782
Increase in net current assets	15,719
Increase in net assets	429,849

The Circuit's net assets are held in either endowment, restricted or unrestricted funds. A full analysis of the individual funds, and the objectives for which income and/or capital may be applied, is provided in Notes 20 to 22 in these financial statements. These funds may be summarised as follows:

	£	£
Endowment funds		
The income from these funds is applied to ministry within the Circuit, The capital is not available for use*		254,548
Restricted funds		
Available for financing capital schemes - Arthur Newbery Trust*	220,742	
Available for funding revenue expenditure as specified by donors	14,454	
		235,196
Unrestricted funds		
Manse capital fund (equivalent to the value of manse and investment properties)		5,812,750
Circuit Model Trust Fund, for financing churches' property and mission schemes through grants*		166,447
Funds available for financing Circuit occasional expenditure:		
Circuit development fund, for training and mission projects	50,607	
Youth work fund	2,500	
Kentwood fund, for supporting churches small building schemes	12,973	
		66,080
Funds for financing Circuit annual operating expenditure		
General funds, for all purposes	244,211	
Manse maintenance fund, for repairs, maintenance and refurbishment	48,434	
		292,645
Total funds		6,827,666

4. Reserves policies

The Circuit is required to have policies regarding the level of reserves to be held in respect of funds for financing Circuit annual operating expenditure. Policies are not required in respect of other funds since these are not held primarily for revenue purposes and there are restrictions on how the funds may be used. The funds marked (*) are managed by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

The Circuit's annual operating expenditure includes the cost of ministerial and lay staff, provision of manses, travel and administrative expenses, and contributions to the Methodist Southampton District and Methodist Church central funds. This expenditure is funded by assessments on the Circuit's churches, investment income, rents on surplus manses, and contributions from the Model Trust Fund.

Assessments on churches are calculated as part of the Circuit's annual budget process. Increases in assessments on churches are limited to 10%, and not more than 95% of a church's income (70% if the church has no buildings).

The Circuit's budget reflects the impact of anticipated changes in staffing levels, the maintenance needs of its residential property portfolio, and any amounts to be drawn from reserves to support the planned expenditure. The Circuit Meeting approves the budget and assessments, and the amounts to be carried forward in reserves.

Proposed drawings from the restricted funds of the Circuit to assist churches with building improvements and fund improvements to the manses are considered and approved on a case-by-case basis by the Circuit Meeting.

In setting its reserves policy the Circuit Meeting also considers the financial health of the churches in the Circuit which has impacted on their ability to fund the annual Circuit assessment. The Circuit's reserves policies are to maintain at least:

- A general fund balance of £150,000, sufficient to cover three months' running costs; and
- A manse maintenance fund balance of at least £50,000, sufficient also for three months' running costs of approximately £20,000 plus £30,000 for unexpected repairs to manses.

The balances on these reserves at 31 August 2021 were £244,211 and £48,434 respectively. The excess on General Fund over the policy of £150,000 will be used to used over the next three years in funding expected budget deficits.

The Circuit's budget for the year commencing 1 September 2021 shows net expenditure of £77,643 on General Fund and a surplus of £13,744 on Manse Maintenance Fund. The General Fund deficit will be partly relieved by a transfer from Model Trust Fund of £13,744 towards the cost of providing specialist resources support across the Circuit's churches. The trustees consider the Circuit to be a going concern.

5. Investment policies

In accordance with the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church, the Circuit's investments are managed on its behalf by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP), Central Buildings, Oldham Street Manchester M1 1JQ. TMCP acts as custodian trustee for all properties held by Circuits, for all large bequests (ie over £20,000) and for the proceeds of sale of any property where the Circuit was managing trustee. These sums are invested in unitised investments or held on deposit.

Short term deposits are lodged with the Central Finance Board (CFB) of the Methodist Church.

The Circuit's investment policies are aligned with those of TMCP and the CFB because these organisations take into consideration the social, environmental and ethical issues, both negatively and positively, that make investments suitable for the Methodist Church.

6. Pay and remuneration policies

Ministers are stationed in the Circuit by the Methodist Conference. Ministers' remuneration is set nationally by the Methodist Church. Ministers are members of the Methodist Ministers Pension Scheme. Contribution rates are set nationally by the Methodist Church.

Lay employees are directly employed by the Circuit. Lay employee remuneration is based on the Methodist Church's guidance for the setting of pay rates for lay employees. Lay employee pay rates are in excess of the National Living Wage. The Circuit offers a pension scheme to its lay employees. The Circuit matches lay employee contributions up to 10% of salary. The minimum employer contribution rate is 6%. No member of staff is paid in excess of £60,000 per annum.

Information on the payment of expenses to trustees and remuneration of key management personnel is disclosed in the notes to the Circuit's accounts.

7. Structure and governance

The Circuit was established in accordance with the constitution of the Methodist Church. Its organisation is structured around its bi-annual circuit meeting. The Circuit also holds bi-annual gatherings to which members of all churches are invited for worship, discussion, prayer and activities.

The members of the Circuit Meeting are the trustees of the Circuit. The Circuit Meeting comprises the Circuit staff and officers, and representatives from each church in the Circuit and the local preachers' meeting. Each church council and the local preachers meeting elect representatives to the Circuit Meeting annually. The Circuit officers are appointed annually by Circuit Meeting.

The Circuit Meeting is supported by separate monthly meetings of ordained staff and circuit stewards to conduct day-to-day business and consider matters to be brought to the attention of the Circuit Meeting. A Strategic Executive Group was set up in September 2015 following a review of the Circuit's governance. This group's responsibilities include circuit strategy and vision, resource planning and oversight of probationers and candidates. A number of focussed 'Getting It Done' and 'Special Interest' Groups focus on prayer, preparation of worship materials, arranging Circuit gatherings and managing our property portfolio.

8. Administrative details

These details are provided on page 1 to these financial statements.

9. Principal risks and uncertainties

The major risks to which the Circuit is exposed have been identified by the Circuit Meeting and are listed below. A major risk is defined as one that, if realised could fundamentally affect the way in which the Circuit operates or achieves its outcomes in the next one to three years.

	Risk	Evaluation	Commentary
A	Churches cannot afford to pay their assessments. This would affect the ability of the Circuit to fund staffing	Moderate	The Circuit takes into account church income when setting assessments on churches.
B	The Circuit cannot maintain residential properties to appropriate standards	Low	Surveyors carry out inspections every five years to assist planning repairs and maintenance. There is sufficient in the Model Trust Fund for works needed in the medium term
C	The Circuit is unable to fill stations with presbyters, deacons or lay staff where appropriate.	Moderate	There is a Connexional shortage of presbyters, and sometimes vacancies cannot be filled immediately
D	The Circuit is unable to attract circuit stewards and other office holders with appropriate skills and expertise	Moderate	The Circuit is heavily dependent on such individuals and the time that they commit to the Circuit's life and work. At present most posts are filled.
E	Churches are unable to attract office holders with sufficient time, skills and expertise to enable them to continue operating	Moderate	If churches cease to operate, the Circuit may need to become managing trustee for the site.

10. Further information

If further information is required on the Circuit's life and witness, please first contact Mrs Marion Young, at the Circuit office (see page 1).

11. Statement of trustees' responsibilities

Charity law requires the Circuit Meeting to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of the Circuit as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing those financial statements, the Circuit Meeting are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue on that basis.

The Circuit Meeting are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Circuit Meeting



Rev David Shaw
Chair of Meeting 28 February 2022

Basingstoke & Reading Methodist Circuit
Southampton District, circuit number 26/4
Annual report for the year ended 31st August 2021

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of Basingstoke & Reading Methodist Circuit

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Basingstoke & Reading Methodist Circuit (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 August 2020 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2020 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 8 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate, or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

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

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are

required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

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

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

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

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

- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance and the entity's solicitors (or in-house legal team) around actual and potential legislation and claims;
- Enquiry of entity staff in tax and compliance functions to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Reviewing internal audit reports;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to support documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias,

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Councils website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

Darren O'Connor BSc (Hons) FCCA FCA, *Senior Statutory Auditor*
For and on behalf of James Cowper Kreston, Statutory Auditor

James Cowper Kreston is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

Reading Bridge House
George Street
Reading
Berkshire
RG1 8LS

14/3/22

BASINGSTOKE & READING METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ended 31 August 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds General Funds	Unrestricted funds Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2021
		£	£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Donations and legacies		-	-	-	-	-
Charitable income						
Assessments on churches		449,850	-	-	-	449,850
Other income	4	431	30,243	-	-	30,674
Investments						
Lettings income		-	93,624	-	-	93,624
Investment income and interest	3	7,259	832	110	135	8,336
Total income and endowments		457,540	124,699	110	135	582,484
EXPENDITURE						
Charitable expenditure						
Stipends, salaries and associated costs	5	357,172	-	-	-	357,172
Assessments and levies	6	105,738	13,839	-	-	119,577
Manse running costs	7	-	74,432	-	-	74,432
Grants and donations	10	500	30,000	100	-	30,600
Administration and travel	8	23,264	-	-	-	23,264
Other outgoings	9	11,041	33,566	-	-	44,607
Raising funds						
Investment management costs		513	502	65	1,583	2,663
Total expenditure		498,228	152,339	165	1,583	652,315
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/losses		(40,688)	(27,640)	(55)	(1,448)	(69,831)
Investment realised & unrealised gains/(losses)						
Investment properties	15	-	191,250	-	-	191,250
Other	16	-	-	27,789	30,041	57,830
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		(40,688)	163,610	27,734	28,593	179,249
Transfers between funds		58,610	(58,610)	-	-	-
Revaluation of freehold property	14	-	250,000			250,000
Net movement in funds		17,922	355,000	27,734	28,593	429,249
Total funds brought forward (revised)		226,289	5,738,711	207,462	225,955	6,398,417
Total funds at 31 August 2021		244,211	6,093,711	235,196	254,548	6,827,666

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 14 to 23 form part of these Financial Statements.

