

WOLVERHAMPTON AND SHREWSBURY METHODIST DISTRICT

England & Wales · Charity number 1134902

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2010-03-12

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Beckminster Methodist Church
Birches Barn Road
Wolverhampton
WV3 7BQ

Phone 01902658383

Email admin@wsmethodist.org.uk

Website www.wsmethodist.org.uk

Activities

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

Activities: Providing opportunities for Methodist Circuits to work together and support each other, offering resources, finance, personnel and expertise, and enabling them to engage with the wider society and address its concerns. The District also serves the local Churches and Circuits in the support, deployment and oversight of the various ministries of the Church and in programmes of training.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL
- Rwanda
- Dudley
- Herefordshire
- Powys
- Sandwell
- Shropshire
- Staffordshire
- Telford & Wrekin
- Walsall
- Wolverhampton
- Worcestershire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-08-31	£1,201,768	£1,034,655	£767,892	8
2023-08-31	£1,009,148	£1,368,783	£600,779	7
2022-08-31	£1,288,635	£909,318	£960,414	7
2021-08-31	£901,711	£854,342	£581,097	8
2020-08-31	£923,939	£906,807	£533,728	7

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
BRIAN CLARKE OAKLEY		2012-06-17
David Mark Reynolds		2024-09-01
Keith Walton		2020-09-01
Norma Claire Evans		2022-11-11
Rev George Victor Heinz		2024-09-01

Accounts

The Methodist Church
Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District

Registered Charity Number 1134902

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended
31st August 2024

The Methodist Church

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District

**Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31st August 2024**

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Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2024

Reference and administrative information

Registered charity name Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Registered charity number 1134902

Trustees (members of the District Policy Committee)

The members of the District Policy Committee at the date of this report and those who served during the year ended 31st August 2024 are as follows:

Rev Rachel Parkinson - Chair
Rev Alan Combes (until 9/9/23) - Deputy Chair
Rev Joanne Cox-Darling - Deputy Chair (from 9/9/23)
Rev Margaret Eales - Synod Secretary (until 31/8/24)
Rev George Heinz - Synod Secretary (from 1/9/24)
Mr Christopher Reed - District Treasurer

Rev David Alford
Ms Helen Allen
Mrs Franklina Appiah-Nimo (from 1/9/24)
Ms Stella Cofie
Mrs Lesley Cook
Rev Nicholas Collison
Deacon Susan Culver (from 31/10/23)
Rev Elizabeth Dunning (until 31/8/24)
Mrs Angela Evans (until 31/8/24)
Mrs Claire Evans

Rev John Hartley
Rev David Lavender
Dr Susan McCready-Shea (from 31/10/23)
Mr Brian Oakley
Mrs Elaine Panchal
Mr Max Reynolds (from 1/9/24)
Rev Stuart Reed (until 31/8/24)
Rev Teddy Siwila
Rev Julia Skitt
Mr Keith Walton

Principal address District Office
Beckminster Methodist Church
Birches Barn Road
Wolverhampton
WV3 7BQ

Telephone 01902 658383

Website wsmethodist.org.uk

Auditors Crombies Accountants Limited
34 Waterloo Road
Wolverhampton
WV1 4DG

Bankers	The Co-operative Bank PLC PO Box 250 Delf House Southway Skelmersdale WN8 6WT	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church 9 Bonhill Street London EC2A 4PE
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Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2024

Objectives and activities

The purpose of the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District is laid out in Standing Order 400A of the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church, namely that: "the District is constituted to advance the mission of the Church in the region, by providing opportunities for Circuits to work together and support each other, by offering them resources of finance, personnel and expertise which may not be available locally and by enabling them to engage with the wider society of the region as a whole and address its concerns." The central priorities of the Methodist Church are Worship, Learning and Caring, Service and Evangelism.

The District comprises around 155 local Methodist churches grouped into 11 circuits. The District is served by a team of around 37 active ministers, 32 of whom are presbyters and 5 of whom are deacons, together with a significant number of lay people. By far the greatest number of these give their time on a voluntary basis without pay but there are also a number of lay employees, mostly employed by Circuits and churches. Supernumerary ministers who have retired to the District offer very significant support. The District itself supports seven lay employment posts, two of which are jointly shared with the Birmingham District.

The number of people holding membership of Methodist Churches across the District was recorded as 5,056. Nine congregations asked the District Synod for permission to close during the year.

The statistics continue to support a narrative of an ageing core membership in numerical decline. This context is undoubtedly leading to pressure at every level of the church in finding volunteers, time and energy to fulfil governance requirements and to maintain previous levels of activity. However it is far from the full picture. Churches in the District touch the lives of very many more people than hold membership, offering a network of spiritual, emotional and physical support which is invaluable in the context of the communities they serve. This has been particularly valuable in the context of a post-pandemic society and a cost-of-living crisis. The District team has worked hard to support, encourage and enable this local outreach.

Considerable effort was expended this year in discerning the mind of the District on a merger with our neighbour - the Birmingham District - from September 2025. A task group was set up by the two Districts to oversee the process. In the Spring of 2024, two members of the task group attended each Circuit meeting to introduce the merger proposal and take questions, prior to a vote. All but one of the Circuits voted more than two-thirds in favour of a merger. The Shropshire & Marches Circuit, which is a geographically large Circuit running down the West of the District, voted more than two-thirds against. On 20th April 2024, at a meeting in Oswestry, the Synod returned a vote 81% in favour of the merger. This was confirmed by a vote of the Methodist Conference in July. The concerns of the Shropshire & Marches Circuit were noted and will be given particular attention as arrangements for the new District take effect.

In October 2023 the District made a full-time appointment to the "God for All" project which seeks to help the church understand, and to respond appropriately, to people and families with additional needs. Whilst some progress was made, the employee stepped down after nine months. Work continues across the District to enhance disability inclusion practices. However, the project itself has been on hold, giving space to reflect and to allow the employee role to be redesigned in the light of experience. Ten thousand pounds of Connexional seed-funding grants have been made available for potential "God for All" projects in the Circuits and this money has been paid out over the last two years.

This year saw the completion of the two-year Connexional pilot for "Faith Rooted Community Organising" in the District. The results of the pilot have been analysed for the purposes of informing a larger Connexional scheme.

Public benefit

The activities mentioned above were undertaken so as to further the District's purposes for the public benefit and the District Policy Committee has had regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission when exercising its powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2024

Achievements and performance

A core purpose of the District is to provide opportunities for people, churches and Circuits to work together and to support one another. This year the District attended to this in a number of ways including:

- continuing to offer an online meeting space fortnightly for Circuit Superintendents as key leaders in the District
- editing and distributing a weekly online mailing to keep churches and Circuits aware of developments and opportunities on a District / Regional / Connexional basis
- working jointly with the Birmingham District to offer two residential gatherings for Superintendents, a retreat day for Circuit employees and a gathering for Circuit Stewards
- offering hospitable spaces for Supernumerary ministers and their partners, and for ministers who have been on sabbatical, to gather together for mutual encouragement and support
- arranging a 6-day pilgrimage in Easter Week, based in the Telford Circuit. Eleven pilgrims undertook the journey plus a number of day visitors.

A core purpose of the District is to offer to the Circuits resources of finance, personnel and expertise which may not be available locally. This year the District attended to this in a number of ways including:

- assisting and guiding the Circuits on a weekly basis through the work of, amongst others, the District Safeguarding team, Mission and Ministry Co-ordinator, Property Consultant, Lay Employment Adviser, District Admin team, treasurer and Chair
- enabling more than £145,000 to be distributed to Circuits from the District Advance Fund for the purposes of advancing their mission and ministry in a local context
- redesigning the criteria for property grants, to encourage work to make manses more energy efficient
- encouraging Circuits in their ministry and mission in myriad ways. This included focusing the Representative Session of our Synod in Spring 2024 on "Trusting God in the small things" with input from the Connexional Evangelism and Growth team and the Queen's Foundation for Theological Education
- enabling and co-ordinating the participation of children and young people in the Connexional 3Generate weekend and also the "Amplify" weekend, organised jointly with the Birmingham District, during which 105 children and young people took part in a programme of worship, learning and outdoor activities.

A core purpose of the District is to enable Circuits to engage with the wider society of the region as a whole and address its concerns. This year the District attended to this in a number of ways including:

- the District Chair attending a residential gathering of diverse Christian leaders from across the West Midlands for conversation, some of which was around how church leaders might combine resources to offer a prophetic West Midlands Churches' voice ahead of the 2024 General Election
- the work of Borderlands Rural Chaplaincy, of which the District is a key supporter, in supporting and advocating for rural and agricultural communities
- arranging a weekend visit of the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, which included witnessing the outreach of Supernumerary ministers to visitors to the Black Country Living Museum, carol singing at Whixall Marina, and staging a performance of a Christmas show - Saltmine's "Journey of the Magi" - as a free gift to families in central Walsall
- marking the 30th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide in the context of an 18-year partnership with the Free Methodist Church of Rwanda
- the District Chair attending, and subsequently reflecting upon, an Educational Programme for Senior Christian Leaders to Poland called "Testimony of the Holocaust"
- inviting the Rev'd Raj Patta to lead an online training and development day for presbyters. Raj offered a public, political and theological engagement on dreams and dreaming, from his perspective as a migrant now living in the UK.

The fruition of previous work in the Circuits and District....

- Four ministers were ordained at the Methodist Conference in Leeds in July 2024, all of whom candidated from this District in 2019.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2024

Financial review

The above activities and achievements illustrate the work of the District and the attached accounts show how the financial resources necessary for that work have been raised and expended. The accounts are also the means by which members of the District Policy Committee, as trustees, account for their stewardship of those funds to the circuits, the membership of the churches within the District and the wider community.

The finances of the District are held in eight different funds to account properly for the different purposes for which money comes into the District. Most of the income comes from other parts of the Methodist Church: assessments are received from the Circuits in the District to fund the work done directly and the payment to the Connexion of a contribution to the Methodist Church Fund, and distributions are received via the Connexional structure of the Methodist Church to fund grant-making activities, as explained more fully in Note 2 to the accounts.

The income of the District for the year ended 31st August 2024 was £1,201,768 and expenditure was £1,034,655. The result was an overall surplus of £167,113 but this represented surpluses of £165,980 on the District Advance Fund, £7,837 on the Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund and £4,000 on the Manse Fund together with deficits of £2,297 on the District Expenses Fund, £5,950 on the Training Fund, £1,171 on the Komera Partnership Fund, £801 on the Children Support Fund and £485 on the Chair's Benevolent Fund. The balances held by each fund therefore moved up or down accordingly and ended the year at a total value of £767,892. Of the total value, £267,700 represented fixed assets (including the District Chair's manse), leaving free reserves of £500,192 across all eight funds. No fund was in deficit. A review of significant matters affecting District finances is as follows:

District Expenses Fund (unrestricted)

The budget for 2023/24 was set to produce a deficit of £12,000 to be drawn from its reserves as a way of supporting the circuits at a difficult time. This would have reduced its free reserves to 7.1% of gross circuit assessments against our target level of 10%. In the event the deficit was only £2,297 due primarily to an unexpected increase in interest rates and a return of the grant previously made to the Connexional Pension Reserve Fund. Free reserves therefore ended the year at a healthy £60,841, representing 9.8% of circuit assessments.

District Training Fund (designated)

There was a post-pandemic pick-up in activities but the fund also received a refund from Lichfield Diocese of unspent funds previously given towards joint lay training at Swanwick. The net result was a deficit of £5,950 leaving a closing balance of £2,230.

Manse Fund (designated)

Manse repairs and maintenance (charged to the District Expenses Fund) were underspent compared to budget and the saving of £4,000 was transferred to the Manse Fund, increasing its balance to £35,585.

District Advance Fund (restricted)

There was a 43% increase in the Connexional funding received last year, from Circuit Model Trust Funds and the Connexional Priority Fund, but an 18% reduction in grants awarded, hence the large surplus on this fund, leaving a balance at the year-end of £352,996. This repeats a pattern in recent years: income deriving mainly from property sales is up leaving fewer churches and smaller circuits to apply for grants.

Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund (restricted)

The refinancing deal made with the three sponsoring bodies at the beginning of the year succeeded in turning a deficit of £20,802 in 2022/23 into a surplus of £7,837 in 2023/24. Its reserves are now being rebuilt to ensure the resilience of the project and stood at £38,826 at the end of the year.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2024

Financial review (continued)

Children Support Fund (restricted)

The money in this fund was left over from the annual children's holiday that ceased after 2018 and, with the consent of the donors, it has been used to offer grants to churches who want to work with children in deprived circumstances. During the year the remaining balance was used up and the fund has now been closed. However, the District Policy Committee has committed the District to continuing to support such work with children and funding for these grants is now coming directly from the District Advance Fund.

Chair's Benevolent Fund (restricted)

This fund continues with modest receipts and payments and a balance of £568 is carried forward.

Komera Partnership Fund (restricted)

The District's relationship with the Free Methodist Church of Rwanda and PHARP (Peacebuilding Healing and Reconciliation Programme of Rwanda) continued, and further donations were received from churches and individuals during the year. Grants of £2,185 were paid to PHARP and at the year-end the fund had a balance of £1,006 of donations awaiting transfer to our partners in Rwanda.

Reserves policies

The reserves policy for the District Expenses Fund is based on a free reserves target of 10% of total circuit assessments, to reflect the risk that a circuit may not be able to meet their assessment in full. For 2024/25 circuit assessments are £619,200, giving a reserves target of £61,920. The actual level of free reserves at 31st August 2024 was £60,841 or 9.8% of circuit assessments.

The District Training Fund does not have a specific reserve requirement. If and when further funding is required an application will be made to the District Advance Fund.

The Manse Fund reserve target is £40,000, to cover major repairs to the Chair's manse in excess of the annual budget, and the current fund balance is £35,585.

The reserves in the District Advance Fund are already stated after taking into account future commitments and as the annual tranche of funding is received in September/October this fund does not need more than a nominal balance of reserves at the year-end.

The scale and scope of the work funded by the Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund is significant and its funding is dependent on grants from various sources, many of which are under financial pressure. In these circumstances, reserves of up to one year's expenditure are considered appropriate to ensure the resilience of the project.

The Chair's Benevolent Fund and the Komera Partnership Fund are there to make grants to beneficiaries from the funds that have been raised for those purposes and thus do not require any specific target levels of reserves.

Investment policy

Surplus monies of the District's Funds (other than the District Advance Fund) are held in an interest-bearing deposit account with the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church, which is a common deposit fund reporting directly to Conference. The District Advance Fund is held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes as custodian trustees on behalf of the District, and this fund is also invested in an interest-bearing account with the Central Finance Board.