BASINGSTOKE & READING METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ended 31 August 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds General Funds £	Unrestricted Funds Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2020 (restated) £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Donations and legacies		-	12,982	-	-	12,982
Charitable income						-
Assessments on churches		477,135	-	-	-	477,135
Other income	4	170	11,468	-	-	11,638
Investments						
Lettings income		-	85,338	-	-	85,338
Investment income and interest	3	9,706	2,651	280	347	12,984
Total income and endowments		487,011	112,439	280	347	600,077
EXPENDITURE						
Charitable expenditure						
Stipends, salaries and associated costs	5	340,423	-	-	-	340,423
Assessments and levies	6	104,249	15,396	-	-	119,645
Manse running costs	7	-	121,971	-	-	121,971
Grants and donations	10	500	6,998	322	-	7,820
Administration and travel	8	28,282	-	-	-	28,282
Other outgoings	9	13,819	25,542	-	-	39,361
Raising funds						
Investment management costs		-	642	65	1,578	2,285
Total expenditure		487,273	170,549	387	1,578	659,787
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/losses		(262)	(58,110)	(107)	(1,231)	(59,710)
Investment realised & unrealised gains/(losses)						
Investment properties		-	-	-	-	-
Other investments	16	-	-	(2,718)	(5,532)	(8,250)
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		(262)	(58,110)	(2,825)	(6,763)	(67,960)
Transfers between funds		13,661	(11,464)	(2,197)	-	-
Revaluation of freehold property		-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		13,399	(69,574)	(5,022)	(6,763)	(67,960)
Total funds brought forward		212,890	5,808,285	212,484	232,718	6,466,377
Total funds at 31 August 2020 (revised)		226,289	5,738,711	207,462	225,955	6,398,417

The amount stated for funds brought forward on General Fund has been reduced by £16,600 in respect of a grant commitment made as of February 2017 that had not previously been accrued
The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
The notes on pages 14 to 23 form part of these Financial Statements.

BASINGSTOKE & READING METHODIST CIRCUIT

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 August 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2021 £	2020 (restated) £	2020 (restated) £
FIXED ASSETS					
Freehold properties; manses	14		3,195,000		2,945,000
Investment properties	15		2,617,750		2,426,500
Investments	16		652,509		680,229
			6,465,259		6,051,729
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	17	38,564		42,843	
Central Finance Board deposits		383,142		347,969	
Cash at bank and in hand		25,414		25,015	
		447,120		415,827	
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	18	84,713		69,139	
Net Current Assets			362,407		346,688
NET ASSETS	19		6,827,666		6,398,417
FUNDS					
Endowment funds	20		254,548		225,955
Restricted funds	21		235,196		207,462
Unrestricted funds	22		6,337,922		5,965,000
			6,827,666		6,398,417

The amount stated for funds brought forward on General Fund has been reduced by £16,600 in respect of a grant commitment made as of February 2017 that had not previously been accrued.

The Financial Statements were approved by the Managing Trustees on 28 February 2022 and are signed on their behalf by:-

.....
Rev David Shaw
Chair of Meeting

.....
Alan Harland
Circuit steward & treasurer

The notes on pages 14 to 23 form part of these Financial statements

BASINGSTOKE & READING METHODIST CIRCUIT

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Cash used in operating activities	25	(151,938)	(198,580)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		101,960	98,322
Proceeds from sale of property		-	-
Expenditure funded through investment portfolio		83,782	71,156
Purchase of investments		(40,980)	(7,292)
Investment sale proceeds		42,748	8,506
Cash provided by investing activities		187,510	170,692
(Reduction)/increase in cash and cash equivalents in year		35,572	(27,888)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		372,984	400,872
Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of year		**408,556**	**372,984**

1 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) as updated by Bulletin 1, and the Companies Act 2006. These statements are denominated in Sterling, rounded to the nearest £.

The Basingstoke and Reading Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The accounts have been prepared on the basis of historic cost except that investments and properties are shown at their market value.

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available to the Circuit at 31 August 2021 the trustees believe that the accounts should be prepared on a going concern basis.

Fund Accounting

The funds constitute:

Unrestricted funds which include general funds held for any purpose of the Circuit; the Circuit Model Trust Fund which has wide purposes defined in Standing Orders and is categorised as unrestricted; and other designated funds that are held for purposes agreed by the Circuit Meeting.

Restricted funds are funds that can only be used for specific restricted purposes as laid down by the donor.

Endowment funds which represent gifts that are held as capital to generate income that is available for either restricted or unrestricted purposes.

Income and endowments

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Circuit becomes entitled to the resources, the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources, and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Expenditure

Resources expended are accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred or a constructive obligation arises that results in the payment being unavoidable. The Circuit is not VAT registered so expenditure is stated inclusive of VAT where applicable.

Grants

Grants by the Circuit are recognised at the time of agreement to pay (without performance conditions), or when it is accepted there is an obligation to pay (if subject to performance conditions). Where grants are payable over more than one year, the accrual is discounted to net present value if the difference is material.

Connexional donations - acting as agent

The Circuit acts as agent in collecting from churches and then paying over their contributions to various Methodist Connexional funds and other external organisations. These transactions are therefore not reflected in the SOFA but are disclosed in Notes to the Accounts as required by the SORP (FRS102), module 19.12.

Ownership of Methodist property

Under the Methodist Church Act 1976 the ownership of Methodist property in England, Wales and Scotland was on 16 April 1977 automatically transferred to the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP). Property includes stocks, shares, unit trust investments and all other securities as well as land, buildings and chattels. TMCP holds such property as custodian trustees. The management of this property is vested in the relevant managing trustees who must act in accordance with the Model Trusts and the Standing Orders made under them. The property for which the Circuit are managing trustees is included in the Circuit's accounts.

1 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Tangible fixed assets
Assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost more than £2,500. Freehold property is stated at market value, which is reviewed annually. Office equipment and other plant is stated at cost. Depreciation is calculated on the straight line basis at 20% on office equipment and other plant but is not provided on freehold property since this is revalued annually.

Investment properties
Properties that are no longer required as manses are held as investment properties. They are stated at market value, which is reviewed annually.

Financial instruments
The Circuit only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Investments
Investments are included at market value at the Balance Sheet date. Investment income is included in the accounts when receivable and any gains or losses on revaluation at the year end are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The investments are in monetary assets. Except for the Briggs Trust funds which are managed by Lloyds Bank, the Circuit's investment assets are held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees. The valuations, at market value, are those as provided by Lloyds Bank and TMCP as at 31 August 2021.

Staff costs

The ministers are paid stipends at rates set by the Methodist Conference. The lay employees are paid salaries at rates set by the Circuit.

The Circuit makes payments to the Methodist Ministers Pension Fund and into a pension scheme for its lay employees. The charge represents the amount payable in respect of the year.

Ministers' manse costs
The Circuit is required to provide accommodation for each minister and their families, and ministers are expected to occupy them. The Circuit bears the cost of repairs and maintenance, premises insurance, council tax and water charges. These are not regarded as benefits in kind by HM Revenue & Customs.

2 CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and current factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The Circuit trustees make estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition,seldom equal the related actual results. The only estimates and assumptions that have significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

Land and buildings
The carrying values of land and buildings within tangible fixed assets and investment properties have been reviewed by the trustees based on a professional valuation for accounts purposes at the balance sheet date.

3 INTEREST & INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bank interest	467	-	-	-	467	2,515
Investment income	6,792	832	110	135	7,869	10,469
	7,259	832	110	135	8,336	12,984

4 OTHER INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Insurance claims	-	1,389	-	-	1,389	1,950
Ransom strip sale proceeds	-	26,200	-	-	26,200	-
Staffing and shared manse costs	-	2,654	-	-	2,654	9,516
Other	431	-	-	-	431	172
	431	30,243	-	-	30,674	11,638

5 STAFF COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Stipends and salaries	276,785	-	-	-	276,785	265,707
National Insurance	20,971	-	-	-	20,971	20,445
Pension contributions	54,007	-	-	-	54,007	51,651
Apprenticeship levy	1,504				1,504	1,310
Relocation expenses	3,906				3,906	1,310
	357,173	-	-	-	357,173	340,423

The ministers are stationed in the Circuit by the Methodist Conference and are paid stipends at rates agreed by the Conference. The lay employees are employees of the Circuit and are paid salaries at rates set by the Circuit. The pay costs of both the ministers and lay employees are reflected in the accounts. The remuneration of those members of staff in senior management positions (ie on the Strategic Executive Team) were £165,602 (2020: £108,775); and the full cost including employer pension and National Insurance contributions was £220,904 (2020: £144,468).

Salaries and pension contributions are in line with guidance provided by the Methodist Church.

The number of staff during the year was	15	15

No members of staff received emoluments amounting to over £60,000 in the year.
During the year, no trustee received any remuneration for the role of trustee.