Plans for the future

The primary objective of the District year is to engage in the substantial work necessary to ensure a successful transition to the new West Midlands District in September 2025.

Other plans for the year include an appointment to a newly designed role working with the "God for All" District Project as referenced above.

A District delegation will visit the Free Methodist Church in Rwanda to strengthen this relationship further.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2024

Structure, governance and management

The District, as part of the Methodist Church, is constituted under the terms of the Deed of Union of 1932, which was promulgated under the authority of legislation that is now found in the Methodist Church Act 1976. This Act provides the foundation on which all the remainder of the constitutional structure of the Church is raised.

The governing body of the Methodist Church in Great Britain is the Conference. Under the authority of the Act and the Deed of Union, Conference makes and amends Standing Orders, which are published annually in the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church. This is the basis for governance of the Church as a connexion of local churches, circuits and districts working together within the one framework.

The District Synod is the principal body responsible for the affairs of the District and is constituted in accordance with the Deed of Union and Standing Orders. It is the church court for the District, serving as a link between the Conference and the Connexional Team on the one hand and the Circuits and Local Churches on the other. It has oversight of all District affairs. The Synod annually appoints the members of the District Policy Committee whose responsibilities include the formulation and promotion of policy and the supervision of the use of resources of personnel, property and finance. Under charity law the members of the District Policy Committee are treated as the Trustees of the Charity and the names of the Trustees who served during the year or have been appointed since are shown above.

The District Policy Committee nominates persons to the Synod for appointment as district officers and as members of the District Policy Committee and other district committees. In addition, the Chair of the District, the Secretary of the Synod and any member of the Methodist Council nominated by the Synod are ex-officio members of the District Policy Committee.

The District is one of twenty-three Districts of the Methodist Church in Great Britain. The Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District brings together eleven Circuits, based in the City of Wolverhampton, two West Midlands Metropolitan Boroughs, parts of Staffordshire and Worcestershire, most of Shropshire, about half of Herefordshire and parts of Wales. The structure of the District and its constituent Circuits and Churches, and their inter-relationships with each other, is explained more fully in Note 2 to the accounts.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

Charity law requires the District Policy Committee (as Trustees) to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its financial activities for that period, together with its assets and liabilities at the end of the period, and adequately distinguish any material special trust or other restricted fund of the Charity. In preparing those financial statements the District Policy Committee is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the policies adopted are in accordance with the appropriate SORP and the Accounting Regulations and with applicable Accounting Standards, 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 in operation.

The District Policy Committee also has overall responsibility for ensuring that there is in place an appropriate system of controls, financial and otherwise, to provide reasonable confidence and assurance that:

- the District's administration is operating effectively and efficiently;
- the assets of the District are properly safeguarded against unauthorised loss or damage;
- proper records are maintained and information produced for management control, fiscal and statutory reasons; and
- the District complies with the relevant laws and guidelines.

This report was approved by the District Policy Committee as Trustees on 25th March 2025 and is signed on their behalf by:

R Parkinson

REV R.E. PARKINSON

District Chair

J Christopher Reed

J.C. REED

District Treasurer

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOLVERHAMPTON AND SHREWSBURY METHODIST DISTRICT

Opinion

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the District's affairs as at 31 August 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, 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 Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the District in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the 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 District'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 Report of the Independent Auditors 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.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOLVERHAMPTON AND SHREWSBURY METHODIST DISTRICT

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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, 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.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed auditor under s144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report to you in accordance with regulations made under s154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors 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.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOLVERHAMPTON AND SHREWSBURY METHODIST DISTRICT

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims

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

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

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

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' 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 the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

I Cattell

Ian Cattell FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Crombies Accountants Limited
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
34 Waterloo Road
Wolverhampton
West Midlands
WV1 4DG

25th March 2025

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st August 2024

		District Expenses Fund (unrestricted)	Desig- nated Funds (unrestricted)	District Advance Fund (restricted)	Other Restrict- ed Funds (restricted)	Total Funds 2023/24	Total Funds 2022/23
	Note	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:							
Donations and grants							
Grants from connexional funds	3	37,929	-	10,999	-	48,928	46,330
Other grants and donations	4	10,594	-	-	69,228	79,822	62,861
<i>Total donations and grants</i>		<u>48,523</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,999</u>	<u>69,228</u>	<u>128,750</u>	<u>109,191</u>
Charitable activities							
Assessments on circuits	5	619,604	-	-	-	619,604	593,351
Levies on circuit model trust funds		-	-	222,042	-	222,042	132,472
Distribution from Connexional Priority Fund		-	-	176,515	-	176,515	145,959
Other charitable activities	6	1,100	-	-	-	1,100	1,642
<i>Total charitable activities</i>		<u>620,704</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>398,557</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,019,261</u>	<u>873,424</u>
Other trading activities		-	-	-	330	330	-
Investments	7	8,854	-	38,668	1,404	48,926	26,533
Other income - grants repaid		3,000	1,501	-	-	4,501	
<i>Total income</i>		<u>681,081</u>	<u>1,501</u>	<u>448,224</u>	<u>70,962</u>	<u>1,201,768</u>	<u>1,009,148</u>
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	11	-	-	1,622	-	1,622	2,256
Charitable activities							
Contribution to Methodist Church Fund		562,924	-	-	-	562,924	536,353
Other charitable activities undertaken directly	12	185,109	7,451	8,895	82,596	284,051	233,808
Grant funding of charitable activities	13	4,940	-	136,486	2,986	144,412	554,696
Support costs	14	41,646	-	-	-	41,646	41,670
<i>Total charitable activities</i>		<u>794,619</u>	<u>7,451</u>	<u>145,381</u>	<u>85,582</u>	<u>1,033,033</u>	<u>1,366,527</u>
<i>Total expenditure</i>		<u>794,619</u>	<u>7,451</u>	<u>147,003</u>	<u>85,582</u>	<u>1,034,655</u>	<u>1,368,783</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		(113,538)	(5,950)	301,221	(14,620)	167,113	(359,635)
Transfers between funds	15	111,241	4,000	(135,241)	20,000	-	-
Net movement in funds		(2,297)	(1,950)	165,980	5,380	167,113	(359,635)
Total funds brought forward		338,978	39,765	187,016	35,020	600,779	960,414
Total funds carried forward		<u><u>336,681</u></u>	<u><u>37,815</u></u>	<u><u>352,996</u></u>	<u><u>40,400</u></u>	<u><u>767,892</u></u>	<u><u>600,779</u></u>

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Balance Sheet as at 31st August 2024

	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	District Advance Fund (restricted)	Other Restricted Funds (restricted)	Total Funds at 31 Aug 24	Total Funds at 31 Aug 23
Note	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets						
Tangible assets	16	265,000	-	-	2,700	267,700
Current assets						
Debtors	17	5,023	-	20,076	25,099	3,029
Cash on deposit:						
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		-	730,437	-	730,437	569,028
Central Finance Board		85,819	35,585	13,968	135,372	142,675
Cash at bank		1,405	3,801	4,193	9,399	10,471
Prepaid currency cards		3,602	-	-	3,602	400
Total current assets		95,849	39,386	730,437	38,237	903,909
Liabilities						
Creditors due within 1 year:						
Creditors	18	24,168	1,571	537	26,276	11,412
Grants payable	19	-	-	137,958	137,958	139,924
		24,168	1,571	137,958	537	151,336
Net current assets		71,681	37,815	592,479	37,700	739,675
Total assets less current liabilities		336,681	37,815	592,479	40,400	1,007,375
Creditors due after 1 year:						
Grants payable	19	-	-	239,483	239,483	242,088
Total net assets		336,681	37,815	352,996	40,400	767,892
Represented by	20					
Unrestricted Funds:						
District Expenses Fund		336,681	-	-	336,681	338,978
Designated Funds:						
District Training Fund		-	2,230	-	2,230	8,180
Manse Fund		-	35,585	-	35,585	31,585
Restricted Funds:						
District Advance Fund		-	-	352,996	352,996	187,016
Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund		-	-	38,826	38,826	30,989
Children Support Fund		-	-	-	-	801
Chair's Benevolent Fund		-	-	568	568	1,053
Komera Partnership Rwanda		-	-	1,006	1,006	2,177
Total funds		336,681	37,815	352,996	40,400	767,892

The notes on pages 13 to 25 form part of these accounts

The accounts were approved by the District Policy Committee as Trustees on 25th March 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:

R Parkinson

REV R.E. PARKINSON

District Chair

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31st August 2024

		Total Funds 2023/24 £	Total Funds 2022/23 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	See below	107,310	(285,605)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest receivable		48,926	26,533
Purchase of equipment		-	(4,800)
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		156,236	(263,872)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		722,574	986,446
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year		878,810	722,574
Represented by			
Cash on deposit:			
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		730,437	569,028
Central Finance Board		135,372	142,675
Cash at bank		9,399	10,471
Prepaid currency cards		3,602	400
		878,810	722,574
Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities			
Net income/(expenditure) for the year as per Statement of Financial Activities	Page 11	167,113	(359,635)
Add back depreciation charge		900	1,200
Deduct interest receivable (investing activity)		(48,926)	(26,533)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	Note 17	(22,070)	(2,655)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	Notes 18, 19	10,293	102,018
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		107,310	(285,605)

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2024

1 Basis of accounting and accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the following:

- i) The Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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),
- ii) FRS 102 - The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (as above), and
- iii) The Charities Act 2011.

The Charities SORP (FRS 102) has been used, despite the relevant 2008 accounting regulations still requiring use of the Charities SORP 2005, on the grounds that it is necessary to use the newer SORP in order to comply with the legal obligation to give a true and fair view.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the use of an historical insured value as the deemed cost of the District manse. The accruals basis has been used to show a true and fair view of the District's financial position and activities.

(b) Public benefit entity

The Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District (the "District") meets the definition of a public benefit entity in FRS 102 as its primary objectives require it to act so as to provide public, community or social benefit rather than to provide economic benefit to its members or participants.

(c) Going concern

The trustees consider there are no material uncertainties that would cast significant doubt on the District's ability to continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future, being a period of more than 12 months from the date these accounts are approved. The Methodist Conference has approved the merger of the District with Birmingham District, to take effect on 1st September 2025. On that date all the income streams and expenditure commitments, the assets, liabilities, activities and responsibilities of the District will be transferred into the West Midlands District. The trustees are therefore satisfied that the District can continue as a going concern up to and beyond the date of the merger and they reached their view having taken into account the financial position of the District shown in these accounts and budgets for the next two years, including the first year of the combined entity.

(d) Funds

The District operates a District Expenses Fund, which is the general unrestricted fund that can be used for any District purposes and holds cash, other current assets and fixed assets. In addition there are designated funds holding cash and current assets designated for particular purposes but which may be used for other District purposes at the discretion of the trustees. There are also several restricted funds holding cash and current and fixed assets which can only be used for the specified purpose because of the terms on which their funding was received whether by grant, donation or fundraising.

(e) Income recognition

Income is recognised when the District becomes entitled to the economic benefit of the income, it is probable (i.e. more likely than not) that it will be received, and its monetary value can be measured reliably. No attempt is made to measure the considerable value of services or time donated by volunteers.

The District acts as agent in the following matters:

- i) collections taken at Synod for various charities, which are paid over to the respective charities shortly afterwards; and
- ii) payments received from the Methodist Church Fund to reimburse the District for the expenses of District representatives attending the Methodist Conference.

The receipts and payments for the above matters are not income or expenditure of the District and are therefore not reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2024

1 Basis of accounting and accounting policies (continued)

(f) Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is recognised when there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the District to pay out resources, it is probable (i.e. more likely than not) that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

(g) Grants payable

The District makes a significant number of grants to third parties in furtherance of its objects, sometimes as one-off payments and sometimes as a series of periodic payments that may cover several years. As soon as a grant is awarded to a third party they have a valid expectation that the District will discharge its obligation to make the payments whenever they are to become due. This creates a constructive obligation in respect of the total value of the award. Even though multi-year grant awards are subject to annual monitoring, no specific conditions are imposed that would make the awards conditional and payment of the full amount is therefore probable. Accordingly all awards are immediately recognised as expenditure and a liability for future payments is recorded.

(h) Value added tax

Since the District is not registered for value added tax ("VAT"), all input VAT is charged with the expense to which it relates.

(i) Pensions

All employees of the District are either auto-enrolled in or invited to join the TPT Retirement Solutions Flexible Retirement Plan, a defined contribution pension scheme. The District's contribution is set at 6% of salary and the District has no liability beyond making its contributions and paying over the deductions for the employees' contributions. There were no contributions outstanding at the year-end.

(j) Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost more than £1,000. They are valued at historical cost, except for the District Chair's manse, which is stated at deemed cost, being its insured value in 2011, and it is assessed each year for any indication of impairment.

(k) Depreciation

Depreciation is provided to write-off the cost of a fixed asset, less its residual value, over its useful economic life. In the case of the manse, its residual value is estimated and provided it is not less than cost no depreciation is required. Equipment is depreciated at 25% pa on the reducing balance.

(l) Debtors and creditors

Debtors are stated at the amount the District expects to receive or the amount it has paid in advance for goods or services. Creditors are stated at the amount the District expects to pay or the amount it has received as an advance payment for goods or services.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2024

2 Controlling body, connected organisations and glossary of terms

The ultimate controlling body of the District is the Conference of the Methodist Church in Great Britain.

The "Conference" is a representative body drawn from across the Connexion, and is the policy-making and governing body of the Church. It makes and amends Standing Orders, which are published annually in the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church, as the basis for governance of the Church throughout the Connexion.

The "Connexion" is the larger connected community of the Methodist Church in Great Britain, comprising the Conference, the central team of Connexional Officers and support systems directed by the Methodist Council, and the regional organisation of Districts, Circuits and Churches.

"Districts" are regional bodies comprising a number of Circuits.

"Circuits" are local groupings of churches.

"Churches" are the local places to which Methodists belong.

Each of the entities in these layers of the church community is a separate charity with its own trustees and many of the District's trustees are also trustees of some of these. However, the District has no significant influence over any of these entities nor, with the exception of the Conference, do they have significant influence over the District. The District is bound by the Standing Orders laid down by Conference as law and policy but within that framework it is able to determine for itself how to fulfill its role. All the entities within the Connexion are therefore connected organisations in relation to the District but, because of the lack of significant influence, they are not considered related parties for accounting purposes.

The District receives grants from Connexional funds to support certain aspects of its work. It also receives the proceeds of an annual levy set by Conference charged on money held in trust funds by its Circuits. Conference has also set a levy to be charged on most property sales within the Connexion for the Connexional Priority Fund. Part of the proceeds of this fund is distributed annually to the Districts.

Conference has established the Methodist Church Fund as a major source of finance for the activities of the Church and it determines an assessment to be paid into the fund each year, which is allocated between the Districts. The Districts in turn make an assessment on their Circuits to collect the Methodist Church Fund assessment together with a contribution to District expenses.

Many Circuits and Churches make grants and donations and provide personnel to support District activities. The District in turn makes grants to Circuits and Churches for personnel and property projects.

The "Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes" is the legal owner and custodian trustee of all property held on Methodist model trusts.

The "Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church" manages a common deposit fund and a series of pooled investment funds for Methodist entities.

Insurance cover is provided to the District by Methodist Insurance PLC.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2024

3 Grants from connexional funds

	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	District Advance Fund (restricted) £	Other Restrict- ed Funds (restricted) £	Total Funds £
2023/24					
Church at the Margins funding	21,189	-	-	-	21,189
Exploratory funding for evangelism and growth	3,000	-	-	-	3,000
New Places for New People funding	13,740	-	-	-	13,740
Mission alongside the poor grant	-	-	10,999	-	10,999
	<u>37,929</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,999</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>48,928</u>
2022/23					
Church at the Margins funding	25,000	-	-	-	25,000
Exploratory funding for evangelism and growth	4,850	-	-	-	4,850
New Places for New People funding	5,057	-	-	-	5,057
Mission alongside the poor grant	-	-	11,423	-	11,423
	<u>34,907</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,423</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>46,330</u>

4 Other grants and donations

	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) £	Agric. Chaplain- cy Fund (restricted) £	Komera Partner- ship Fund (restricted) £	Chair's Benevol- ent Fund (restricted) £	Total Funds £
2023/24					
Grant from Birmingham District	10,594	-	-	-	10,594
Donations from churches	-	3,057	50	55	3,162
Donations from individuals	-	1,040	531	-	1,571
Grant from Shropshire & Marches Circuit	-	20,000	-	-	20,000
Grant from Hereford Diocese	-	24,800	-	-	24,800
NFU Mutual Agency Giving Fund	-	6,509	-	-	6,509
Royal Countryside Fund	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
Other donations and grants	-	7,873	-	-	7,873
Gift aid	-	210	103	-	313
	<u>10,594</u>	<u>68,489</u>	<u>684</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>79,822</u>
2022/23					
Grant from Birmingham District	12,500	-	-	-	12,500
Donations from churches and circuits	-	598	2,360	170	3,128
Donations from individuals	-	1,766	2,322	-	4,088
Grant from Shropshire & Marches Circuit	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
Grant from Hereford Diocese	-	16,000	-	-	16,000
NFU Mutual Agency Giving Fund	-	6,443	-	-	6,443
The McDonald Trust	-	2,001	-	-	2,001
Other donations and grants	-	7,981	-	-	7,981
Gift aid	-	165	555	-	720
	<u>12,500</u>	<u>44,954</u>	<u>5,237</u>	<u>170</u>	<u>62,861</u>

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2024

5 Assessments on circuits

The Methodist Conference levies an annual assessment on the Circuits through the several Districts to finance the Methodist Church Fund ("MCF"). The assessment is payable by the Districts who then collect Circuit assessments to cover the MCF assessment plus a contribution to District expenses and training.

The allocation of the MCF assessment between Districts is based on staffing numbers at Circuit and District level. The allocation of the Circuit assessment between the Circuits is provisionally agreed between the District Treasurer and the Circuit Treasurers, subject to the approval of the District Policy Committee, and is based on a number of factors, including staffing levels and membership and attendance statistics.

The Circuit Treasurers believe this produces a fairer way of allocating the costs between Circuits. Accordingly the District cannot be said to act merely as agent for the collection of the MCF assessment and the full Circuit assessments are therefore shown as income of the District and the MCF assessment paid to the Connexion is shown as expenditure.

	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) £	Desig- nated Funds (unrestricted) £	District Advance Fund (restricted) £	Other Restrict- ed Funds (restricted) £	Total Funds £
2023/24					
For Methodist Church Fund	562,924	-	-	-	562,924
For District expenses	56,680	-	-	-	56,680
	<u>619,604</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>619,604</u>
2022/23					
For Methodist Church Fund	536,686	-	-	-	536,686
For District expenses	56,665	-	-	-	56,665
	<u>593,351</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>593,351</u>

6 Other charitable activities

	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) 2023/24 £	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) 2022/23 £
Charges for District Pilgrimage	<u>1,100</u>	<u>1,642</u>

7 Investment income

	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) £	Desig- nated Funds (unrestricted) £	District Advance Fund (restricted) £	Other Restrict- ed Funds (restricted) £	Total Funds £
Interest receivable					
2023/24					
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes:					
District Advance Fund account	-	-	38,668	-	38,668
Central Finance Board	8,854	-	-	1,404	10,258
	<u>8,854</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>38,668</u>	<u>1,404</u>	<u>48,926</u>
2022/23					
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes:					
District Advance Fund account	-	-	18,360	-	18,360
City Centre Properties account	-	-	1,912	-	1,912
Central Finance Board	4,719	-	-	1,542	6,261
	<u>4,719</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,272</u>	<u>1,542</u>	<u>26,533</u>

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2024

8 Payments to trustees

The members of the District Policy Committee are the trustees of the District and none of them received any remuneration for their role as trustee.

The Chair of the District, Rev Rachel Parkinson, is a trustee and is regarded as the sole key management person of the District. Under the authority of the Methodist Conference, the Chair was paid by the Connexion and was required to occupy the manse owned and maintained by the District. Total annual costs were as follows:

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Stipend and chair's allowance	36,300	34,836
Employer's national insurance contributions	3,754	3,644
Employer's contributions to defined benefit pension scheme	7,812	7,244
District manse maintenance and running costs	5,879	6,577
	<u>53,745</u>	<u>52,301</u>

During the year 1 trustee (2022/23 3 trustees) received reimbursement of expenses incurred in carrying out their duties:

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Cost of travel for District purposes	1,877	1,665
Postage, telephone, stationery, hospitality, conferences and sundries	592	134
	<u>2,469</u>	<u>1,799</u>

9 Auditor's remuneration

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Auditor's remuneration	4,200	4,400

The auditor did not carry out any other work for the District during the year.

10 Staff costs

	2023/24	2022/23
	No.	No.
Average number of full-time employees during the year	3.6	3.0
Average number of part-time employees during the year	4.0	4.0
Average full-time equivalent number of staff during the year	5.4	4.8
	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Salaries	201,558	175,994
Employer's national insurance contributions	18,624	16,087
Employer's contributions to defined contribution pension scheme	9,215	7,115
Apprenticeship levy	1,009	889
	<u>230,406</u>	<u>200,085</u>
Charged to:		
District Expenses Fund (unrestricted)	154,642	126,842
Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund (restricted)	75,764	73,243
	<u>230,406</u>	<u>200,085</u>

All staff are paid at a rate above the living wage and no employees received emoluments of more than £60,000. Members of staff served as Agricultural Chaplain, Ministry and Mission Co-ordinator, Congregational and Community Organiser, Additional Needs Enabler and in other support and administrative posts.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2024

11 Expenditure on raising funds

	District Advance Fund (restricted) 2023/24 £	District Advance Fund (restricted) 2022/23 £
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes investment management fees	<u>1,622</u>	<u>2,256</u>

The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes hold the District Advance Fund as custodian trustees and invest it in a deposit fund at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church. The management fee is 0.285%pa of the fund value at the beginning of the year.

12 Other charitable activities undertaken directly

	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) £	Desig- nated Funds (unrestricted) £	District Advance Fund (restricted) £	Other Restrict- ed Funds (restricted) £	Total Funds £
2023/24					
Ministry & Mission Co-ordinator	50,746	-	-	-	50,746
Additional Needs Enabler	28,085	-	-	-	28,085
Congregational & Community Organiser	46,628	-	-	-	46,628
Safeguarding costs	29,970	-	-	-	29,970
Property Consultant	21,876	-	-	-	21,876
Agricultural chaplaincy costs	-	-	-	82,056	82,056
Supervision and other District services	5,253	-	3,367	540	9,160
Training	1,451	7,451	-	-	8,902
Youth activities - 3Generate and Amplify	-	-	5,528	-	5,528
District pilgrimage	1,100	-	-	-	1,100
	<u>185,109</u>	<u>7,451</u>	<u>8,895</u>	<u>82,596</u>	<u>284,051</u>
2022/23					
Ministry & Mission Co-ordinator	48,593	-	-	-	48,593
Intergenerational Lay Worker	276	-	-	-	276
Congregational & Community Organiser	45,747	-	-	-	45,747
Safeguarding costs	26,486	-	-	-	26,486
Property Consultant	22,292	-	-	-	22,292
Agricultural chaplaincy costs	-	-	-	79,499	79,499
Supervision and other District services	3,988	-	-	750	4,738
Training	583	3,552	-	-	4,135
Young people's activities - 3Generate	-	-	585	-	585
District pilgrimage	1,457	-	-	-	1,457
	<u>149,422</u>	<u>3,552</u>	<u>585</u>	<u>80,249</u>	<u>233,808</u>

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2024

13 Grant funding of charitable activities

	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	District Advance Fund (restricted) £	Other Restrict- ed Funds (restricted) £	Total Funds £
2023/24					
Grants paid in year:					
Local ecumenical organisations	-	-	38,791	-	38,791
Grants to circuits and churches	4,940	-	102,266	801	108,007
Grants to partners in Rwanda	-	-	-	2,185	2,185
Other grants	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>4,940</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>141,057</u>	<u>2,986</u>	<u>148,983</u>
Grants awarded but unpaid at end of year	-	-	377,441	-	377,441
Grants awarded but unpaid at start of year	-	-	(382,012)	-	(382,012)
	<u>4,940</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>136,486</u>	<u>2,986</u>	<u>144,412</u>
2022/23					
Grants paid in year:					
Local ecumenical organisations	-	-	30,688	-	30,688
Grants to circuits and churches	1,923	-	405,348	4,580	411,851
Grants to partners in Rwanda	-	-	-	6,554	6,554
Other grants	-	-	90	-	90
	<u>1,923</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>436,126</u>	<u>11,134</u>	<u>449,183</u>
Grants awarded but unpaid at end of year	-	-	382,012	-	382,012
Grants awarded but unpaid at start of year	-	-	(276,499)	-	(276,499)
	<u>1,923</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>541,639</u>	<u>11,134</u>	<u>554,696</u>

All these grants were made to projects financed jointly by the District and other parts of the Methodist Church or to other organisations, and none was made to an individual.

The District Advance Fund grants in 2022/23 included £305,030 paid to Wolverhampton Circuit arising from the sale of Darlington Street Methodist Church, Wolverhampton. Under standing orders of the Methodist Church, sale proceeds of city centre churches are to be used for the purpose of continuing the work in that city. The District Policy Committee resolved that the best way to achieve that purpose was to transfer the money to Wolverhampton Circuit who were already engaged in that work by employing a deacon to work exclusively in the city centre.

The grants awarded during the year from the District Advance Fund are for personnel, ecumenical, outreach or property projects related to ministry and mission, predominantly within circuits or local churches.

	2023/24 £	2022/23 £
Personnel, ecumenical and outreach projects	130,698	536,558
Property projects	5,788	5,081
	<u>136,486</u>	<u>541,639</u>

There were 55 grants awarded during the year from the District Advance Fund, of which the following grants were the largest and accounted for 77% of the gross amount awarded, each being payable in annual instalments:

Black Country Circuit - to support the employment of a Children and Families Worker for 5 years from September 2024	£50,000
Telford Circuit - to support the employment of a Centre Co-ordinator at Trinity Methodist Church, Shifnal for 5 years from March 2024	£50,000
Wolverhampton Circuit - to support the employment of a Community Centre Administrator at Stratton Street Methodist Church for 3 years from September 2024	£30,000

There are no support costs included in the cost of grant funding as they would not be material. The District Advance Fund is overseen by the Resourcing Mission Committee, the work of which is largely carried out by its officers, predominantly the District Grants Officer, on a voluntary basis.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2024

14 Support costs

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Chair's travel and miscellaneous expenses	3,171	1,815
Administration staff costs	22,553	23,592
District office expenses	4,748	4,255
District manse expenses	5,879	6,577
Synod expenses	534	770
Meeting, travel and other administrative expenses	561	210
Governance costs	4,200	4,451
	<u>41,646</u>	<u>41,670</u>

15 Transfers between funds

	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) £	Desig- nated Funds (unrestricted) £	District Advance Fund (restricted) £	Other Restrict- ed Funds (restricted) £	Total Funds £
2023/24 transfers to/(from) funds					
Ministry & Mission Co-ordinator costs	58,800	-	(58,800)	-	-
Congregational & Community Organiser costs	12,500	-	(12,500)	-	-
District Property Consultant costs	24,800	-	(24,800)	-	-
Agricultural chaplaincy costs	-	-	(20,000)	20,000	-
New Places for New People project	19,141	-	(19,141)	-	-
Manse maintenance budget underspend	(4,000)	4,000	-	-	-
	<u>111,241</u>	<u>4,000</u>	<u>(135,241)</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>-</u>
2022/23 transfers to/(from) funds					
Ministry & Mission Co-ordinator costs	53,500	-	(53,500)	-	-
Congregational & Community Organiser costs	12,500	-	(12,500)	-	-
District Property Consultant costs	22,300	-	(22,300)	-	-
Agricultural chaplaincy costs	-	-	(10,000)	10,000	-
Cost of living support	5,679	-	(7,965)	2,286	-
Manse maintenance budget underspend	(3,000)	3,000	-	-	-
Surplus on pilgrimage to Komera Fund	(184)	-	-	184	-
	<u>90,795</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>(106,265)</u>	<u>12,470</u>	<u>-</u>

16 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 September 2023	265,000	4,800	269,800
Additions	-	-	-
At 31 August 2024	<u>265,000</u>	<u>4,800</u>	<u>269,800</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 September 2023	-	1,200	1,200
Charge for the year	-	900	900
At 31 August 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>2,100</u>	<u>2,100</u>
Net book value			
At 1 September 2023	265,000	3,600	268,600
At 31 August 2024	<u>265,000</u>	<u>2,700</u>	<u>267,700</u>

Freehold property represents the Chair's manse, which is stated at deemed cost, being its insured value in 2011. The manse was professionally valued at £370,000 by Jackson Lile & Close on 27th January 2020 and accordingly no depreciation has been provided.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2024

17 Debtors

	31/8/24	31/8/23
	£	£
Prepayments - deposits paid for retreat accommodation	1,500	300
Accrued income - gift aid refund receivable	76	387
Grant receivable from Shropshire & Marches Circuit	20,000	-
Other debtors	3,523	2,342
	<u>25,099</u>	<u>3,029</u>