6 ASSESSMENTS AND LEVIES

	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
District assessment	16,104	-	-	-	16,104	16,085
Methodist Church Fund	84,383	-	-	-	84,383	82,483
Contributions to District Advance Fund	-	10,045	-	-	10,045	15,396
Cionnexional Property Fund levy on proceeds		3,794			3,794	-
United Reformed Church assessments	4,916	-	-	-	4,916	5,356
Church of England assessments	335	-	-	-	335	325
	105,738	13,839	-	-	119,577	119,645

7 MANSE RUNNING COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Insurance and utilities	-	27,972	-	-	27,972	31,811
Rent payable	-	19,200	-	-	19,200	6,950
Repairs and maintenance	-	27,260	-	-	27,260	83,210
	-	74,432	-	-	74,432	121,971

8 ADMINISTRATION AND TRAVEL

	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Telephone costs	8,090	-	-	-	8,090	6,908
Administrative expenses	2,309	-	-	-	2,309	3,344
Publications	1,699	-	-	-	1,699	1,710
Circuit office rent	4,400	-	-	-	4,400	4,800
Travel expenses	6,766	-	-	-	6,766	11,520
	23,264	-	-	-	23,264	28,282

9 OTHER OUTGOINGS

	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Audit fees	6,720	-	-	-	6,720	6,840
Professional fees						
Property management	576	26,336	-	-	26,912	26,118
Sale of ransom strip	-	7,230			7,230	-
Other expenditure	3,745	-	-	-	3,745	6,403
	11,041	33,566	-	-	44,607	39,361

10 GRANTS AND DONATIONS

The following grants were agreed and/or paid during the year and charged to the funds concerned (see Notes 18 - 20). Associated support costs are insignificant and have not been disclosed separately

	Paid	Accrued	Total 2021	Total 2020
General funds (unrestricted)	£	£	£	£
Reading University Chaplaincy	500		500	-
Churches Together in Berkshire	-	-	-	500
	500	-	500	500
Designated funds (unrestricted)				
Model Trust Fund				
Tilehurst Methodist Church towards funding lay employee post	30,000	-	30,000	-
Christ Church Woodley, kitchen reurbishment	-	-	-	4,000
Kentwood Fund			-	
Small grants paid to churches	-	-	-	4,100
	30,000	-	30,000	8,100
Benevolence fund (restricted)				
Payments	100	-	100	322
	30,600	-	**30,600**	**8,922**

11 VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS

The Circuit is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills and time in the furtherance of the work of the Circuit. Principally this contribution is by serving as circuit and manse stewards and serving on groups that plan circuit events and meetings, support the Circuit's safeguarding work and the Circuit's Strategic Executive Group.

No attempt has been made by the Trustees to value the non monetary contributions made by volunteers in monetary terms.

12 PAYMENTS TO TRUSTEES

Several of the Circuit staff are also trustees of the Circuit. The ministers are paid stipends and travel expenses at the rates agreed annually by the Methodist Conference. The lay employees who are Trustees are paid in line with the principles of the Methodist Church's policy for payment of lay employees. The ministers Rev'ds Shaw, Browne, Jenkins, Bekes, Mather, Moffoot and Midcalf and Deacon Maria Howard and the lay employees Mary Ludlow, Peter Frank, Tessa Bennett and Marion Young received stipend and salary payments of £250,296 (2020: £240,689).

Some of the members of the Circuit meeting have received payments from the Circuit in their capacity as manse or property stewards where they have either carried out maintenance work at manses rather than employing a contractor or incurred expenses connected with their role. Other members of the Circuit meeting have been employed as a contractor in connection with their trade or business. These amounted to £nil during the year (2020: £845).

Expenses paid to members of the Circuit Meeting were as follows:	2021 £	2020 £
Travel expenses	3,883	10,089
Pulpit supply costs	2,340	3,775
Manse expenses reimbursed	1,711	390
Administration and other ministry expenses reimbursed	1,157	4,360
	9,091	18,614
Number of trustees who were paid expenses	16	19

13 PENSIONS

The ministers belong to the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme. This is a defined benefit scheme. The Circuit pays a contribution of 26.95% of stipend to the scheme. It is not possible to identify the Circuit's share of assets and liabilities. The results of the latest completed actuarial valuation which was carried out on 1 September 2017, assuming that the Scheme continues into the future, were as follows:

	2017 £'m
Target level of assets	449.7
Actual value of assets	469.3
Surplus/shortfall(-) in assets	19.6
Funding level	104.40%

As the Scheme was in surplus at 1 September 2017, a recovery plan was no longer required; but, because the margin of surplus was relatively small, it was considered prudent to maintain contributions at existing levels rather than reduce and have to increase again. Circuits have been paying total contributions at 26.9% of stipend remuneration since 1 September 2013. The next review, which is due as at 1 September 2020, has been carried out but has not yet been completed.

The Circuit belongs to a multi-employer defined contribution pension scheme operated by The Pensions Trust which is offered to lay employees. The Circuit matches their contributions to the scheme up to 10% of pay.

In line with FRS102 28.38, there is no contractual agreement and therefore the cost recognised is equal to the contributions payable for the period.

14 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Land £	Buildings £	Total £
Valuation			
At 1 September 2020	985,000	1,960,000	2,945,000
Revaluation change	80,000	170,000	250,000
At 31 August 2021	1,065,000	2,130,000	3,195,000
Depreciation			
At 1 September 2020	-	-	-
Provision for the year	-	-	-
At 31 August 2021	-	-	-
Net Book Value			
At 1 September 2020	985,000	1,960,000	2,945,000
At 31 August 2021	1,065,000	2,130,000	3,195,000

The manses were revalued by the trustees at 31 August 2021, following a professional valuation for accounts purposes as at that date by Haslams, Chartered Surveyors. The historical value of land and buildings if they had not been revalued was £2,695,511 (31 August 2020: £2,695,511).

15 INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

	Land £	Buildings £	Total £
Valuation			
At 1 September 2020	806,500	1,620,000	2,426,500
Revaluation change	62,750	128,500	191,250
At 31 August 2021	869,250	1,748,500	2,617,750

The manses were revalued by the trustees at 31 August 2021, following a professional valuation for accounts purposes as at that date by Haslams, Chartered Surveyors. The historical value of land and buildings if they had not been revalued was £1,791,493 (31 August 2020: £1,791,493).

16 INVESTMENTS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Balance at 1 September 2020	334,426	343,888
Additions	40,980	7,292
Disposals	(42,748)	(8,506)
Unrealised gains/(losses)	57,830	(8,248)
	390,488	334,426
Cash held	262,021	345,803
Balance at 31 August 2021	652,509	680,229

Analysis of investments

Investments listed on a recognised Stock Exchange or held in common investment funds, unit trusts or other collective investment schemes	390,487	334,426
Other investments	95,575	95,209
Circuit Model Trust cash holdings	166,447	250,594
	652,509	680,229

17 DEBTORS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Sundry debtors	6,976	7,806
Stipends paid in advance	20,118	19,896
Prepayments	11,470	15,141
	38,564	42,843

18 CREDITORS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Assessments	34,264	35,701
Other creditors	2,776	3,922
Grants payable to churches	18,600	18,600
Accruals	29,073	10,916
	84,713	69,139

19 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Fixed Assets	Investment Property	Other Investments	Current Assets (net)	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Funds, year ended 31 August 2021					
Endowment funds	-	-	254,548	-	254,548
Restricted funds	-	-	231,514	3,682	235,196
Unrestricted funds	3,195,000	2,617,750	166,447	358,725	6,337,922
	3,195,000	2,617,750	652,509	362,407	6,827,666
Funds, year ended 31 August 2020 (restated, see pages 11 & 12)					
Endowment funds	-	-	225,955	-	225,955
Restricted funds	-	-	203,680	3,782	207,462
Unrestricted funds	2,945,000	2,426,500	250,594	342,906	5,965,000
	2,945,000	2,426,500	680,229	346,688	6,398,417

20 ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	Opening balances	Net income/ (expenditure)	Investment gains/(losses)	Transfers	Closing balances
Movements in year ended 31 August 2021	£	£	£	£	£
Arthur Newbery Trust 5446 (Trustees Investment Fund: TIF	359	-	-	-	359
Arthur Newbery Trust 4345 (TIF)	30,599	42	-	-	30,641
Arthur Newbery Trust 4763 (Methodist Managed Mixed Funds & TIF)	85,268	-	15,633	-	100,901
Arthur Newbery Trust 5447 (TIF)	337	-	-	-	337
Arthur Newbery Trust 3669 (TIF)	9,535	13	-	-	9,548
AJ Briggs Trust (managed by Lloyds Bank Private Banking)	99,857	(1,503)	14,408	-	112,762
	225,955	(1,448)	30,041	-	254,548
Movements in year ended 31 August 2020					
Arthur Newbery Trust 5446 (Trustees Investment Fund: TIF	359	-	-	-	359
Arthur Newbery Trust 4345 (TIF)	30,399	200	-	-	30,599
Arthur Newbery Trust 4763 (Methodist Managed Mixed Funds & TIF)	86,797	-	(1,529)	-	85,268
Arthur Newbery Trust 5447 (TIF)	337	-	-	-	337
Arthur Newbery Trust 3669 (TIF)	9,471	64	-	-	9,535
AJ Briggs Trust (managed by Lloyds Bank Private Banking)	105,355	(1,498)	(4,000)	-	99,857
	232,718	(1,234)	(5,529)	-	225,955

The investment income generated by funds 5446, 4763 and 3669 is used to fund the Circuit's day to day running costs. The investment income generated by funds 4345 and 3669 is held in the fund. The income generated by the AJ Briggs Trust is used to fund ministry in

21 RESTRICTED FUNDS

Movements in year ended 31 August 2021	£	£	£	£	£
Benevolence fund	3,782	(100)	-	-	3,682
Edith Bailey Bequest (supporting people)	10,757	15	-	-	10,772
Arthur Newbery Trust (financing capital schemes in the Circuit)	192,923	30	27,789	-	220,742
	207,462	(55)	27,789	0	235,196
Movements in year ended 31 August 2020					
Benevolence fund	4,104	(322)	-	-	3,782
Edith Bailey Bequest (supporting people)	10,686	71	-	-	10,757
Arthur Newbery Trust (financing capital schemes in the Circuit)	195,500	144	(2,721)	-	192,923
Fund for the Worker with the Deaf (closed)	2,194	-	-	(2,194)	-
	212,484	(107)	(2,721)	(2,194)	207,462

The Benevolence Fund is held by the Circuit to support individuals in need. The Edith Bailey Bequest is to be used to support individuals in need. The Arthur Newbery Trust is available to fund capital schemes. The Fund for the Worker with the Deaf reserve contributed towards the cost of this post but has now been closed.