18 Creditors

	31/8/24	31/8/23
	£	£
Accrued expenses		
Reimbursement of employees' and volunteers' expenses	1,060	1,024
Accrued expenses due to third party suppliers	18,869	10,388
	<u>19,929</u>	<u>11,412</u>
Other creditors	6,347	-
	<u>26,276</u>	<u>11,412</u>

19 Liabilities for grants payable in future years

	31/8/24	31/8/23
	£	£
District Advance Fund grant commitments, payable in future years:		
Grants payable within one year:	<u>137,958</u>	<u>139,924</u>
Grants payable after more than one year:		
Payable in - 2024/25	-	92,605
2025/26	100,619	70,619
2026/27	74,551	44,551
2027/28	54,313	34,313
2028/29	10,000	-
	<u>239,483</u>	<u>242,088</u>
Total grant commitments	<u>377,441</u>	<u>382,012</u>

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2024

20 Summary of fund movements

	Fund balances brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers between funds (Note 15)	Fund balances carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£
2023/24 Unrestricted fund movements					
District Expenses Fund	338,978	681,081	794,619	111,241	336,681
District Training Fund	8,180	1,501	7,451	-	2,230
Manse Fund	31,585	-	-	4,000	35,585
	<u>378,743</u>	<u>682,582</u>	<u>802,070</u>	<u>115,241</u>	<u>374,496</u>
2023/24 Restricted fund movements					
District Advance Fund	187,016	448,224	147,003	(135,241)	352,996
Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund	30,989	69,893	82,056	20,000	38,826
Children Support Fund	801	-	801	-	-
Chair's Benevolent Fund	1,053	55	540	-	568
Komera Partnership Fund	2,177	1,014	2,185	-	1,006
	<u>222,036</u>	<u>519,186</u>	<u>232,585</u>	<u>(115,241)</u>	<u>393,396</u>
2023/24 Total fund movements	<u>600,779</u>	<u>1,201,768</u>	<u>1,034,655</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>767,892</u>
2022/23 Unrestricted fund movements					
District Expenses Fund	330,432	647,119	729,368	90,795	338,978
District Training Fund	11,732	-	3,552	-	8,180
Manse Fund	28,585	-	-	3,000	31,585
	<u>370,749</u>	<u>647,119</u>	<u>732,920</u>	<u>93,795</u>	<u>378,743</u>
2022/23 Restricted fund movements					
District Advance Fund	527,635	310,126	544,480	(106,265)	187,016
Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund	51,791	46,411	79,499	12,286	30,989
Children Support Fund	5,296	85	4,580	-	801
Chair's Benevolent Fund	1,633	170	750	-	1,053
Komera Partnership Fund	3,310	5,237	6,554	184	2,177
	<u>589,665</u>	<u>362,029</u>	<u>635,863</u>	<u>(93,795)</u>	<u>222,036</u>
2022/23 Total fund movements	<u>960,414</u>	<u>1,009,148</u>	<u>1,368,783</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>600,779</u>

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2024

21 Unrestricted funds

(a) District Expenses Fund

This is the general fund used for running the District and has no restrictions. It is financed principally by circuit assessments and the fund balance includes the book value of the District manse (£265,000).

(b) Designated funds

These funds are designated for particular purposes by the District Policy Committee but they are not held on terms that prevent their use for other District purposes if the Committee so resolve.

The District Training Fund is used to fund ministerial and lay training. This fund is financed by transfers from the District Advance Fund ("DAF") as and when required. Although the DAF is a restricted fund its purposes include the support of personnel working in the District and transfers to the Training Fund will be made by grants awarded in the usual way in accordance with the DAF policy as long as the Training Fund continues to meet that purpose of the DAF.

The Manse Fund is used as a reserve to cover occasional heavy expenditure on maintenance of the District manse. Manse maintenance is charged to the District Expenses Fund but any underspend compared to budget is transferred to the Manse Fund and any overspend is covered by drawing on the Manse Fund.

22 Restricted funds

(a) District Advance Fund

This fund is set up under Methodist Church Standing Orders and is funded by a levy on the end-of-year balances of the Circuit Model Trust Funds of the Circuits in the District and by a distribution from the Connexional Priority Fund, as part of the process of moving money around the Connexion to enable it to best be used for the mission of the Church. The fund is administered by the Resourcing Mission Committee who award grants in accordance with the fund policy to support personnel or property projects related to mission and ministry and to support outreach, evangelism and ecumenical work.

(b) Other restricted funds

The Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund finances the work of Borderlands Rural Chaplaincy, a joint Methodist and Anglican initiative among rural communities in the Welsh borders. Its income comes mainly from grants and donations from a range of Methodist and Anglican sources and it employs a full-time chaplain and a part-time area co-ordinator, who are supported by a team of volunteers.

The Children Support Fund was a legacy fund remaining from when the District operated an annual holiday for children and, with the agreement of the original donors, it has been used to make grants to churches who are working with children in deprived circumstances. Although the fund was exhausted during the year, grants for children's work continue to be offered from the District Advance Fund.

The Chair's Benevolent Fund provides small grants from donations to allow the Chair to meet cases of personal need in a confidential way.

The Komera Partnership Fund supports the District's partnership with the Free Methodist Church of Rwanda and the Peacebuilding Healing and Reconciliation Programme of Rwanda with funds from donations and fundraising activities.

Accounts

The Methodist Church
Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District

Registered Charity Number 1134902

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended
31st August 2023

The Methodist Church

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District

**Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31st August 2023**

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Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2023

Reference and administrative information

Registered charity name Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Registered charity number 1134902

Trustees (members of the District Policy Committee)

The members of the District Policy Committee at the date of this report and those who served during the year ended 31st August 2023 are as follows:

Rev Rachel Parkinson - Chair
Rev Alan Combes - Deputy Chair (until 9/9/23)
Rev Joanne Cox-Darling - Deputy Chair (from 9/9/23)
Mr Andrew Beattie - Synod Secretary (until 17/9/22)
Rev Margaret Eales - Synod Secretary (from 17/9/22)
Mr Christopher Reed - District Treasurer

Rev David Alford
Ms Helen Allen
Ms Stella Dede Cofie (from 17/11/22)
Rev Nicholas Collison
Mrs Lesley Cook
Deacon Susan Culver (from 31/10/23)
Rev Elizabeth Dunning
Mrs Angela Evans
Mrs Claire Evans (from 11/11/22)
Rev John Hartley (from 1/9/23)
Mr David Hemingway (until 31/8/23)

Rev Roger Hides (until 31/8/23)
Rev Jimione Kaci (until 31/8/23)
Rev David Lavender
Rev Susan Levitt (until 31/8/23)
Dr Susan McCready-Shea (from 31/10/23)
Mr Brian Oakley
Mrs Elaine Panchal
Rev Hendry Ponniah (until 31/8/23)
Rev Stuart Reed (from 1/9/23)
Rev Teddy Siwila
Rev Julia Skitt
Mr Keith Walton

Principal address District Office
Beckminster Methodist Church
Birches Barn Road
Wolverhampton
WV3 7BQ

Telephone 01902 658383

Website wsmethodist.org.uk

Auditors Crombies Accountants Limited
34 Waterloo Road
Wolverhampton
WV1 4DG

Bankers	The Co-operative Bank PLC PO Box 250 Delf House Southway Skelmersdale WN8 6WT	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church 9 Bonhill Street London EC2A 4PE
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Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2023

Objectives and activities

The purpose of the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District is laid out in Standing Order 400A of the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church, namely that: "the District is constituted to advance the mission of the Church in the region, by providing opportunities for Circuits to work together and support each other, by offering them resources of finance, personnel and expertise which may not be available locally and by enabling them to engage with the wider society of the region as a whole and address its concerns." The central priorities of the Methodist Church are Worship, Learning and Caring, Service and Evangelism.

The District comprises around 175 local Methodist churches grouped into 12 circuits. This year two of those Circuits - Brownhills & Willenhall and Walsall - received the permission of Conference to amalgamate from September 2024. The District is served by a team of around 41 active ministers, 34 of whom are presbyters and 7 of whom are deacons, together with a significant number of lay people mostly employed by Circuits and churches. A number of Supernumerary (retired) ministers also offer very significant support. The District itself supports eight lay employment posts, some of these being jointly shared with the Birmingham District.

The failure of a significant number of churches in some Circuits to submit membership statistics this year means that reliable numbers are not available. (Considerable effort is being put into ensuring that accurate statistics are collected in time for the next report.) However it is expected that numbers will once again have fallen in line with previous years and trends around the Connexion, leading to a membership figure of around 6,000. This is primarily because the average age of Methodist members has been rising over the years, and we now see significantly more deaths than new members made. Twelve congregations asked the District Synod for permission to close during the year. This is roughly in line with previous years.

The statistics clearly support a narrative of an ageing core membership in numerical decline. This context is undoubtedly leading to pressure at every level of the church in finding volunteers, time and energy to fulfil governance requirements and to maintain previous levels of activity. However it is far from the full picture. Churches in the District touch the lives of very many more people than hold membership, offering a network of spiritual, emotional and physical support which is invaluable in the context of the communities they serve. This has been particularly valuable in the context of a post-pandemic society and a cost-of-living crisis. The District team has worked hard to support, encourage and enable this local outreach.

Alongside the enabling of "traditional" church, the District continues to prioritise the encouragement of new forms of church in line with the Connexional "God for All" initiative for evangelism and growth. Some of this work is covered in the following section.

The proposal to merge this District with the neighbouring Birmingham District from September 2025 gathered momentum. Significant conversations were held throughout this reporting year in preparation for the formal processes in which both Districts are now participating.

The District awarded £555K in grants mainly to Circuits, Churches and local ecumenical organisations during the year. Given the District's desire to be in "mission" rather than "maintenance" mode, the vast majority of this money supports people-based activities rather than the repair of buildings.

Public benefit

The activities mentioned above were undertaken so as to further the District's purposes for the public benefit and the District Policy Committee has had regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission when exercising its powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2023

Achievements and performance

- There was clear evidence during this year that the continuance of the fortnightly online gathering of Superintendents begun during the pandemic, supplemented by an annual retreat and occasional hospitality at the District Manse, has had a transformative effect on the sense of collegiality and support experienced by these key leaders within the District. This is especially vital given the previously referenced pressures relating to numerical decline.
- Both the Representative Sessions of the District Synod underlined the commitment to evangelism and growth. The Autumn session was addressed by the Rev'd Al Barrett of the Church of England, encouraging us to a Jesus-led approach to how we meet the various crises affecting our communities. The Spring Session featured workshops based on three stories of how Circuits are reaching out beyond the walls of the Church. In March 2023 the District partnered with Birmingham in hosting a Day Conference looking at how we might grow churches in marginal places.
- Substantial work was done, principally by Jo Yair, District Ministry & Missions Co-ordinator, to present the District "God for All" project for Connexional approval. This was successful and a new employee, Emily Donovan, began work in September 2023. Her role is to increase inclusivity across the District, particularly in relation to people with special educational needs and disability.
- A two-year pilot project, shared with the Birmingham District, began to explore how faith-rooted community organising practices can help local churches to move from vision into action. A key development in this was the employment of Eddy Aigbe as Congregational & Community Organiser.
- The employment of Matthew McDade as District Property Consultant at the end of 2020 paid increasing dividends through his assistance of churches with a wide range of property related issues. This post is now firmly established and much valued.
- The District awarded 11 grants of £500 each to "Warm Spaces" opened in churches in response to the cost-of-living crisis. More Warm Spaces were established overall across the District, but not all applied for funding. The District was able to offer help and advice, particularly in relation to safeguarding.
- Children and young people received District support to attend the Connexional 3Generate event at the NEC in Birmingham, and also the regionally-organised "Amplify" event at the Pioneer Centre in Cleobury Mortimer.
- Ecumenical relationships were strengthened during the year. The District Chair was made an Ecumenical Canon of Lichfield Cathedral and attended a residential gathering of 21 senior leaders across a wide ecumenical spectrum, resulting in a joint statement of common purpose and intent. The District organised an ecumenical day pilgrimage around parts of the Black Country, looking at the Methodist history and legacy in the area, concluding at the Black Country Living Museum.
- The fourth District Pilgrimage held in Easter week showed real growth in participation and has become highly valued by those who take part. This year the route was in the Golden Valley in Herefordshire, accepting hospitality from ancient Anglican churches. The Pilgrimage is now shared with the Birmingham District.
- Sufficient numbers of churches achieved Eco Awards under the A Rocha scheme to allow the District to make an application to become a Bronze Eco District (result pending). A new criterion for grant applications was established to encourage Circuits to take action to improve the energy efficiency of manses.
- The District supported the Connexional Advent & Christmas "There is Room" Campaign by making available small grants for community outreach, totalling £1,542.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2023

Financial review

The above activities and achievements illustrate the work of the District and the attached accounts show how the financial resources necessary for that work have been raised and expended. The accounts are also the means by which members of the District Policy Committee, as trustees, account for their stewardship of those funds to the circuits, the membership of the churches within the District and the wider community.

The finances of the District are held in eight different funds to account properly for the different purposes for which money comes into the District. Most of the income comes from other parts of the Methodist Church: assessments are received from the Circuits in the District to fund the work done directly and the payment to the Connexion of a contribution to the Methodist Church Fund, and distributions are received via the Connexional structure of the Methodist Church to fund grant-making activities, as explained more fully in Note 2 to the accounts.

The income of the District for the year ended 31st August 2023 was £1,009,148 and expenditure was £1,368,783. The resulting deficit of £359,635 was drawn from reserves leaving £600,779 (2022 £960,414) of which £268,600 represented fixed assets (including the District Chair's manse). Free reserves therefore amounted to £332,179 across all eight funds. A review of significant matters affecting District finances is as follows:

The income of the District was down by £279,487 on the previous year. The reduction reflected principally a one-off grant of £302,919 received in the previous year from the sale of a city centre church in Wolverhampton. Standing orders require this money to be used to continue the work of the church in the city centre and Synod on 17th September 2022 approved the transfer of that sum plus accrued interest to a restricted fund of Wolverhampton Circuit.

Expenditure was up by £459,465 reflecting the payment of the one-off grant to Wolverhampton Circuit mentioned in the previous paragraph. Expenditure also reflected the employment of a Congregational & Community Organiser from September 2022 in a joint pilot project with Birmingham District.

The net result was an overall deficit of £359,635. This outcome resulted in reductions in reserves in six of the eight funds. Modest increases in reserves were recorded in the District Expenses Fund and the Manse Fund. All funds have adequate reserves carried forward to enable them to continue their activities. A review of significant matters affecting the finances of each fund is as follows:

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2023

Financial review (continued)

District Expenses Fund (unrestricted)

District expenses (net of external funding for District activities) were some £15K below budget, but £13K of that represented unspent external funding for activities starting or continuing after the year-end. Staff costs reflected high rates of inflation and the cost of living crisis and, along with auditor's remuneration, were over-budget but these variances were offset by continuing cost savings from the effects of the pandemic (e.g. less travel, more Zoom) and higher interest rates. Although the net result was a surplus of £8,546, it still left free reserves at £60,598 very close to the target level set in the budget.

District Training Fund (designated)

Training activities continued at a modest level post-pandemic and expenditure of £3,552 was taken from reserves, leaving £8,180 to carry forward.

Manse Fund (designated)

Manse repairs and maintenance (charged to the District Expenses Fund) were underspent compared to budget and the saving of £3,000 was transferred to the Manse Fund.

District Advance Fund (restricted)

The activities of the District Advance Fund were disproportionately affected by the one-off grant to Wolverhampton Circuit from the city centre property sale mentioned above. Other grants awarded from the fund were significantly greater than in the previous year while grants received from Connexional funds were a little lower. The outcome was therefore an excess of expenditure over income of £340,619 and its total reserves at 31st August 2023 stood at £187,016.

Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund (restricted)

The Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund incurred another year of deficit as costs increased with inflation while income was stagnant. By 31st August 2023 its reserves were down to £30,989 and, following the year-end, a refinancing agreement was reached with the three principal funding bodies, the District, the Diocese of Hereford and Shropshire and the Marches Circuit, that resulted in a significant increase in their funding commitments, which should enable its reserves to be rebuilt.

Children Support Fund (restricted)

The money in this fund is left over from the annual children's holiday that ceased after 2018 and, with the consent of the donors, it has been used to offer grants to churches who want to work with children in deprived circumstances. During the year grants of £4,580 were made, leaving a balance of £801 which has subsequently been used to make a further grant. The District Policy Committee has committed the District to continuing to support such work with children and in future funding for these grants will come directly from the District Advance Fund.

Chair's Benevolent Fund (restricted)

This fund continues with modest receipts and payments and a balance of £1,053 is carried forward.

Komera Partnership Fund (restricted)

Further donations were received during the year and grants of £6,500 were paid to the Free Methodist Church of Rwanda, including £2,500 collected across the District to support victims of the heavy rain and landslides that devastated parts of Rwanda on 2nd May 2023. Many people were left homeless and the church has been providing emergency support to 128 families in four areas of the country. At 31st August 2023 the fund has a balance of £2,177 carried forward.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2023

Reserves policies

The reserves policy for the District Expenses Fund is based on a free reserves target of 10% of total circuit assessments, to reflect the risk that a circuit may not be able to meet their assessment in full. For 2023/24 circuit assessments are £619,604, giving a reserves target of £61,960. The actual level of free reserves at 31st August 2023 was £60,598 or 9.8% of circuit assessments (2022 11.0%).

The District Training Fund does not have a specific reserve requirement. It has excess funds at present and no further income will be sought for the time being.

The Manse Fund reserve requirement is £40,000, to cover major repairs to the Chair's manse in excess of the annual budget, and the current fund balance is £31,585.

The reserves in the District Advance Fund are already stated after taking into account future commitments and as the annual tranche of funding is received in September/October this fund does not need more than a nominal balance of reserves at the year-end.

The scale and scope of the work funded by the Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund is significant and its funding is dependent on grants from various sources, many of which are under financial pressure. In these circumstances, reserves of up to one year's expenditure are considered appropriate to ensure the resilience of the project.

The Children Support Fund has been fully utilised since the year-end and grants for work with children are now coming from the District Advance Fund.

The Chair's Benevolent Fund and the Komera Partnership Fund are there to make grants to beneficiaries from the funds that have been raised for those purposes and thus do not require any specific target levels of reserves.

Investment policy

Surplus monies of the District's Funds (other than the District Advance Fund) are held in an interest-bearing deposit account with the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church, which is a common deposit fund reporting directly to Conference. The District Advance Fund is held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes as custodian trustees on behalf of the District, and this fund is also invested in an interest-bearing account with the Central Finance Board.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2023

Plans for the future

This will be a critical year in deciding whether or not this District will become part of a larger West Midlands entity from September 2025. After indicative votes in favour at the September 2023 Synods of both Districts, there will be a substantial consultation exercise involving every Circuit meeting in Spring 2024 leading to further Synod votes after Easter. A final decision will be made by the Conference in June 2024.

With the District "God for All" project now funded and a new employee in place, we expect to see first indications of how this much-anticipated project will unfold. We hope for greater inclusivity in existing and newly-created congregations.

With a number of Superintendent appointments coming to an end in September 2025, the District is addressing how this situation might best be approached against a background of a critical shortage of both numbers of ministers and, sometimes, depth of experience required to fulfil demanding roles. There is a significant potential challenge here to the functioning of the Circuits from September 2025.

The District anticipates being awarded Bronze Eco-District status and will begin working towards Silver.

Structure, governance and management

The District, as part of the Methodist Church, is constituted under the terms of the Deed of Union of 1932, which was promulgated under the authority of legislation that is now found in the Methodist Church Act 1976. This Act provides the foundation on which all the remainder of the constitutional structure of the Church is raised.

The governing body of the Methodist Church in Great Britain is the Conference. Under the authority of the Act and the Deed of Union, Conference makes and amends Standing Orders, which are published annually in the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church. This is the basis for governance of the Church as a connexion of local churches, circuits and districts working together within the one framework.

The District Synod is the principal body responsible for the affairs of the District and is constituted in accordance with the Deed of Union and Standing Orders. It is the church court for the District, serving as a link between the Conference and the Connexional Team on the one hand and the Circuits and Local Churches on the other. It has oversight of all District affairs.

The Synod annually appoints the members of the District Policy Committee whose responsibilities include the formulation and promotion of policy and the supervision of the use of resources of personnel, property and finance. Under charity law the members of the District Policy Committee are treated as the Trustees of the Charity and the names of the Trustees who served during the year or have been appointed since are shown above.

The District Policy Committee nominates persons to the Synod for appointment as district officers and as members of the District Policy Committee and other district committees. In addition, the Chair of the District, the Secretary of the Synod and any member of the Methodist Council nominated by the Synod are ex-officio members of the District Policy Committee.

The District is one of thirty-one Districts of the Methodist Church in Great Britain. The Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District brings together twelve Circuits, based in the City of Wolverhampton, two West Midlands Metropolitan Boroughs, parts of Staffordshire and Worcestershire, most of Shropshire, about half of Herefordshire and parts of Wales. The structure of the District and its constituent Circuits and Churches, and their inter-relationships with each other, is explained more fully in Note 2 to the accounts.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2023

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

Charity law requires the District Policy Committee (as Trustees) to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its financial activities for that period, together with its assets and liabilities at the end of the period, and adequately distinguish any material special trust or other restricted fund of the Charity. In preparing those financial statements the District Policy Committee is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the policies adopted are in accordance with the appropriate SORP and the Accounting Regulations and with applicable Accounting Standards, 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 in operation.

The District Policy Committee also has overall responsibility for ensuring that there is in place an appropriate system of controls, financial and otherwise, to provide reasonable confidence and assurance that:

- the District's administration is operating effectively and efficiently;
- the assets of the District are properly safeguarded against unauthorised loss or damage;
- proper records are maintained and information produced for management control, fiscal and statutory reasons; and
- the District complies with the relevant laws and guidelines.

This report was approved by the District Policy Committee as Trustees on 21st March 2024 and is signed on their behalf by:

R Parkinson

REV R.E. PARKINSON

District Chair

J Christopher Reed

J.C. REED

District Treasurer

Trustees

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOLVERHAMPTON AND SHREWSBURY METHODIST DISTRICT

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the District's affairs as at 31 August 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, 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 Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the District in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the 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 District'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 Report of the Independent Auditors 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.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOLVERHAMPTON AND SHREWSBURY METHODIST DISTRICT

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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, 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.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed auditor under s144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report to you in accordance with regulations made under s154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors 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.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOLVERHAMPTON AND SHREWSBURY METHODIST DISTRICT

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims

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

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

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

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' 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 the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

I Cattell

Ian Cattell FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Crombies Accountants Limited
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
34 Waterloo Road
Wolverhampton
West Midlands
WV1 4DG

21st March 2024

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st August 2023

		District Expenses Fund (unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	District Advance Fund (restricted)	Other Restrict- ed Funds (restricted)	Total Funds 2022/23	Total Funds 2021/22
	Note	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:							
Donations and grants							
Grants from connexional funds	3	34,907	-	11,423	-	46,330	339,816
Other grants and donations	4	12,500	-	-	50,361	62,861	46,284
<i>Total donations and grants</i>		<u>47,407</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,423</u>	<u>50,361</u>	<u>109,191</u>	<u>386,100</u>
Charitable activities							
Assessments on circuits	5	593,351	-	-	-	593,351	593,910
Levies on circuit model trust funds		-	-	132,472	-	132,472	95,932
Distribution from Connexional Priority Fund		-	-	145,959	-	145,959	196,774
Other charitable activities	6	1,642	-	-	-	1,642	11,240
<i>Total charitable activities</i>		<u>594,993</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>278,431</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>873,424</u>	<u>897,856</u>
Other trading activities							
Investments	7	4,719	-	20,272	1,542	26,533	4,289
<i>Total income</i>		<u>647,119</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>310,126</u>	<u>51,903</u>	<u>1,009,148</u>	<u>1,288,635</u>
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	11	-	-	2,256	-	2,256	1,120
Charitable activities							
Contribution to Methodist Church Fund		536,353	-	-	-	536,353	538,881
Other charitable activities undertaken directly	12	149,422	3,552	585	80,249	233,808	172,683
Grant funding of charitable activities	13	1,923	-	541,639	11,134	554,696	150,219
Support costs	14	41,670	-	-	-	41,670	46,415
<i>Total charitable activities</i>		<u>729,368</u>	<u>3,552</u>	<u>542,224</u>	<u>91,383</u>	<u>1,366,527</u>	<u>908,198</u>
<i>Total expenditure</i>		<u>729,368</u>	<u>3,552</u>	<u>544,480</u>	<u>91,383</u>	<u>1,368,783</u>	<u>909,318</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		(82,249)	(3,552)	(234,354)	(39,480)	(359,635)	379,317
Transfers between funds	15	90,795	3,000	(106,265)	12,470	-	-
Net movement in funds		8,546	(552)	(340,619)	(27,010)	(359,635)	379,317
Total funds brought forward		330,432	40,317	527,635	62,030	960,414	581,097
Total funds carried forward		<u>338,978</u>	<u>39,765</u>	<u>187,016</u>	<u>35,020</u>	<u>600,779</u>	<u>960,414</u>

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Balance Sheet as at 31st August 2023

	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	District Advance Fund (restricted)	Other Restricted Funds (restricted)	Total Funds at 31 Aug 23	Total Funds at 31 Aug 22
Note	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets						
Tangible assets	16	265,000	-	-	3,600	268,600
Current assets						
Debtors	17	2,342	300	-	387	3,029
Cash on deposit:						
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		-	-	569,028	-	569,028
Central Finance Board		78,171	38,575	-	25,929	142,675
Cash at bank		4,014	890	-	5,567	10,471
Prepaid currency cards		400	-	-	-	400
Total current assets		84,927	39,765	569,028	31,883	725,603
Liabilities						
Creditors due within 1 year:						
Creditors	18	10,949	-	-	463	11,412
Grants payable	19	-	-	139,924	-	139,924
		10,949	-	139,924	463	151,336
Net current assets		73,978	39,765	429,104	31,420	574,267
Total assets less current liabilities		338,978	39,765	429,104	35,020	1,093,025
Creditors due after 1 year:						
Grants payable	19	-	-	242,088	-	242,088
Total net assets		338,978	39,765	187,016	35,020	600,779
Represented by	20					
Unrestricted Funds:						
District Expenses Fund		338,978	-	-	-	338,978
Designated Funds:						
District Training Fund		-	8,180	-	-	8,180
Manse Fund		-	31,585	-	-	31,585
Restricted Funds:						
District Advance Fund		-	-	187,016	-	187,016
Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund		-	-	-	30,989	30,989
Children Support Fund		-	-	-	801	801
Chair's Benevolent Fund		-	-	-	1,053	1,053
Komera Partnership Rwanda		-	-	-	2,177	2,177
Total funds		338,978	39,765	187,016	35,020	600,779

The notes on pages 15 to 27 form part of these accounts

The accounts were approved by the District Policy Committee as Trustees on 21st March 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:

R Parkinson

REV R.E. PARKINSON

District Chair

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31st August 2023

		Total Funds 2022/23	Total Funds 2021/22
	Note	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	See below	(285,605)	346,286
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest receivable		26,533	4,289
Purchase of equipment		(4,800)	-
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(263,872)	350,575
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		986,446	635,871
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year		722,574	986,446
Represented by			
Cash on deposit:			
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		569,028	791,634
Central Finance Board		142,675	185,157
Cash at bank		10,471	9,055
Prepaid currency cards		400	600
		722,574	986,446
Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities			
Net income/(expenditure) for the year as per Statement of Financial Activities	Page 13	(359,635)	379,317
Add back depreciation charge		1,200	-
Deduct interest receivable (investing activity)		(26,533)	(4,289)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	Note 17	(2,655)	350
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	Notes 18, 19	102,018	(29,092)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		(285,605)	346,286

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2023

1 Basis of accounting and accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the following:

- i) The Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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),
- ii) FRS 102 - The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (as above), and
- iii) The Charities Act 2011.

The Charities SORP (FRS 102) has been used, despite the relevant 2008 accounting regulations still requiring use of the Charities SORP 2005, on the grounds that it is necessary to use the newer SORP in order to comply with the legal obligation to give a true and fair view.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the use of an historical insured value as the deemed cost of the District manse. The accruals basis has been used to show a true and fair view of the District's financial position and activities.

(b) Public benefit entity

The Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District (the "District") meets the definition of a public benefit entity in FRS 102 as its primary objectives require it to act so as to provide public, community or social benefit rather than to provide economic benefit to its members or participants.

(c) Going concern

The trustees consider there are no material uncertainties that would cast significant doubt on the District's ability to continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future, being a period of more than 12 months from the date these accounts are approved. They reached their view having taken into account the financial position of the District shown in these accounts, budgets for the next two years, and the connexional structure of the Methodist Church of Great Britain of which the District forms an integral part.

(d) Funds

The District operates a District Expenses Fund, which is the general unrestricted fund that can be used for any District purposes and holds cash, other current assets and fixed assets. In addition there are designated funds holding cash and current assets designated for particular purposes but which may be used for other District purposes at the discretion of the trustees. There are also several restricted funds holding cash and current and fixed assets which can only be used for the specified purpose because of the terms on which their funding was received whether by grant, donation or fundraising.