22 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	Opening balances £	Net Income or expenditure(-) £	Investment Gains/Losses £	Transfers £	Closing balances £
Movements in year ended 31 August 2021					
General fund (day to day running costs)	226,289	(40,688)	-	58,610	244,211
Designated Funds:					
Manse Maintenance fund	50,535	(3,101)	-	1,000	48,434
Manses capital (value of manses)	5,371,500	-	441,250	-	5,812,750
Youth work fund	2,500	-			2,500
Circuit development fund (training, outreach, small projects	50,607	-	-	-	50,607
Kentwood Fund (grants for buildings projects)	12,973	-	-	-	12,973
Circuit Model Trust fund	250,596	(24,539)	-	(59,610)	166,447
	5,965,000	(68,328)	441,250	-	6,337,922
Movements in year ended 31 August 2020					
General fund (day to day running costs); restated	212,890	(259)	-	13,658	226,289
Designated Funds:					
Manse Maintenance fund	58,742	(50,707)	-	42,500	50,535
Manses capital (value of manses) - restated	5,371,500	-	-	-	5,371,500
Youth work fund	2,500				2,500
Circuit development fund (training, outreach, small projects	37,625	12,982	-	-	50,607
Kentwood Fund (grants for buildings projects)	15,971	(2,998)	-	-	12,973
Circuit Model Trust fund	321,947	(17,387)	-	(53,964)	250,596
	6,021,175	(58,369)	-	2,194	5,965,000

23 TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

The transfers between funds represent amounts drawn down by authorisation of the Circuit Meeting

24 AGENCY COLLECTIONS AND PAYMENTS

The Circuit acted as agent in either the collection or facilitation of the monies tabulated below. None of these collections were for related parties as defined in Note 1 and do not appear elsewhere in these accounts.

	Receipts £	Payments £	Balance 31 August 2021 £
Methodist Connexional Funds			
Methodist Church Fund	3,880	2,880	1,000
Funds for: Property	3,522	3,522	-
Mission in Britain	1,467	1,467	-
World Missions	293	293	-
Methodist Homes	150	-	150
All We Can	50	50	-
Preachers and Leaders of Worship	100	-	100
Methodist Ministers' Housing Society	1,989	1,989	-
Support for Presbyters and Deacons	100	100	-
	11,551	10,301	1,250

The balance at 31 August 2021 is included in Other Creditors (see Note 18)

25 RECONCILIATION OF NET (OUTGOING)/ INCOMING RESOURCES TO NET CASH INFLOWS FROM OPERATIONS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Net movement in funds	179,249	(67,960)
(Gains)/losses on investments		
Investment properties	(191,250)	-
Other investments	(57,830)	8,250
Investment income and rent from investments	(101,960)	(98,322)
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	4,279	(11,898)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	15,574	(28,650)
Net cash used in operating activities	(151,938)	(198,580)
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents		
CFB deposits	383,142	347,969
Cash at bank and in hand	25,414	25,015
Net cash used in operating activities	408,556	372,984

Berkshire and Hampshire Borders Methodist Circuit

England & Wales - Charity number 1134891

Accounts

Registered Charity Number: 1134891

BASINGSTOKE & READING METHODIST CIRCUIT

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 August 2020

BASINGSTOKE & READING METHODIST CIRCUIT

Annual Report and Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 August 2020

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Basingstoke & Reading Methodist Circuit
Southampton District, circuit number 26/4
Annual report for the year ended 31st August 2020

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The Circuit

Basingstoke and Reading Methodist Circuit was formed on 1 September 2014 as a result of the merger of Basingstoke Methodist Circuit and Reading & Silchester Methodist Circuit. The Circuit is a separate legal entity within the Methodist Church and is required under Charity law to prepare separate accounts.

The Circuit is a registered charity (England & Wales) number 1134891.

There are 23 churches within the Circuit, with a total membership of 1,140. The churches are spread around Reading and Basingstoke and the neighbouring towns and villages of Bradfield, Burghfield Common, Mortimer, Tadley and Silchester. Several have local ecumenical partnerships with Anglican, Baptist and/or United Reformed churches.

Trustees

The Circuit's trustees, who are all members of the Circuit Meeting, are listed on page 2.

Executive and leadership functions

The Circuit Stewards (who are ex officio members of the Circuit Meeting) are responsible for ensuring that the decisions of the Circuit Meeting are executed. The following served as Circuit Stewards during the year:

Alan Harland (also Circuit Treasurer)
Margaret Hayes
Julie Marsh
Marianne Sales

The Strategic Executive Group (SEG) gives longer-term vision to the Circuit's affairs and comprises a mix of stipendiary and lay members of the Circuit Meeting. The following, who are also members of the Circuit Meeting, served on SEG this year: Reverends David Shaw, Audrey Browne, Ruth Midcalf, Alison Parker and Deacon Maria Howard; three circuit stewards (Alan Harland ex officio Finance, Margaret Hayes and Marianne Sales); two representing local preachers and worship leaders (June Hardcastle and Paddy Jose); and Mary Ludlow, representing lay employees. Marion Young, who is also a member of the Circuit Meeting, is secretary to SEG.

Custodian trustees

The custodian trustees are the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

Contacting the Circuit

The Circuit's principal office is 84 Queen's Road, Reading RG1 4BW, telephone 0118 958 1505. The Circuit's website is www.basingstokereadingmethodists.uk

Bankers

The Circuit's bankers are the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church, 9 Bonhill Street, London EC2A 4PE; and CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ.

Auditors and professional advisers

The Circuit's auditors are James Cowper Kreston, Reading Bridge House, George Street, Reading, RG1 8LS.

The Circuit engages advisers for legal affairs and property services as required.

Basingstoke & Reading Methodist Circuit
Southampton District, circuit number 26/4
Annual report for the year ended 31st August 2020

Managing trustees

The managing trustees, who are all members of the Circuit Meeting are as follows:

Dr Stephen Appiah
Mrs Diane Bath
Mrs Tessa Bennett
Rev Martin Beukes
Mr Peter Boardley
Mr Tony Bonnett
Rev Audrey Browne
Mrs Dusty Brough
Mrs Patricia Brown
Mrs Brenda Caborn
Mr Ray Chalk
Mr Peter Chapman
Rev Jonathon Clark
Mr David Cliffe
Mrs Jan Davies
Rev Jenny Dowding
Mrs Jill Draper
Mrs Gerry Duggan
Mrs Margaret Ellison
Mrs Christine Embelton
Rev Chris Evans
Rev Valerie Fisher
Mr Kenneth Fordjour
Mr Donald Fraser
Mr Peter Frank
Mr Martin Goodwin
Mr Neil Graham
Mr David Gunton
Ms Pam Guy
Mrs June Hardcastle
Mr Alan Harland
Mrs Charmian Harrison
Mrs Margaret Hayes
Mrs Linda Hoe
Mr Alan Holloway
Mrs Beverley Holloway
Deacon Maria Howard
Mrs Pearl Howard
Mr Paul Isgar
Rev David Jenkins
Mrs Paddy Jose
Mr Michael Kimber
Mrs Patricia Kinchington
Miss Helen Khan
Mr Alvin Laird
Mrs Linda Langridge
Mrs Gill Lawson
Mrs Rosemary Lister
Mrs Mary Ludlow
Mrs Valerie Main
Rev Lesley Martin
Rev James Mather
Mr Alan Meakin
Mrs Grace Mercer
Rev Dr Ruth Midcalf
Rev Andrew Moffoot
Mrs Yvonne Moss
Mr Sam Nyamakope
Mr Michael Parker
Mrs Ann Peddle
Mr James Peddle
Mrs Hilary Reed
Mr Terry Rowell
Miss Marianne Sales
Rev Jonathan Salmon
Rev David Shaw
Mrs Margaret Simpson
Mr Jonathon Skeet
Mr Steve Skelton
Ms Katherine Slater
Mrs Maz Slater
Mr Michael Slater
Miss Samantha Slater
Mr Norman Smart
Mr Michael Smith
Miss Ruth Stacey
Rev Dr John Sumitra
Mrs Gina Tagoe
Ms Janet Talbot
Mrs Ruth Taylor
Mr Keith Waite
Mr Tim Wale
Mr Richard Walkem
Mrs Jean Walsh
Ms Mary Walton
Ms Marion Wales
Mr Michael Warner
Mrs Sarah Whithorn
Mrs Marion Young

Basingstoke & Reading Methodist Circuit
Southampton District, circuit number 26/4
Annual report for the year ended 31st August 2020

The members of the Circuit Meeting (as managing trustees) have pleasure in presenting their annual report and the audited accounts for the year.

1. Objectives and activities

The Circuit's vision statement is *"Inspired and led by the Holy Spirit, we shall love, resource and encourage one another; share Christ with our neighbour; and grow God's kingdom. In doing that, we shall place people before buildings; mission before maintenance; and God over church."* In February 2020 the Circuit adopted a mission strategy entitled 'Nourished and Fed: Ready to Share'

The Circuit's purpose is to provide resources to support ministry in local churches. The Circuit does this through the provision of ordained ministers and deacons, lay staff and Circuit officers to support service and ministry from the Circuit's 23 churches to their local communities. The Circuit also has responsibility for the upkeep and maintenance of 6 manses and 7 investment properties.

The Circuit produces a quarterly preaching plan to ensure regular acts of worship take place at each of the 18 Methodist Churches and 5 Local Ecumenical Partnerships in its geographical area. These are available to all people without charge. The Circuit is also directly involved with outreach work, with a particular emphasis on children and families, schools, and support for foodbanks.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)', when reviewing the Circuit's aims and objectives. The Circuit is pursuing its objectives through the following strategies by providing:

- Staffing resources and other assistance to churches for ministry to their communities;
- Grants for outreach activities and improvements to churches' premises that will facilitate access to ministry;
- Training through study, mentoring and examination for lay preachers and worship leaders;
- Training and support in safeguarding awareness;
- Opportunities for staff and members of church congregations to meet for fellowship, worship and learning; and
- Care for those who have retired from full-time service in the Methodist Church.

2. Achievements and performance

The Circuit has continued to benefit from strong and effective ministerial and lay leadership. This is now focussed through the Strategic Executive Group, which was formed in September 2015 and comprises representatives from ordained staff, the circuit stewards, and lay members of the circuit meeting. The Group's brief is to take a more strategic view in leading the Circuit through a period of change and guiding the allocation of resources in the most effective direction.

The Circuit has also continued to benefit from its large group of established local preachers. Currently two individuals are 'on note' as intending local preachers and two more are 'on trial' whilst they undertake training. Churches continued to develop worship using a variety of forms and technology through 23 accredited worship leaders with five more in training.

Other grants totalling £6,998 were approved in the year and paid on four church projects, and £500 was allowed to support work of Churches Together in Berkshire. Further details are provided in Note 10 to the Accounts.

The Circuit produced devotional resources for Advent 2019 that were distributed to all the Circuit's churches for use by individuals, small groups, or in worship. The Circuit is actively involved through lay staff with outreach projects in Basingstoke, with young people and the Town Centre Chaplaincy.

Sadly, all churches were required to close in mid-March as part of the nationwide efforts to counter the coronavirus pandemic. As the restrictions were eased from mid-summer, churches have been adapted to be Covid-secure so that they can continue to be used for worship or for activities organised or sponsored by the churches. Such activities include cafes, Boys' or Girls' Brigades or youth clubs, or by local community organisations notably those promoting fitness and health, music

and dance. The income from external lettings makes a valued contribution towards upkeep of church premises, and churches' finances will have been stretched by the loss of lettings income during the lockdown period and afterwards. If churches' income does not in due course recover to near pre-Covid levels, then this will ultimately affect the ability of some churches to pay assessments.

The lockdown period has brought significant changes to Sunday worship services. Much use has been made of Zoom and similar platforms for broadcasting services across the internet. Many churches arrange and hold their own services, and others use the service organise by the Circuit each week. Churches are investing in technology to film services, and this has opportunities for use for example with concerts held at churches being made available to a wider audience.

The churches have continued to develop ways and means for outreach into local communities, for example the quiet garden at Silchester and community cafés. Several churches have Messy Church; lunch, holiday and after-school clubs; or tailored children, families and youth work. Whilst much of this has been put on hold due to coronavirus, there is every intention to resume once this is possible. Some churches act as a collection point for shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Much work is being done to support foodbanks across the Circuit's communities. One church secured a grant to provide printers to families who needed them for their children to school work at home.

Many outreach projects are carried out in partnership with churches from other denominations, such as the REinspired and 'Open the Book' programmes for delivering religious education in schools, a weekly lunch club in Whitley, and the 'Loneliness Project' in Caversham. Wesley Methodist Church participated in 'Bed for the Night', an ecumenical initiative providing accommodation and food for the homeless in Reading. Trinity Basingstoke's Soup Lunch has developed contacts with foodbank users.

3. Financial review

The attached Statement of Financial Affairs (SOFA) summarises the Circuit's income and expenditure for the year, supplemented by the Cash Flow statement and the Notes to the Financial Statements. The Balance Sheet shows the Circuit's assets, liabilities and reserves.

The net expenditure for the year was £59,710 before investment gains (2019: net expenditure of £104,833). The reduction in net expenditure of £45,123 resulted from the following:

	£
Contributions to the Southampton District and Methodist Church funds were lower	7,352
Maintenance of Ministry assessment to the URC decreased further	23,156
Small grants and donations were higher	-3,120
Professional fees for property work were higher	-5,067
Travel and sundry expenses were lower with coronavirus restrictions	11,530
Manse maintenance and other costs were higher	-12,260
Costs had been incurred in the previous year in relation to an abortive manse purchase	8,695
Donations and legacies received were less than the prior year	-14,991
Rental income from manses was higher with more properties tenanted	28,100
Other variations, net	1,728
	45,123

After recognising losses on investment properties and other assets of 8,250, net expenditure for the year was £67,960 (2019: net expenditure of £166,104 after investment losses of £61,271). Downward revaluation of freehold property depleted funds by £nil (2019: £90,000).

The Balance Sheet summarises the Circuit's assets, liabilities and funds. Net assets (and thus aggregate funds) at 31st August 2020 were £6,415,017 (2019: £6,482,977). The reduction in net assets of £67,960 results from changes to assets and liabilities as follows:

	£
Investment valuation losses	8,250
Investment sales less purchases	1,214
Net expenditure funded through investment portfolio (principally Model Trust Fund)	71,156
Increase in net current assets	-12,660
Reduction in net assets	67,960

The Circuit's net assets are held in either endowment, restricted or unrestricted funds. A full analysis of the individual funds, and the objectives for which income and/or capital may be applied, is provided in Notes 20 to 22 in these financial statements. These funds may be summarised as follows:

	£	£
Endowment funds		
The income from these funds is applied to ministry within the Circuit, The capital is not available for use*		225,955
Restricted funds		
Available for financing capital schemes - Arthur Newbery Trust*	192,923	
Available for funding revenue expenditure as specified by donors	14,539	
		207,462
Unrestricted funds		
Manse capital fund (equivalent to the value of manse and investment properties)		5,371,500
Circuit Model Trust Fund, for financing churches' property and mission schemes through grants*		250,596
Funds available for financing Circuit occasional expenditure:		
Circuit development fund, for training and mission projects	50,607	
Youth work fund	2,500	
Kentwood fund, for supporting churches small building schemes	12,973	
		66,080
Funds for financing Circuit annual operating expenditure		
General funds, for all purposes	242,889	
Manse maintenance fund, for repairs, maintenance and refurbishment	50,535	
		293,424
Total funds		6,415,017

4. Reserves policies

The Circuit is required to have policies regarding the level of reserves to be held in respect of funds for financing Circuit annual operating expenditure. Policies are not required in respect of other funds since these are not held primarily for revenue purposes and there are restrictions on how the funds may be used. The funds marked (*) are managed by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

The Circuit's annual operating expenditure includes the cost of ministerial and lay staff, provision of manses, travel and administrative expenses, and contributions to the Methodist Southampton District and Methodist Church central funds. This expenditure is funded by assessments on the Circuit's churches, investment income, rents on surplus manses, and contributions from the Model Trust Fund.

Assessments on churches are calculated as part of the Circuit's annual budget process. Increases in assessments on churches are limited to 10%, and not more than 95% of a church's income (70% if the church has no buildings).

The Circuit's budget reflects the impact of anticipated changes in staffing levels, the maintenance needs of its residential property portfolio, and any amounts to be drawn from reserves to support the planned expenditure. The Circuit Meeting approves the budget and assessments, and the amounts to be carried forward in reserves.

Proposed drawings from the restricted funds of the Circuit to assist churches with building improvements and fund improvements to the manses are considered and approved on a case by case basis by the Circuit Meeting.

In setting its reserves policy the Circuit Meeting also considers the financial health of the churches in the Circuit which has impacted on their ability to fund the annual Circuit assessment. The Circuit's reserves policies are to maintain at least:

- A general fund balance of £150,000, sufficient to cover three months' running costs; and
- A manse maintenance fund balance of at least £50,000, sufficient also for three months' running costs of approximately £20,000 plus £30,000 for unexpected repairs to manses.

The balances on these reserves at 31 August 2020 were £242,889 and £50,535 respectively.

The Circuit's budget for the year commencing 1 September 2020 shows net expenditure of £51,901 on General Fund and a surplus of £8,229 on Manse Maintenance Fund. The General Fund deficit will be partly relieved by a transfer from Model Trust Fund of £48,029 towards the cost of providing specialist resources support across the Circuit's churches. The trustees consider the Circuit to be a going concern.

5. Investment policies

In accordance with the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church, the Circuit's investments are managed on its behalf by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP), Central Buildings, Oldham Street Manchester M1 1JQ. TMCP acts as custodian trustee for all properties held by Circuits, for all large bequests (ie over £20,000) and for the proceeds of sale of any property where the Circuit was managing trustee. These sums are invested in unitised investments or held on deposit.

Short term deposits are lodged with the Central Finance Board (CFB) of the Methodist Church.

The Circuit's investment policies are aligned with those of TMCP and the CFB because these organisations take into consideration the social, environmental and ethical issues, both negatively and positively, that make investments suitable for the Methodist Church.