(e) Income recognition

Income is recognised when the District becomes entitled to the economic benefit of the income, it is probable (i.e. more likely than not) that it will be received, and its monetary value can be measured reliably. No attempt is made to measure the considerable value of services or time donated by volunteers.

The District acts as agent in the following matters:

- i) collections taken at Synod for various charities, which are paid over to the respective charities shortly afterwards; and
- ii) payments received from the Methodist Church Fund to reimburse the District for the expenses of District representatives attending the Methodist Conference.

The receipts and payments for the above matters are not income or expenditure of the District and are therefore not reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2023

1 Basis of accounting and accounting policies (continued)

(f) Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is recognised when there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the District to pay out resources, it is probable (i.e. more likely than not) that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

(g) Grants payable

The District makes a significant number of grants to third parties in furtherance of its objects, sometimes as one-off payments and sometimes as a series of periodic payments that may cover several years. As soon as a grant is awarded to a third party they have a valid expectation that the District will discharge its obligation to make the payments whenever they are to become due. This creates a constructive obligation in respect of the total value of the award. Even though multi-year grant awards are subject to annual monitoring, no specific conditions are imposed that would make the awards conditional and payment of the full amount is therefore probable. Accordingly all awards are immediately recognised as expenditure and a liability for future payments is recorded.

(h) Value added tax

Since the District is not registered for value added tax ("VAT"), all input VAT is charged with the expense to which it relates.

(i) Pensions

All employees of the District are either auto-enrolled in or invited to join the TPT Retirement Solutions Flexible Retirement Plan, a defined contribution pension scheme. The District's contribution is set at 6% of salary and the District has no liability beyond making its contributions and paying over the deductions for the employees' contributions. There were no contributions outstanding at the year-end.

(j) Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost more than £1,000. They are valued at historical cost, except for the District Chair's manse, which is stated at deemed cost, being its insured value in 2011, and it is assessed each year for any indication of impairment.

(k) Depreciation

Depreciation is provided to write-off the cost of a fixed asset, less its residual value, over its useful economic life. In the case of the manse, its residual value is estimated and provided it is not less than cost no depreciation is required. Equipment is depreciated at 25% pa on the reducing balance.

(l) Debtors and creditors

Debtors are stated at the amount the District expects to receive or the amount it has paid in advance for goods or services. Creditors are stated at the amount the District expects to pay or the amount it has received as an advance payment for goods or services.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2023

2 Controlling body, connected organisations and glossary of terms

The ultimate controlling body of the District is the Conference of the Methodist Church in Great Britain.

The "Conference" is a representative body drawn from across the Connexion, and is the policy-making and governing body of the Church. It makes and amends Standing Orders, which are published annually in the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church, as the basis for governance of the Church throughout the Connexion.

The "Connexion" is the larger connected community of the Methodist Church in Great Britain, comprising the Conference, the central team of Connexional Officers and support systems directed by the Methodist Council, and the regional organisation of Districts, Circuits and Churches.

"Districts" are regional bodies comprising a number of Circuits.

"Circuits" are local groupings of churches.

"Churches" are the local places to which Methodists belong.

Each of the entities in these layers of the church community is a separate charity with its own trustees and many of the District's trustees are also trustees of some of these. However, the District has no significant influence over any of these entities nor, with the exception of the Conference, do they have significant influence over the District. The District is bound by the Standing Orders laid down by Conference as law and policy but within that framework it is able to determine for itself how to fulfill its role. All the entities within the Connexion are therefore connected organisations in relation to the District but, because of the lack of significant influence, they are not considered related parties for accounting purposes.

The District receives grants from Connexional funds to support certain aspects of its work. It also receives the proceeds of an annual levy set by Conference charged on money held in trust funds by its Circuits. Conference has also set a levy to be charged on most property sales within the Connexion for the Connexional Priority Fund. Part of the proceeds of this fund is distributed annually to the Districts.

Conference has established the Methodist Church Fund as a major source of finance for the activities of the Church and it determines an assessment to be paid into the fund each year, which is allocated between the Districts. The Districts in turn make an assessment on their Circuits to collect the Methodist Church Fund assessment together with a contribution to District expenses.

Many Circuits and Churches make grants and donations and provide personnel to support District activities. The District in turn makes grants to Circuits and Churches for personnel and property projects.

The "Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes" is the legal owner and custodian trustee of all property held on Methodist model trusts.

The "Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church" manages a common deposit fund and a series of pooled investment funds for Methodist entities.

Insurance cover is provided to the District by Methodist Insurance PLC.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2023

3 Grants from connexional funds

	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	District Advance Fund (restricted) £	Other Restrict- ed Funds (restricted) £	Total Funds £
2022/23					
Church at the Margins funding	25,000	-	-	-	25,000
Exploratory funding for evangelism and growth	4,850	-	-	-	4,850
New Places for New People funding	5,057	-	-	-	5,057
Mission alongside the poor grant	-	-	11,423	-	11,423
	<u>34,907</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,423</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>46,330</u>
2021/22					
For the work of the Ministry & Mission Co-ordinator	22,975	-	-	-	22,975
Exploratory funding for evangelism and growth	3,000	-	-	-	3,000
City centre property grant (see below)	-	-	302,919	-	302,919
Mission alongside the poor grant	-	-	10,922	-	10,922
	<u>25,975</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>313,841</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>339,816</u>

The city centre property grant arose from the sale of Darlington Street Methodist Church, Wolverhampton by Wolverhampton Circuit. Under standing orders of the Methodist Church, such sale proceeds are to be transferred to the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes who are then to give the funds to the district in which the sold church was located for the purpose of continuing the work in that city. The District Policy Committee resolved that the best way to achieve that purpose was to transfer the money to Wolverhampton Circuit who were already engaged in that work by employing a deacon to work exclusively in the city centre. Standing orders require the use of the fund to be approved by the Synod, which was duly done at its meeting on 17th September 2022. Following that approval, the fund was transferred to a restricted fund of Wolverhampton Circuit.

4 Other grants and donations

	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) £	Agric. Chaplain- cy Fund (restricted) £	Komera Partner- ship Fund (restricted) £	Chair's Benevol- ent Fund (restricted) £	Total Funds £
2022/23					
Grant from Birmingham District	12,500	-	-	-	12,500
Donations from churches and circuits	-	598	2,360	170	3,128
Donations from individuals	-	1,766	2,322	-	4,088
Grant from Shropshire & Marches Circuit	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
Grant from Hereford Diocese	-	16,000	-	-	16,000
NFU Mutual Agency Giving Fund	-	6,443	-	-	6,443
The McDonald Trust	-	2,001	-	-	2,001
Other donations and grants	-	7,981	-	-	7,981
Gift aid	-	165	555	-	720
	<u>12,500</u>	<u>44,954</u>	<u>5,237</u>	<u>170</u>	<u>62,861</u>
2021/22					
Donations from churches	-	1,920	125	-	2,045
Donations from individuals	-	750	1,210	-	1,960
Grant from Shropshire & Marches Circuit	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
Grant from Hereford Diocese	-	16,000	-	-	16,000
NFU Mutual Agency Giving Fund	-	6,379	-	-	6,379
The Prince's Countryside Fund	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
Other donations and grants	-	4,583	-	-	4,583
Gift aid	-	150	167	-	317
	<u>-</u>	<u>44,782</u>	<u>1,502</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>46,284</u>

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2023

5 Assessments on circuits

The Methodist Conference levies an annual assessment on the Circuits through the several Districts to finance the Methodist Church Fund ("MCF"). The assessment is payable by the Districts who then collect Circuit assessments to cover the MCF assessment plus a contribution to District expenses and training.

The allocation of the MCF assessment between Districts is based on staffing numbers at Circuit and District level. The allocation of the Circuit assessment between the Circuits is provisionally agreed between the District Treasurer and the Circuit Treasurers, subject to the approval of the District Policy Committee, and is based on a number of factors, including staffing levels and membership and attendance statistics.

The Circuit Treasurers believe this produces a fairer way of allocating the costs between Circuits. Accordingly the District cannot be said to act merely as agent for the collection of the MCF assessment and the full Circuit assessments are therefore shown as income of the District and the MCF assessment paid to the Connexion is shown as expenditure.

	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) £	Desig- nated Funds (unrestricted) £	District Advance Fund (restricted) £	Other Restrict- ed Funds (restricted) £	Total Funds £
2022/23					
For Methodist Church Fund	536,686	-	-	-	536,686
For District expenses	56,665	-	-	-	56,665
	<u>593,351</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>593,351</u>
2021/22					
For Methodist Church Fund	538,881	-	-	-	538,881
For District expenses	55,029	-	-	-	55,029
	<u>593,910</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>593,910</u>

6 Other charitable activities

	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) 2022/23 £	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) 2021/22 £
Charges and fundraising for visit to partners in Rwanda	-	10,500
Charges for District Pilgrimage	1,642	740
	<u>1,642</u>	<u>11,240</u>

7 Investment income

	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) £	Desig- nated Funds (unrestricted) £	District Advance Fund (restricted) £	Other Restrict- ed Funds (restricted) £	Total Funds £
Interest receivable					
2022/23					
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes:					
District Advance Fund account	-	-	18,360	-	18,360
City Centre Properties account	-	-	1,912	-	1,912
Central Finance Board	4,719	-	-	1,542	6,261
	<u>4,719</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,272</u>	<u>1,542</u>	<u>26,533</u>
2021/22					
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes:					
District Advance Fund account	-	-	2,461	-	2,461
City Centre Properties account	-	-	1,065	-	1,065
Central Finance Board	556	-	-	207	763
	<u>556</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,526</u>	<u>207</u>	<u>4,289</u>

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2023

8 Payments to trustees

The members of the District Policy Committee are the trustees of the District and none of them received any remuneration for their role as trustee. One of the trustees, Mrs Margaret Reynolds, was paid under a contract of employment as District Safeguarding Officer, as follows:

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Safeguarding Officer:		
Salary (employment ceased on 24th September 2021)	-	1,022
Employer's national insurance contributions	-	39

The Chair of the District, Rev Rachel Parkinson, is a trustee and is regarded as the sole key management person of the District. Under the authority of the Methodist Conference, the Chair was paid by the Connexion and was required to occupy the manse owned and maintained by the District. Total annual costs were as follows:

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Stipend and chair's allowance	34,836	32,451
Employer's national insurance contributions	3,644	3,343
Employer's contributions to defined benefit pension scheme	7,244	6,947
District manse maintenance and running costs	6,577	14,943
	<u>52,301</u>	<u>57,684</u>

During the year three (2021/22 two) trustees received reimbursement of expenses incurred in carrying out their duties:

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Cost of travel for District purposes	1,665	1,497
Postage, telephone, stationery, hospitality, conferences and sundries	134	689
	<u>1,799</u>	<u>2,186</u>

9 Auditor's remuneration

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Auditor's remuneration	4,400	4,000

The auditor did not carry out any other work for the District during the year.

10 Staff costs

	2022/23	2021/22
	No.	No.
Average number of full-time employees during the year	3.0	2.0
Average number of part-time employees during the year	4.0	5.1
Average full-time equivalent number of staff during the year	4.8	4.3

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Salaries	175,994	125,052
Employer's national insurance contributions	16,087	10,539
Employer's contributions to defined contribution pension scheme	7,115	6,344
Apprenticeship levy	889	615
	<u>200,085</u>	<u>142,550</u>

Charged to:

District Expenses Fund (unrestricted)	126,842	79,394
Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund (restricted)	73,243	63,156
	<u>200,085</u>	<u>142,550</u>

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2023

10 Staff costs (continued)

All staff are paid at a rate above the living wage and no employees received emoluments of more than £60,000. Members of staff served as Agricultural Chaplain, Ministry and Mission Co-ordinator, Congregational and Community Organiser and in other support and administrative posts.

11 Expenditure on raising funds

	District Advance Fund (restricted) 2022/23 £	District Advance Fund (restricted) 2021/22 £
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes investment management fees	<u>2,256</u>	<u>1,120</u>

The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes hold the District Advance Fund as custodian trustees and invest it in a deposit fund at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church. The management fee is 0.285%pa of the fund value at the beginning of the year.

12 Other charitable activities undertaken directly

	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) £	Desig- nated Funds (unrestricted) £	District Advance Fund (restricted) £	Other Restrict- ed Funds (restricted) £	Total Funds £
2022/23					
Ministry & Mission Co-ordinator	48,593	-	-	-	48,593
Intergenerational Lay Worker	276	-	-	-	276
Congregational & Community Organiser	45,747	-	-	-	45,747
Safeguarding costs	26,486	-	-	-	26,486
Property Consultant	22,292	-	-	-	22,292
Agricultural chaplaincy costs	-	-	-	79,499	79,499
Supervision and other District services	3,988	-	585	750	5,323
Training	583	3,552	-	-	4,135
Visit to partners in Rwanda	-	-	-	-	-
District pilgrimage	1,457	-	-	-	1,457
	<u>149,422</u>	<u>3,552</u>	<u>585</u>	<u>80,249</u>	<u>233,808</u>
2021/22					
Ministry & Mission Co-ordinator	41,968	-	-	-	41,968
Intergenerational Lay Worker	2,124	-	-	-	2,124
Safeguarding costs	21,901	-	-	-	21,901
Property Consultant	18,572	-	-	-	18,572
Agricultural chaplaincy costs	-	-	-	66,781	66,781
Supervision and other District services	4,371	-	-	360	4,731
Training	516	4,568	-	-	5,084
Visit to partners in Rwanda	10,794	-	-	-	10,794
District pilgrimage	728	-	-	-	728
	<u>100,974</u>	<u>4,568</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>67,141</u>	<u>172,683</u>

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2023

13 Grant funding of charitable activities

	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	District Advance Fund (restricted) £	Other Restrict- ed Funds (restricted) £	Total Funds £
2022/23					
Grants paid in year:					
Local ecumenical organisations	-	-	30,688	-	30,688
Grants to circuits and churches	1,923	-	405,348	4,580	411,851
Grants to partners in Rwanda	-	-	-	6,554	6,554
Other grants	-	-	90	-	90
	<u>1,923</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>436,126</u>	<u>11,134</u>	<u>449,183</u>
Grants awarded but unpaid at end of year	-	-	382,012	-	382,012
Grants awarded but unpaid at start of year	-	-	(276,499)	-	(276,499)
	<u>1,923</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>541,639</u>	<u>11,134</u>	<u>554,696</u>
2021/22					
Grants paid in year:					
Local ecumenical organisations	-	-	25,708	-	25,708
Grants to circuits and churches	3,000	-	121,792	4,047	128,839
Grants to partners in Rwanda	-	-	-	607	607
Other grants	3,000	-	3,140	-	6,140
	<u>6,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>150,640</u>	<u>4,654</u>	<u>161,294</u>
Grants awarded but unpaid at end of year	-	-	276,499	-	276,499
Grants awarded but unpaid at start of year	-	-	(287,574)	-	(287,574)
	<u>6,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>139,565</u>	<u>4,654</u>	<u>150,219</u>

All these grants were made to projects financed jointly by the District and other parts of the Methodist Church or to other organisations, and none was made to an individual.