6. Pay and remuneration policies

Ministers are stationed in the Circuit by the Methodist Conference. Ministers' remuneration is set nationally by the Methodist Church. Ministers are members of the Methodist Ministers Pension Scheme. Contribution rates are set nationally by the Methodist Church.

Lay employees are directly employed by the Circuit. Lay employee remuneration is based on the Methodist Church's guidance for the setting of pay rates for lay employees. Lay employee pay rates are in excess of the National Living Wage. The Circuit offers a pension scheme to its lay employees. The Circuit matches lay employee contributions up to 10% of salary. The minimum employer contribution rate is 6%. No member of staff is paid in excess of £60,000 per annum.

Information on the payment of expenses to trustees and remuneration of key management personnel is disclosed in the notes to the Circuit's accounts.

7. Structure and governance

The Circuit was established in accordance with the constitution of the Methodist Church. Its organisation is structured around its bi-annual circuit meeting. The Circuit also holds bi-annual gatherings to which members of all churches are invited for worship, discussion, prayer and activities.

The members of the Circuit Meeting are the trustees of the Circuit. The Circuit Meeting comprises the Circuit staff and officers, and representatives from each church in the Circuit and the local preachers' meeting. Each church council and the local preachers meeting elect representatives to the Circuit Meeting annually. The Circuit officers are appointed annually by Circuit Meeting.

The Circuit Meeting is supported by separate monthly meetings of ordained staff and circuit stewards to conduct day-to-day business and consider matters to be brought to the attention of the Circuit Meeting. A Strategic Executive Group was set up in September 2015 following a review of the Circuit's governance. This group's responsibilities include circuit strategy and vision, resource planning and oversight of probationers and candidates. A number of focussed 'Getting It Done' and 'Special Interest' Groups focus on prayer, preparation of worship materials, arranging Circuit gatherings and managing our property portfolio.

8. Administrative details

These details are provided on page 1 to these financial statements.

9. Principal risks and uncertainties

The major risks to which the Circuit is exposed have been identified by the Circuit Meeting and are listed below. A major risk is defined as one that, if realised could fundamentally affect the way in which the Circuit operates or achieves its outcomes in the next one to three years.

	Risk	Evaluation	Commentary
A	Churches cannot afford to pay their assessments. This would affect the ability of the Circuit to fund staffing	Moderate	The Circuit takes into account church income when setting assessments on churches.
B	The Circuit cannot maintain residential properties to appropriate standards	Low	Surveyors carry out inspections every five years to assist planning repairs and maintenance. There is sufficient in the Model Trust Fund for works needed in the medium term
C	The Circuit is unable to fill stations with presbyters, deacons or lay staff where appropriate.	Moderate	There is a Connexional shortage of presbyters, and sometimes vacancies cannot be filled immediately
D	The Circuit is unable to attract circuit stewards and other office holders with appropriate skills and expertise	Moderate	The Circuit is heavily dependent on such individuals and the time that they commit to the Circuit's life and work. At present most posts are filled.
E	Churches are unable to attract office holders with sufficient time, skills and expertise to enable them to continue operating	Moderate	If churches cease to operate, the Circuit may need to become managing trustee for the site.

10. Further information

If further information is required on the Circuit's life and witness, please first contact Mrs Marion Young, at the Circuit office (see page 1).

11. Statement of trustees' responsibilities

Charity law requires the Circuit Meeting to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of the Circuit as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing those financial statements, the Circuit Meeting are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue on that basis.

The Circuit Meeting are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Circuit Meeting

R.E. Midcalf

Rev Dr Ruth Midcalf
Superintendent Minister, 1 March 2021

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of Basingstoke & Reading Methodist Circuit

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Basingstoke & Reading Methodist Circuit (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 August 2020 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2020 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 8 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate, or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

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

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially

misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

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

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

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

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

James Cowper Kreston

Darren O'Connor BSc (Hons) FCCA FCA, *Senior Statutory Auditor*
For and on behalf of James Cowper Kreston, Statutory Auditor

James Cowper Kreston is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

Reading Bridge House
George Street
Reading
Berkshire
RG1 8LS

Date: 17 March 2021

BASINGSTOKE & READING METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ended 31 August 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted funds General Funds	Unrestricted funds Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2020
		£	£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Donations and legacies		-	12,982	-	-	12,982
Charitable income						
Assessments on churches		477,135	-	-	-	477,135
Other income	4	170	11,468	-	-	11,638
Investments						
Lettings income		-	85,338	-	-	85,338
Investment income and interest	3	9,706	2,651	280	347	12,984
Total income and endowments		487,011	112,439	280	347	600,077
EXPENDITURE						
Charitable expenditure						
Stipends, salaries and associated costs	5	340,423	-	-	-	340,423
Assessments and levies	6	104,249	15,396	-	-	119,645
Manse running costs	7	-	121,971	-	-	121,971
Grants and donations	10	500	6,998	322	-	7,820
Administration and travel	8	28,282	-	-	-	28,282
Other outgoings	9	13,819	25,542	-	-	39,361
Raising funds						
Investment management costs		-	642	65	1,578	2,285
Total expenditure		487,273	170,549	387	1,578	659,787
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/losses		(262)	(58,110)	(107)	(1,231)	(59,710)
Investment realised & unrealised gains/(losses)						
Investment properties	15	-	-	-	-	-
Other	16	-	-	(2,718)	(5,532)	(8,250)
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		(262)	(58,110)	(2,825)	(6,763)	(67,960)
Transfers between funds		13,661	(11,464)	(2,197)	-	-
Revaluation of freehold property	14	-	-			-
Net movement in funds		13,399	(69,574)	(5,022)	(6,763)	(67,960)
Total funds brought forward		229,490	5,808,285	212,484	232,718	6,482,977
Total funds at 31 August 2020		242,889	5,738,711	207,462	225,955	6,415,017

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 14 to 23 form part of these Financial Statements.

BASINGSTOKE & READING METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ended 31 August 2019

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds General Funds	Unrestricted Funds Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2019
		£	£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Donations and legacies						
Charitable income		-	27,973	-	-	27,973
Assessments on churches		479,921	-	-	-	479,921
Other income	4	887	6,500	-	-	7,387
Investments						
Lettings income		-	57,238	-	-	57,238
Investment income and interest	3	11,456	4,095	274	342	16,167
Total income and endowments		492,264	95,806	274	342	588,686
EXPENDITURE						
Charitable expenditure						
Stipends, salaries and associated costs	5	341,033	-	-	-	341,033
Assessments and levies	6	120,324	29,864	-	-	150,188
Manse running costs	7	-	109,711	-	-	109,711
Grants and donations	10	600	4,100	-	-	4,700
Administration and travel	8	38,845	-	-	-	38,845
Other outgoings	9	17,142	29,170	-	-	46,312
Raising funds						
Investment management costs		-	1,030	64	1,636	2,730
Total expenditure		517,944	173,875	64	1,636	693,519
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/losses		(25,680)	(78,069)	210	(1,294)	(104,833)
Investment realised & unrealised gains/(losses)						
Investment properties		-	(65,905)	-	-	(65,905)
Other investments	16	-	-	1,887	2,747	4,634
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		(25,680)	(143,974)	2,097	1,453	(166,104)
Transfers between funds		83,857	(82,357)	(1,500)	-	-
Revaluation of freehold property		-	(90,000)	-	-	(90,000)
Net movement in funds		58,177	(316,331)	597	1,453	(256,104)
Total funds brought forward		171,313	6,124,616	211,887	231,265	6,739,081
Total funds at 31 August 2019		229,490	5,808,285	212,484	232,718	6,482,977

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 14 to 23 form part of these Financial Statements.

BASINGSTOKE & READING METHODIST CIRCUIT

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 August 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2020 £	2019 £	2019 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Freehold properties; manses	14		2,945,000		3,210,000
Investment properties	15		2,426,500		2,161,500
Investments	16		680,229		760,849
			6,051,729		6,132,349
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	17	42,843		30,945	
Central Finance Board deposits		347,969		379,149	
Cash at bank and in hand		25,015		21,723	
		415,827		431,817	
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	18	52,539		81,189	
Net Current Assets			363,288		350,628
NET ASSETS	19		6,415,017		6,482,977
FUNDS					
Endowment funds	20		225,955		232,718
Restricted funds	21		207,462		212,484
Unrestricted funds	22		5,981,600		6,037,775
			6,415,017		6,482,977

The Financial Statements were approved by the Managing Trustees on 1 March 2021 and are signed on their behalf by:-

R K Midcalf

Rev Dr Ruth Midcalf
Superintendent minister

Alan Harland

Alan Harland
Circuit steward & treasurer

The notes on pages 14 to 23 form part of these Financial statements

BASINGSTOKE & READING METHODIST CIRCUIT

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
Cash used in operating activities	25	(198,580)	(251,811)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		98,322	73,405
Proceeds from sale of property		-	-
Expenditure funded through investment portfolio		71,156	190,297
Purchase of investments		(7,292)	(19,424)
Investment sale proceeds		8,506	23,124
Cash provided by investing activities		170,692	267,402
(Reduction)/increase in cash and cash equivalents in year		(27,888)	15,591
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		400,872	385,281
Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of year		**372,984**	**400,872**

1 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) as updated by Bulletin 1, and the Companies Act 2006. These statements are denominated in Sterling, rounded to the nearest £.

The Basingstoke and Reading Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The accounts have been prepared on the basis of historic cost except that investments and properties are shown at their market value.

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available to the Circuit at 31 August 2020 the trustees believe that the Circuit is a going concern.

Fund Accounting

The funds constitute:

Unrestricted funds which include general funds held for any purpose of the Circuit; the Circuit Model Trust Fund which has wide purposes defined in Standing Orders and is categorised as unrestricted; and other designated funds that are held for purposes agreed by the Circuit Meeting.

Restricted funds are funds that can only be used for specific restricted purposes as laid down by the donor.

Endowment funds which represent gifts that are held as capital to generate income that is available for either restricted or unrestricted purposes.

Income and endowments

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Circuit becomes entitled to the resources, the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources, and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Expenditure

Resources expended are accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred or a constructive obligation arises that results in the payment being unavoidable. The Circuit is not VAT registered so expenditure is stated inclusive of VAT where applicable.

Grants

Grants by the Circuit are recognised at the time of agreement to pay (without performance conditions), or when it is accepted there is an obligation to pay (if subject to performance conditions). Where grants are payable over more than one year, the accrual is discounted to net present value if the difference is material.

Connexional donations - acting as agent

The Circuit acts as agent in collecting from churches and then paying over their contributions to various Methodist Connexional funds and other external organisations. These transactions are therefore not reflected in the SOFA but are disclosed in Notes to the Accounts as required by the SORP (FRS102), module 19.12.

Ownership of Methodist property

Under the Methodist Church Act 1976 the ownership of Methodist property in England, Wales and Scotland was on 16 April 1977 automatically transferred to the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP). Property includes stocks, shares, unit trust investments and all other securities as well as land, buildings and chattels. TMCP holds such property as custodian trustees. The management of this property is vested in the relevant managing trustees who must act in accordance with the Model Trusts and the Standing Orders made under them. The property for which the Circuit are managing trustees is included in the Circuit's accounts.

1 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Tangible fixed assets
Assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost more than £2,500. Freehold property is stated at market value, which is reviewed annually. Office equipment and other plant is stated at cost. Depreciation is calculated on the straight line basis at 20% on office equipment and other plant but is not provided on freehold property since this is revalued annually.

Investment properties
Properties that are no longer required as manses are held as investment properties. They are stated at market value, which is reviewed annually.

Financial instruments
The Circuit only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Investments
Investments are included at market value at the Balance Sheet date. Investment income is included in the accounts when receivable and any gains or losses on revaluation at the year end are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The investments are in monetary assets. Except for the Briggs Trust funds which are managed by Lloyds Bank, the Circuit's investment assets are held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees. The valuations, at market value, are those as provided by Lloyds Bank and TMCP as at 31 August 2020.

Staff costs

The ministers are paid stipends at rates set by the Methodist Conference. The lay employees are paid salaries at rates set by the Circuit.

The Circuit makes payments to the Methodist Ministers Pension Fund and into a pension scheme for its lay employees. The charge represents the amount payable in respect of the year.

Ministers' manse costs
The Circuit is required to provide accommodation for each minister and their families, and ministers are expected to occupy them. The Circuit bears the cost of repairs and maintenance, premises insurance, council tax and water charges. These are not regarded as benefits in kind by HM Revenue & Customs.

2 CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and current factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The Circuit trustees make estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition,seldom equal the related actual results. The only estimates and assumptions that have significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

Land and buildings
The carrying values of land and buildings within tangible fixed assets and investment properties have been reviewed by the trustees based on a professional valuation for accounts purposes at the balance sheet date.

3 INTEREST & INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bank interest	2,515	-	-	-	2,515	2,150
Investment income	7,191	2,651	280	347	10,469	14,017
	9,706	2,651	280	347	12,984	16,167

4 OTHER INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Insurance claim	-	1,950	-	-	1,950	-
Internal organisations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Staffing and shared manse costs	-	9,516	-	-	9,516	6,095
Other	170	2	-	-	172	1,292
	170	11,468	-	-	11,638	7,387

5 STAFF COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Stipends and salaries	265,707	-	-	-	265,707	263,079
National Insurance	20,445	-	-	-	20,445	20,363
Pension contributions	51,651	-	-	-	51,651	54,104
Apprenticeship levy	1,310				1,310	1,313
Relocation expenses	1,310				1,310	2,174
	340,423	-	-	-	340,423	341,033

The ministers are stationed in the Circuit by the Methodist Conference and are paid stipends at rates agreed by the Conference. The lay employees are employees of the Circuit and are paid salaries at rates set by the Circuit. The pay costs of both the ministers and lay employees are reflected in the accounts. The remuneration of those members of staff in senior management positions (ie on the Strategic Executive Team) were £108,775 (2019: £130,165); and the full cost including employer pension and National Insurance contributions was £144,468 (2019: £173,963).

Salaries and pension contributions are in line with guidance provided by the Methodist Church.

The number of staff during the year was	15	17

No members of staff received emoluments amounting to over £60,000 in the year.
During the year, no trustee received any remuneration for the role of trustee.

6 ASSESSMENTS AND LEVIES

	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£
District assessment	16,085	-	-	-	16,085	15,924
Methodist Church Fund	82,483	-	-	-	82,483	75,528
Contributions to District Advance Fund	-	15,396	-	-	15,396	29,864
United Reformed Church assessments	5,356	-	-	-	5,356	28,512
Church of England assessments	325	-	-	-	325	360
	104,249	15,396	-	-	119,645	150,188

7 MANSE RUNNING COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Insurance and utilities	-	31,811	-	-	31,811	34,035
Rent payable	-	6,950	-	-	6,950	7,542
Repairs and maintenance	-	83,210	-	-	83,210	68,134
	-	121,971	-	-	121,971	109,711

8 ADMINISTRATION AND TRAVEL

	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Telephone costs	6,908	-	-	-	6,908	6,928
Administrative expenses	3,344	-	-	-	3,344	6,438
Publications	1,710	-	-	-	1,710	2,112
Circuit office rent	4,800	-	-	-	4,800	4,000
Travel expenses	11,520	-	-	-	11,520	19,367
	28,282	-	-	-	28,282	38,845

9 OTHER OUTGOINGS

	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Audit fees	6,840	-	-	-	6,840	6,480
Professional expenses	576	25,542	-	-	26,118	21,051
Abortive manse purchase costs	-	-			-	8,695
Other expenditure	6,403	-	-	-	6,403	10,086
	13,819	25,542	-	-	39,361	46,312

10 GRANTS AND DONATIONS

The following grants were agreed and/or paid during the year and charged to the funds concerned (see Notes 18 - 20). Associated support costs are insignificant and have not been disclosed separately

	Paid	Accrued	Total 2020	Total 2019
General funds (unrestricted)	£	£	£	£
Reading University Chaplaincy			-	-
Churches Together in Berkshire (paid after 31 August)	-	500	500	600
	-	500	500	600
Designated funds (unrestricted)				
Kentwood Fund				
Burghfield Common Methodist Church, hall roof		1,500	1,500	
Old Basing Church, planning fees re access works	282		282	
Tadley Common Church, planning permissions	416		416	
Tilehurst Church, training cost contribution	150		150	
Silchester Church, car park remedial works	350		350	
Caversham Pentecost 2020	200		200	
Woodley Airfield Church preaching material	100		100	
Grants paid in prior year to other churches			-	4,100
Model Trust Fund				
Christ Church Woodley, kitchen reurbishment	4,000		4,000	-
	5,498	1,500	6,998	4,100
Benevolence fund (restricted)				
Payments	322	-	322	-
	5,820	**2,000**	**7,820**	**4,700**

11 VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS

The Circuit is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills and time in the furtherance of the work of the Circuit. Principally this contribution is by serving as circuit and manse stewards and serving on groups that plan circuit events and meetings, support the Circuit's safeguarding work and the Circuit's Strategic Executive Group.

No attempt has been made by the Trustees to value the non monetary contributions made by volunteers in monetary terms.

12 PAYMENTS TO TRUSTEES

Several of the Circuit staff are also trustees of the Circuit. The ministers are paid stipends and travel expenses at the rates agreed annually by the Methodist Conference. The lay employees who are Trustees are paid in line with the principles of the Methodist Church's policy for payment of lay employees. The ministers Rev'ds Shaw, Browne, Jenkins, Bekes, Mather, Moffoot and Midcalf and Deacon Maria Howard and the lay employees Mary Ludlow, Peter Frank and Marion Young received stipend and salary payments of £240,689 (2019: £202,283).

Some of the members of the Circuit meeting have received payments from the Circuit in their capacity as manse or property stewards where they have either carried out maintenance work at manses rather than employing a contractor or incurred expenses connected with their role. Other members of the Circuit meeting have been employed as a contractor in connection with their trade or business. These amounted to £845 during the year (2019: £30,220).

Expenses paid to members of the Circuit Meeting were as follows:	2020 £	2019 £
Travel expenses	10,089	12,665
Pulpit supply costs	3,775	3,900
Manse expenses reimbursed	390	7,471
Administration and other ministry expenses reimbursed	4,360	6,955
	18,614	30,991
Number of trustees who were paid expenses	19	21

13 PENSIONS

The ministers belong to the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme. This is a defined benefit scheme. The Circuit pays a contribution of 26.95% of stipend to the scheme. It is not possible to identify the Circuit's share of assets and liabilities. The results of the latest completed actuarial valuation which was carried out on 1 September 2017, assuming that the Scheme continues into the future, were as follows:

	2017	2014
	£'m	£'m
Target level of assets	449.7	424.0
Actual value of assets	469.3	384.0
Surplus/shortfall(-) in assets	19.6	-40.0
Funding level	104.40%	90.60%

As the Scheme was in surplus at 1 September 2017, a recovery plan was no longer required; but, because the margin of surplus was relatively small, it was considered prudent to maintain contributions at existing levels rather than reduce and have to increase again. Circuits have been paying total contributions at 26.9% of stipend remuneration since 1 September 2013. The next review is due for 1 September 2020.