The grants awarded during the year from the District Advance Fund are for personnel, ecumenical, outreach or property projects related to ministry and mission, predominantly within circuits or local churches.

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Personnel, ecumenical and outreach projects	536,558	134,565
Property projects	5,081	5,000
	<u>541,639</u>	<u>139,565</u>

There were 44 grants awarded during the year from the District Advance Fund, of which the following grants were the largest and accounted for 89% of the gross amount awarded, each being payable in annual instalments:

Wolverhampton Circuit - transfer of Connexional grant received in 2021/22 to support continuing work in the city centre, as explained fully in Note 3 above.	£305,030
Wolverhampton Circuit - to support the employment of a team leader for Wolverhampton Pioneer Ministry for three years from September 2023	£80,523
Ablewell Advice Service, Walsall Central Hall - to support the work of the advice centre for five years from September 2023	£50,000
New Places for New People Disability Inclusion Project - to fund the work of an Additional Needs Enabler for five years from October 2023 with match funding from the Connexion.	£49,074

There are no support costs included in the cost of grant funding as they would not be material. The District Advance Fund is overseen by the Resourcing Mission Committee, the work of which is largely carried out by its officers, predominantly the District Grants Officer, on a voluntary basis.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2023

14 Support costs

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Chair's travel and miscellaneous expenses	1,815	2,517
Administration staff costs	23,592	18,917
District office expenses	4,255	4,305
District manse expenses	6,577	14,943
Synod expenses	770	632
Meeting, travel and other administrative expenses	210	1,101
Governance costs	4,451	4,000
	<u>41,670</u>	<u>46,415</u>

15 Transfers between funds

	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	District Advance Fund (restricted) £	Other Restricted Funds (restricted) £	Total Funds £
2022/23 transfers to/(from) funds					
Ministry & Mission Co-ordinator costs	53,500	-	(53,500)	-	-
Congregational & Community Organiser costs	12,500	-	(12,500)	-	-
District Property Consultant costs	22,300	-	(22,300)	-	-
Agricultural chaplaincy costs	-	-	(10,000)	10,000	-
Cost of living support	5,679	-	(7,965)	2,286	-
Manse maintenance budget underspend	(3,000)	3,000	-	-	-
Surplus on pilgrimage to Komera Fund	(184)	-	-	184	-
	<u>90,795</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>(106,265)</u>	<u>12,470</u>	<u>-</u>
2021/22 transfers to/(from) funds					
Ministry & Mission Co-ordinator costs	19,300	-	(19,300)	-	-
Agricultural chaplaincy costs	-	-	(10,000)	10,000	-
Manse maintenance budget overspend	5,000	(5,000)	-	-	-
District Property Consultant costs	17,500	-	(17,500)	-	-
3Generate transport costs	500	-	(500)	-	-
	<u>42,300</u>	<u>(5,000)</u>	<u>(47,300)</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>-</u>

16 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 September 2022	265,000	-	265,000
Additions	-	4,800	4,800
At 31 August 2023	<u>265,000</u>	<u>4,800</u>	<u>269,800</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 September 2022	-	-	-
Charge for the year	-	1,200	1,200
At 31 August 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>1,200</u>	<u>1,200</u>
Net book value			
At 1 September 2022	<u>265,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>265,000</u>
At 31 August 2023	<u>265,000</u>	<u>3,600</u>	<u>268,600</u>

Freehold property represents the Chair's manse, which is stated at deemed cost, being its insured value in 2011. The manse was professionally valued at £370,000 by Jackson Lile & Close on 27th January 2020 and accordingly no depreciation has been provided.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2023

17 Debtors

	31/8/23	31/8/22
	£	£
Prepayments - deposits paid for retreat accommodation	300	325
Accrued income - gift aid refund receivable	387	49
Other debtors	2,342	-
	<u>3,029</u>	<u>374</u>

18 Creditors

	31/8/23	31/8/22
	£	£
Accrued expenses		
Reimbursement of employees' and volunteers' expenses	1,024	1,790
Accrued expenses due to third party suppliers	10,388	10,713
Accrued holiday pay	-	2,124
	<u>11,412</u>	<u>14,627</u>
Other creditors	-	280
	<u>11,412</u>	<u>14,907</u>

19 Liabilities for grants payable in future years

	31/8/23	31/8/22
	£	£
District Advance Fund grant commitments, payable in future years:		
Grants payable within one year:	139,924	143,888
Grants payable after more than one year:		
Payable in - 2023/24	-	97,514
2024/25	92,605	35,097
2025/26	70,619	-
2026/27	44,551	-
2027/28	34,313	-
	<u>242,088</u>	<u>132,611</u>
Total grant commitments	<u>382,012</u>	<u>276,499</u>

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2023

20 Summary of fund movements

	Fund balances brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers between funds (Note 15)	Fund balances carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£
2022/23 Unrestricted fund movements					
District Expenses Fund	330,432	647,119	729,368	90,795	338,978
District Training Fund	11,732	-	3,552	-	8,180
Manse Fund	28,585	-	-	3,000	31,585
	<u>370,749</u>	<u>647,119</u>	<u>732,920</u>	<u>93,795</u>	<u>378,743</u>
2022/23 Restricted fund movements					
District Advance Fund	527,635	310,126	544,480	(106,265)	187,016
Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund	51,791	46,411	79,499	12,286	30,989
Children Support Fund	5,296	85	4,580	-	801
Chair's Benevolent Fund	1,633	170	750	-	1,053
Komera Partnership Fund	3,310	5,237	6,554	184	2,177
	<u>589,665</u>	<u>362,029</u>	<u>635,863</u>	<u>(93,795)</u>	<u>222,036</u>
2022/23 Total fund movements	<u>960,414</u>	<u>1,009,148</u>	<u>1,368,783</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>600,779</u>
2021/22 Unrestricted fund movements					
District Expenses Fund	348,721	631,681	692,270	42,300	330,432
District Training Fund	16,300	-	4,568	-	11,732
Manse Fund	33,585	-	-	(5,000)	28,585
	<u>398,606</u>	<u>631,681</u>	<u>696,838</u>	<u>37,300</u>	<u>370,749</u>
2021/22 Restricted fund movements					
District Advance Fund	105,547	610,073	140,685	(47,300)	527,635
Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund	63,583	44,989	66,781	10,000	51,791
Children Support Fund	9,343	-	4,047	-	5,296
Chair's Benevolent Fund	1,993	-	360	-	1,633
Komera Partnership Fund	2,025	1,892	607	-	3,310
	<u>182,491</u>	<u>656,954</u>	<u>212,480</u>	<u>(37,300)</u>	<u>589,665</u>
2021/22 Total fund movements	<u>581,097</u>	<u>1,288,635</u>	<u>909,318</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>960,414</u>

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2023

21 Unrestricted funds

(a) District Expenses Fund

This is the general fund used for running the District and has no restrictions. It is financed principally by circuit assessments and the fund balance includes the book value of the District manse (£265,000).

(b) Designated funds

These funds are designated for particular purposes by the District Policy Committee but they are not held on terms that prevent their use for other District purposes if the Committee so resolve.

The District Training Fund is used to fund ministerial and lay training. This fund is financed by transfers from the District Advance Fund ("DAF") as and when required. Although the DAF is a restricted fund its purposes include the support of personnel working in the District and transfers to the Training Fund will be made by grants awarded in the usual way in accordance with the DAF policy as long as the Training Fund continues to meet that purpose of the DAF.

The Manse Fund is used as a reserve to cover occasional heavy expenditure on maintenance of the District manse. Manse maintenance is charged to the District Expenses Fund but any underspend compared to budget is transferred to the Manse Fund and any overspend is covered by drawing on the Manse Fund.

22 Restricted funds

(a) District Advance Fund

This fund is set up under Methodist Standing Orders and is funded by a levy on the end-of-year balances of the Circuit Model Trust Funds of the Circuits in the District and by a distribution from the Connexional Priority Fund, as part of the process of moving money around the Connexion to enable it to best be used for the mission of the Church. The fund is administered by the Resourcing Mission Committee who award grants in accordance with the fund policy to support personnel or property projects related to mission and ministry and to support outreach, evangelism and ecumenical work.

(b) Other restricted funds

The Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund finances the work of Borderlands Rural Chaplaincy, a joint Methodist and Anglican initiative among rural communities in the Welsh borders. Its income comes mainly from grants and donations from a range of Methodist and Anglican sources and it employs a full-time chaplain and a part-time area co-ordinator, who are supported by a team of volunteers.

The Children Support Fund is a legacy fund remaining from when the District operated an annual holiday for children and, with the agreement of the original donors, it has been used to make grants to churches who are working with children in deprived circumstances. When the fund is exhausted, grants for children's work will continue to be offered from the District Advance Fund.

The Chair's Benevolent Fund provides small grants from donations to allow the Chair to meet cases of personal need in a confidential way.

The Komera Partnership Fund supports the District's partnership with the Free Methodist Church of Rwanda and the Peacebuilding Healing and Reconciliation Programme of Rwanda with funds from donations and fundraising activities.

Accounts

The Methodist Church
Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District

Registered Charity Number 1134902

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended
31st August 2022

The Methodist Church

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District

**Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31st August 2022**

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Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2022

Reference and administrative information

Registered charity name Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Registered charity number 1134902

Trustees (members of the District Policy Committee)

The members of the District Policy Committee at the date of this report and those who served during the year ended 31st August 2022 are as follows:

Rev Rachel Parkinson - Chair
Rev Pauline Salter - Deputy Chair (until 31/8/22)
Rev Alan Combes - Deputy Chair (from 1/9/22)
Mr Andrew Beattie - Synod Secretary
Mr Christopher Reed - District Treasurer

Rev David Alford
Ms Helen Allen (appointed 1/9/22)
Miss Rosie Bryant (until 31/8/22)
Ms Stella Dede Cofie (appointed 17/11/22)
Rev Nicholas Collison
Mrs Lesley Cook (appointed 1/9/22)
Rev Joanne Cox-Darling
Rev Elizabeth Dunning (appointed 14/10/21)
Rev Margaret Eales (until 31/8/22)
Mrs Angela Evans
Mrs Claire Evans (appointed 11/11/22)
Rev Richard Hall (until 31/8/22)
Mr David Hemingway
Rev Roger Hides

Rev Jimione Kaci
Rev David Lavender
Rev Susan Levitt
Mr Leon Murray (until 23/3/22)
Mr Brian Oakley
Mrs Elaine Panchal (appointed 1/9/22)
Rev Hendry Ponniah
Rev Neil Richardson (until 23/3/22)
Rev Teddy Siwila
Rev Julia Skitt
Mr Keith Walton
Rev Denise Williams (until 31/8/22)
Rev Rachel Wood (until 31/8/22)

Principal address District Office
Beckminster Methodist Church
Birches Barn Road
Wolverhampton
WV3 7BQ

Telephone 01902 658383

Website wsmethodist.org.uk

Auditors Crombies Accountants Limited
34 Waterloo Road
Wolverhampton
WV1 4DG

Bankers	The Co-operative Bank PLC PO Box 250 Delf House Southway Skelmersdale WN8 6WT	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church 9 Bonhill Street London EC2A 4PE
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Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2022

Objectives and activities

The purpose of the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District is laid out in Standing Order 400A of the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church, namely that: "the District is constituted to advance the mission of the Church in the region, by providing opportunities for Circuits to work together and support each other, by offering them resources of finance, personnel and expertise which may not be available locally and by enabling them to engage with the wider society of the region as a whole and address its concerns." The central priorities of the Methodist Church are Worship, Learning and Caring, Service and Evangelism.

The District comprises around 190 local Methodist churches grouped into 12 circuits and served by a team of around 42 active ministers, 37 of whom are presbyters and 5 of whom are deacons, together with a significant number (40+) of lay employees. A number of Supernumerary (retired) ministers also offer very significant support.

Only around 50% of churches submitted membership statistics in this period, no doubt due to the disruption caused by the pandemic. From this base, it's expected that the number of people holding membership of churches in the District in October 2021 fell by around 450 on the previous year, being therefore approximately 6,400. Fourteen congregations asked the District Synod for permission to close during the year.

This period of reporting coincides with a return to worship within church buildings and a resumption of face to face meetings after the pandemic. However this did not prove a smooth transition, not least because the rate of infection of COVID-19 continued to surge periodically against a background where congregations most often have a significant number of members of relatively advanced age and vulnerability. Most churches experienced reduced attendance levels, with people lacking the confidence to return to physical gatherings. A number of District gatherings and meetings continued online, with the added advantage of reducing our carbon footprint. The District invited Bishop Mike Royal, incoming President of Churches Together in England, to speak to the Spring Session of our Representative Synod, encouraging churches to contemplate key questions as they search for a "new normal" post-pandemic.

The District continued to make progress towards our goal of becoming an Eco-District under the A Rocha scheme. A group from across the District walked from Wolverhampton to Birmingham in support of the Young Christian Climate Network's pilgrimage to COP26 to call upon world leaders to "Rise to the Moment". The Representative Session of Synod in September 2021 focused on Climate Change, hearing from young activists and a minister from Fiji whose island home is already suffering detrimental effects. In December 2021 the visit to the District of the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference - Rev'd Sonia Hicks and Mrs Barbara Easton - included an Eco Advent Retreat.

Priority continued to be given to working ecumenically with other Christian denominations where possible and particularly with the Church of England with whom Methodism is in Covenant relationship. Our main partners are the Dioceses of Lichfield and of Hereford.

Significant progress was made in planning the District Project under the God for All Connexional Strategy for Evangelism and Growth. The project will focus on mission and ministry alongside those with additional needs and disability. The plan is that following the launch of the District Project, the next phase will be to nurture, support and fund God for All projects within Circuits and churches.

During the reporting period, the Methodist Church in Britain continued to discern how governance and oversight structures might best be reshaped to suit its purpose. In response the District continued conversations with the Birmingham District, further including the Chester and Stoke District, to see how Methodism might best be organised across the West Midlands.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2022

The District awarded £150K in grants to Circuits and Churches during the year. Only one of these was a modest property grant. The remainder were “Ministry” grants supporting people-based activities across the District.