The Circuit belongs to a multi-employer defined contribution pension scheme operated by The Pensions Trust which is offered to lay employees. The Circuit matches their contributions to the scheme up to 10% of pay.

In line with FRS102 28.38, there is no contractual agreement and therefore the cost recognised is equal to the contributions payable for the period.

14 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Land	Buildings	Total
	£	£	£
Valuation			
At 1 September 2019	1,075,000	2,135,000	3,210,000
Transfer to investment properties	(90,000)	(175,000)	(265,000)
Revaluation change	-	-	-
At 31 August 2020	985,000	1,960,000	2,945,000
Depreciation			
At 1 September 2019	-	-	-
Provision for the year	-	-	-
At 31 August 2020	-	-	-
Net Book Value			
At 1 September 2019	1,075,000	2,135,000	3,210,000
At 31 August 2020	985,000	1,960,000	2,945,000

The manses were revalued by the trustees at 31 August 2020, following a professional valuation for accounts purposes as at that date by Haslams, Chartered Surveyors. The value was unchanged over 31 August 2019. The historical value of land and buildings if they had not been revalued was £2,695,511 (31 August 2019: £2,941,004).

15 INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

	Land	Buildings	Total
	£	£	£
Valuation			
At 1 September 2019	716,500	1,445,000	2,161,500
Transfer from tangible fixed assets	90,000	175,000	265,000
Revaluation change	-	-	-
At 31 August 2020	806,500	1,620,000	2,426,500

The manses were revalued by the trustees at 31 August 2020, following a professional valuation for accounts purposes as at that date by Haslams, Chartered Surveyors. The value was unchanged over 31 August 2019. The historical value of land and buildings if they had not been revalued was £1,791,493 (31 August 2019: £1,546,000).

16 INVESTMENTS

	2020	2019
	£	£
Balance at 1 September 2019	343,888	342,954
Additions	7,292	19,424
Disposals	(8,506)	(23,124)
Unrealised gains/(losses)	(8,248)	4,634
	334,426	343,888
Cash held	345,803	416,961
Balance at 31 August 2020	680,229	760,849

Analysis of investments

Investments listed on a recognised Stock Exchange or held in common investment funds, unit trusts or other collective investment schemes	335,640	343,888
Other investments	93,995	95,014
Circuit Model Trust cash holdings	250,594	321,947
	680,229	760,849

17 DEBTORS

	2020	2019
	£	£
Sundry debtors	7,806	-
Stipends paid in advance	19,896	18,004
Prepayments	15,141	12,941
	42,843	30,945

18 CREDITORS

	2020	2019
	£	£
Assessments	35,701	39,162
Other creditors	3,922	6,893
Whitley Methodist Church, share of legacy payable	-	16,982
Grants payable (see Note 10)	2,000	600
Accruals	10,916	17,552
	52,539	81,189

19 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Fixed Assets	Investment Property	Other Investments	Current Assets (net)	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Funds, year ended 31 August 2020					
Endowment funds	-	-	225,955	-	225,955
Restricted funds	-	-	203,680	3,782	207,462
Unrestricted funds	2,945,000	2,426,500	250,594	359,506	5,981,600
	2,945,000	2,426,500	680,229	363,288	6,415,017
Funds, year ended 31 August 2019					
Endowment funds	-	-	232,718	-	232,718
Restricted funds	-	-	206,184	6,300	212,484
Unrestricted funds	3,210,000	2,161,500	321,947	344,328	6,037,775
	3,210,000	2,161,500	760,849	350,628	6,482,977

20 ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	Opening balances	Net income/ (expenditure)	Investment gains/(losses)	Transfers	Closing balances
Movements in year ended 31 August 2020	£	£	£	£	£
Arthur Newbery Trust 5446 (Trustees Investment Fund: TIF	359	-	-	-	359
Arthur Newbery Trust 4345 (TIF)	30,399	200	-	-	30,599
Arthur Newbery Trust 4763 (Methodist Managed Mixed Funds & TIF)	86,797	-	(1,529)	-	85,268
Arthur Newbery Trust 5447 (TIF)	337	-	-	-	337
Arthur Newbery Trust 3669 (TIF)	9,471	64	-	-	9,535
AJ Briggs Trust (managed by Lloyds Bank Private Banking)	105,355	(1,498)	(4,000)	-	99,857
	232,718	(1,234)	(5,529)	-	225,955
Movements in year ended 31 August 2019					
Arthur Newbery Trust 5446 (Trustees Investment Fund: TIF	359	-	-	-	359
Arthur Newbery Trust 4345 (TIF)	30,202	197	-	-	30,399
Arthur Newbery Trust 4763 (Methodist Managed Mixed Funds & TIF)	85,735	-	1,062	-	86,797
Arthur Newbery Trust 5447 (TIF)	337	-	-	-	337
Arthur Newbery Trust 3669 (TIF)	9,412	59	-	-	9,471
AJ Briggs Trust (managed by Lloyds Bank Private Banking)	105,220	(1,551)	1,686	-	105,355
	231,265	(1,295)	2,748	-	232,718

The investment income generated by funds 5446, 4763 and 3669 is used to fund the Circuit's day to day running costs. The investment income generated by funds 4345 and 3669 is held in the fund. The income generated by the AJ Briggs Trust is used to fund ministry in Basingstoke.

21 RESTRICTED FUNDS

Movements in year ended 31 August 2020	£	£	£	£	£
Benevolence fund	4,104	(322)	-	-	3,782
Edith Bailey Bequest (supporting people)	10,686	71	-	-	10,757
Arthur Newbery Trust (financing capital schemes in the Circuit)	195,500	144	(2,721)	-	192,923
Fund for the Worker with the Deaf	2,194	-	-	(2,194)	-
	212,484	(107)	(2,721)	(2,194)	207,462
Movements in year ended 31 August 2019					
Benevolence fund	4,104	-	-	-	4,104
Edith Bailey Bequest (supporting people)	10,707	(21)	-	-	10,686
Arthur Newbery Trust (financing capital schemes in the Circuit)	193,380	231	1,889	-	195,500
Fund for the Worker with the Deaf	3,694	-	-	(1,500)	2,194
	211,885	210	1,889	(1,500)	212,484

The Benevolence Fund is held by the Circuit to support individuals in need. The Edith Bailey Bequest is to be used to support individuals in need. The Arthur Newbery Trust is available to fund capital schemes. The Fund for the Worker with the Deaf reserve contributed towards the cost of this post but has now been closed.

22 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	Opening balances	Net Income or expenditure(-)	Investment Gains/Losses	Transfers	Closing balances
	£	£	£	£	£
Movements in year ended 31 August 2020					
General fund (day to day running costs)	229,490	(259)	-	13,658	242,889
Designated Funds:					
Manse Maintenance fund	58,742	(50,707)	-	42,500	50,535
Manses capital (value of manses)	5,371,500	-	-	-	5,371,500
Youth work fund	2,500				2,500
Circuit development fund (training, outreach, small projects	37,625	12,982	-	-	50,607
Kentwood Fund (grants for buildings projects)	15,971	(2,998)	-	-	12,973
Circuit Model Trust fund	321,947	(17,387)	-	(53,964)	250,596
	6,037,775	(58,369)	-	2,194	5,981,600
Movements in year ended 31 August 2019					
General fund (day to day running costs)	171,313	(25,680)	-	83,857	229,490
Designated Funds:					
Manse Maintenance fund	50,534	(75,548)	-	83,756	58,742
Manses capital (value of manses) - restated	5,527,405	(155,905)	-	-	5,371,500
Youth work fund	-	2,500			2,500
Circuit development fund (training, outreach, small projects	11,747	25,878	-	-	37,625
Kentwood Fund (grants for buildings projects)	20,071	(4,100)	-	-	15,971
Circuit Model Trust fund	514,859	(26,799)	-	(166,113)	321,947
	6,295,929	(259,654)	-	1,500	6,037,775

23 TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

The transfers between funds represent amounts drawn down by authorisation of the Circuit Meeting

24 AGENCY COLLECTIONS AND PAYMENTS

The Circuit acted as agent in either the collection or facilitation of the monies tabulated below. None of these collections were for related parties as defined in Note 1 and do not appear elsewhere in these accounts.

	Receipts	Payments	Balance 31 August 2020
	£	£	£
Methodist Connexional Funds			
Methodist Church Fund	1,600	1,600	-
Funds for: Property	360	360	-
Mission in Britain	838	838	-
World Missions	835	835	-
All We Can	50	50	-
Methodist Ministers' Housing Society	350	350	-
Support for Presbyters and Deacons	350	350	-
	4,383	4,383	-

25 RECONCILIATION OF NET (OUTGOING)/ INCOMING RESOURCES TO NET CASH INFLOWS FROM OPERATIONS

	2020 £	2019 £
Net movement in funds	(67,960)	(166,104)
(Gains)/losses on investments		
Investment properties	-	65,905
Other investments	8,250	(4,634)
Investment income and rent from investments	(98,322)	(73,405)
Loss/(profit) on sale of fixed assets	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(11,898)	4,394
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(28,650)	(77,967)
Net cash used in operating activities	(198,580)	(251,811)
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents		
CFB deposits	347,969	379,149
Cash at bank and in hand	25,015	21,723
Net cash used in operating activities	372,984	400,872