Public benefit

The activities mentioned above were undertaken so as to further the District's purposes for the public benefit and the District Policy Committee has had regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission when exercising its powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Achievements and performance

- New arrangements for Safeguarding proved very effective, with a team of two Safeguarding Officers working regionally across the Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury and Birmingham Districts. In addition to case work, the team provided multiple opportunities for people to attend Advanced Safeguarding Training, in particular to meet the Connexional target that all Local Preachers and Worship Leaders complete this training by August 31st 2022. This was a significant piece of work.
- Jo Yair, District Ministry & Missions Co-ordinator, completed a 12 month pilot of the “FX Multiplier” scheme within the District on behalf of the Connexional Evangelism & Growth Team, which resulted in four viable Fresh Expressions of Church being ready for launch.
- Recognising the role that lay employees play across the District, a gathering at the Shallowford Retreat Centre was organised in Autumn 2021 for mutual encouragement and support. Nineteen lay employees attended.
- The District supported the Connexional Advent & Christmas Campaign by making available small grants for projects which sought to demonstrate that the birth of Jesus is Good News for All People. The grant scheme built on previous years by encouraging community participation rather than simply “give aways” and asked applicants to demonstrate environmental sustainability in their plans.
- In May 2021, a new Methodist Church was founded. Dunwell Methodist Church in the Telford Circuit is a church which celebrates Ghanaian Culture and Language. The Opening Service was attended by distinguished guests from both the Methodist Church in Britain and in Ghana.
- The Borderlands Rural Chaplaincy continues to evolve to meet clear and immediate needs within the rural and agricultural communities. Borderlands is a joint project with the Diocese of Hereford. During the year, it received two significant grants: £5,000 from The Prince's Countryside Fund to help cover core costs and £6,379 for mental health support, including the butty van project, from NFU Mutual Just Giving Fund.
- A one-day conference: “Food for the Journey - Growing in Discipleship” was organised with the Lichfield Diocese.
- In Easter week, a District Pilgrimage group made the 5-day journey from Church Stretton to Ludlow, staying in Shropshire Methodist Churches enroute.
- In May 2022, the District helped celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Ablewell Advice, which operates out of Walsall Central Hall to support the most vulnerable in its locality and has been supported by grants from the District. Amongst other achievements over that decade, Ablewell helped service users claim seven million pounds in benefits to which they were entitled.
- An exhibition of works from the Methodist Modern Art Collection in Bewdley during Easter 2022 prompted the Chair of District to organise a number of half day retreats exploring art and spirituality. Lenten reflections were offered online based on six works from those on show. Creative collaborations also took place with the Good Shepherd in Wolverhampton and the British Art Show, looking at the nature of Truth, and with the International Festival of Glass in Stourbridge where a venue was created allowing reflection on the pandemic.
- The District was pleased to celebrate “one of our own” receiving the World Methodist Peace Award in March 2022. Rev'd Dr Inderjit Bhogal grew up in Dudley and began his ministry in Wolverhampton in the 1970's.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2022

Financial review

The above activities and achievements illustrate the work of the District and the attached accounts show how the financial resources necessary for that work have been raised and expended. The accounts are also the means by which members of the District Policy Committee, as trustees, account for their stewardship of those funds to the circuits, the membership of the churches within the District and the wider community.

The finances of the District are held in eight different funds to account properly for the different purposes for which money comes into the District. Most of the income comes from other parts of the Methodist Church: assessments are received from the Circuits in the District to fund the work done directly and the payment to the Connexion of a contribution to the Methodist Church Fund, and distributions are received via the Connexional structure of the Methodist Church to fund grant-making activities, as explained more fully in Note 2 to the accounts.

The income of the District for the year ended 31st August 2022 was £1,288,635 and expenditure was £909,318. The resulting surplus of £379,317 increased reserves to £960,414 (2021 £581,097) of which £265,000 was the book value of the District Chair's manse, leaving free reserves of £695,414 across all eight funds. A review of significant matters affecting District finances is as follows:

The income of the District was up by £386,924 on the previous year. Most of the increase (£366,283) came from the Connexion, including a one-off grant of £302,919 from the sale of a city centre church in Wolverhampton. Standing orders require this money to be used to continue the work of the church in the city centre and Synod on 17th September 2022 approved the transfer of that sum plus accrued interest to a restricted fund of Wolverhampton Circuit.

Expenditure was up £54,976 (6%). Grant funding increased by £32,495. Direct activities increased by £24,126, including the cost of a visit to partners in Rwanda in support of the Komera Partnership. Both areas of expenditure reflected a gradual resumption of activities at District, Circuit and Church level following the pandemic.

The net result was a surplus of £379,317, of which £303,984 was attributable to the city centre proceeds held temporarily in the District Advance Fund. Other funds were left with small deficits apart from the Komera Partnership Fund, which showed a small surplus. All funds have adequate reserves carried forward to enable them to continue their activities. A review of significant matters affecting the finances of each fund is as follows:

District Expenses Fund (unrestricted)

The budget for the District Expenses Fund for 2021/22 was approved in April 2021 and was set with the object of incurring a deficit of some £8,500 in order to reduce free reserves to around £65,000. In the event, the opening reserves at 1st September 2021 were greater than expected but so also were some of the expenses in 2021/22, notably the donation to the Methodist Church Pension Reserve Fund and the auditors' remuneration. These variances broadly cancelled each other out so that although the outcome was a deficit of £18,289, it still left free reserves at £65,432, close to the target level.

District Training Fund (designated)

Training activities started to recover from the pandemic like everything else and expenditure of £4,568 was taken from reserves, leaving £11,732 to carry forward.

Manse Fund (designated)

Manse repairs and maintenance (charged to the District Expenses Fund) exceeded budget and £5,000 was drawn from the Manse Fund and transferred to the District Expenses Fund to offset the excess.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2022

District Advance Fund (restricted)

In addition to the one-off grant from the city centre property sale mentioned above, the District Advance Fund also received more in grants from the Connexion than it awarded in grants to local projects, resulting in a further increase in its reserves of £118,104. At 31st August 2022 its total reserves stood at £527,635, of which the city centre property balance of £303,984 (including interest) has been transferred to Wolverhampton Circuit on the authority of the District Synod in September 2022.

Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund (restricted)

The Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund incurred a deficit of £11,792 as expected following the ending of the three-year Connexional funding grant. Its reserves of £51,791 are now a little below one year's expenditure as per its reserves policy, and new grant applications continue to be made to further extend its sources of income.

Children Support Fund (restricted)

The money in this fund is left over from the annual children's holiday that ceased after 2018 and, with the consent of the donors, it is being used to offer grants to churches who want to work with children in deprived circumstances. During the year grants of £4,047 were made, leaving a balance of £5,296 available for further grant-making.

Chair's Benevolent Fund (restricted)

This fund continues with modest receipts and payments and a balance of £1,633 is carried forward.

Komera Partnership Fund (restricted)

Further donations were received and grants paid to our partners in Rwanda, and a balance of £3,310 is carried forward.

Reserves policies

The reserves policy for the District Expenses Fund is based on a free reserves target of 10% of total circuit assessments, to reflect the risk that a circuit may not be able to meet their assessment in full. For 2022/23 circuit assessments are £593,351, giving a reserves target of £59,000. The actual level of free reserves at 31st August 2022 was £65,432 or 11.0% of circuit assessments (2021 14.1%).

The District Training Fund does not have a specific reserve requirement. It has excess funds at present and no further income will be sought for the time being.

The Manse Fund reserve requirement is £40,000, to cover major repairs to the Chair's manse in excess of the annual budget, and the current fund balance is £28,585.

The reserves in the District Advance Fund are already stated after taking into account future commitments and as the annual tranche of funding is received in September/October this fund does not need more than a nominal balance of reserves at the year-end.

The scale and scope of the work funded by the Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund is significant and its funding is dependent on grants from various sources, many of which are under financial pressure. In these circumstances, reserves of up to one year's expenditure are considered appropriate to ensure the resilience of the project.

The Children Support Fund is currently using money left over following the cessation of the annual holiday to make small grants and therefore has no particular reserves requirement.

The Chair's Benevolent Fund and the Komera Partnership Fund are there to make grants to beneficiaries from the funds that have been raised for those purposes and thus do not require any specific target levels of reserves.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2022

Investment policy

Surplus monies of the District's Funds (other than the District Advance Fund) are held in an interest-bearing deposit account with the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church, which is a common deposit fund reporting directly to Conference. The District Advance Fund is held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes as custodian trustees on behalf of the District, and this fund is also invested in an interest-bearing account with the Central Finance Board.

Plans for the future

A main focus for the District in 2022/23 will be to encourage Circuits and Churches to fulfil "Our Calling" in a context which still carries a heavy legacy of the pandemic combined with the new challenges of the Cost of Living / Fuel Crisis and war in Ukraine. A significant number of churches are opening Warm Spaces whilst being unsure how they can meet their own heating costs. The District is also supporting the Methodist "Homes for Ukraine" project.

It is hoped that the District God for All project application will be finally accepted and funding released. As well as enabling the project to be launched, this will allow focus to transfer to encouraging further projects within the Circuits.

Connexional proposals for how Districts might be restructured and merged having received a negative reception at the Methodist Conference in July 2022, the question remains of whether our purposes are still best served by merging with the Birmingham District and, if so, how best this might be achieved. The direction of travel needs to be firmly established by September 2023. Work continues on this.

A new lay employee began in post in September 2022 to help twelve congregations across the Region to grow their faith communities by practising Community Organising as advocated by Citizens UK. The support of this new work will be a significant project.

Structure, governance and management

The District, as part of the Methodist Church, is constituted under the terms of the Deed of Union of 1932, which was promulgated under the authority of legislation that is now found in the Methodist Church Act 1976. This Act provides the foundation on which all the remainder of the constitutional structure of the Church is raised.

The governing body of the Methodist Church in Great Britain is the Conference. Under the authority of the Act and the Deed of Union, Conference makes and amends Standing Orders, which are published annually in the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church. This is the basis for governance of the Church as a connexion of local churches, circuits and districts working together within the one framework.

The District Synod is the principal body responsible for the affairs of the District and is constituted in accordance with the Deed of Union and Standing Orders. It is the church court for the District, serving as a link between the Conference and the Connexional Team on the one hand and the Circuits and Local Churches on the other. It has oversight of all District affairs.

The Synod annually appoints the members of the District Policy Committee whose responsibilities include the formulation and promotion of policy and the supervision of the use of resources of personnel, property and finance. Under charity law the members of the District Policy Committee are treated as the Trustees of the Charity and the names of the Trustees who served during the year or have been appointed since are shown above.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2022

The District Policy Committee nominates persons to the Synod for appointment as district officers and as members of the District Policy Committee and other district committees. In addition, the Chair of the District, the Secretary of the Synod and any member of the Methodist Council nominated by the Synod are ex-officio members of the District Policy Committee.

The District is one of thirty-one Districts of the Methodist Church in Great Britain. The Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District brings together twelve Circuits, based in the City of Wolverhampton, two West Midlands Metropolitan Boroughs, parts of Staffordshire and Worcestershire, most of Shropshire, about half of Herefordshire and parts of Wales. The structure of the District and its constituent Circuits and Churches, and their inter-relationships with each other, is explained more fully in Note 2 to the accounts.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

Charity law requires the District Policy Committee (as Trustees) to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its financial activities for that period, together with its assets and liabilities at the end of the period, and adequately distinguish any material special trust or other restricted fund of the Charity. In preparing those financial statements the District Policy Committee is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the policies adopted are in accordance with the appropriate SORP and the Accounting Regulations and with applicable Accounting Standards, 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 in operation.

The District Policy Committee also has overall responsibility for ensuring that there is in place an appropriate system of controls, financial and otherwise, to provide reasonable confidence and assurance that:

- the District's administration is operating effectively and efficiently;
- the assets of the District are properly safeguarded against unauthorised loss or damage;
- proper records are maintained and information produced for management control, fiscal and statutory reasons; and
- the District complies with the relevant laws and guidelines.

This report was approved by the District Policy Committee as Trustees on 9th March 2023 and is signed on their behalf by:

R Parkinson

REV R.E. PARKINSON

District Chair

J Christopher Reed

J.C. REED

District Treasurer

Trustees

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOLVERHAMPTON AND SHREWSBURY METHODIST DISTRICT

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District for the year ended 31 August 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the District's affairs as at 31 August 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, 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 Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the District in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the 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 District'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 Report of the Independent Auditors 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.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOLVERHAMPTON AND SHREWSBURY METHODIST DISTRICT

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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, 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.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed auditor under s144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report to you in accordance with regulations made under s154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors 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.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOLVERHAMPTON AND SHREWSBURY METHODIST DISTRICT

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims

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

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

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

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' 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 the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

I Cattell

Ian Cattell FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Crombies Accountants Limited
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
34 Waterloo Road
Wolverhampton
West Midlands
WV1 4DG

9th March 2023

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st August 2022

		District Expenses Fund (unrestricted)	Desig- nated Funds (unrestricted)	District Advance Fund (restricted)	Other Restrict- ed Funds (restricted)	Total Funds 2021/22	Total Funds 2020/21
	Note	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:							
Donations and grants							
Grants from connexional funds	3	25,975	-	313,841	-	339,816	49,525
Other grants and donations	4	-	-	-	46,284	46,284	29,782
<i>Total donations and grants</i>		<u>25,975</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>313,841</u>	<u>46,284</u>	<u>386,100</u>	<u>79,307</u>
Charitable activities							
Assessments on circuits	5	593,910	-	-	-	593,910	601,299
Levies on circuit model trust funds		-	-	95,932	-	95,932	120,687
Distribution from Connexional Priority Fund		-	-	196,774	-	196,774	96,027
Other charitable activities	6	11,240	-	-	-	11,240	1,359
<i>Total charitable activities</i>		<u>605,150</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>292,706</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>897,856</u>	<u>819,372</u>
Other trading activities	7	-	-	-	390	390	1,352
Investments	8	556	-	3,526	207	4,289	1,680
<i>Total income</i>		<u>631,681</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>610,073</u>	<u>46,881</u>	<u>1,288,635</u>	<u>901,711</u>
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	12	-	-	1,120	-	1,120	706
Charitable activities							
Contribution to Methodist Church Fund		538,881	-	-	-	538,881	532,149
Other charitable activities undertaken directly	13	100,974	4,568	-	67,141	172,683	148,557
Grant funding of charitable activities	14	6,000	-	139,565	4,654	150,219	117,724
Support costs	15	46,415	-	-	-	46,415	35,206
<i>Total charitable activities</i>		<u>692,270</u>	<u>4,568</u>	<u>139,565</u>	<u>71,795</u>	<u>908,198</u>	<u>833,636</u>
Other expenditure	16	-	-	-	-	-	20,000
<i>Total expenditure</i>		<u>692,270</u>	<u>4,568</u>	<u>140,685</u>	<u>71,795</u>	<u>909,318</u>	<u>854,342</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		(60,589)	(4,568)	469,388	(24,914)	379,317	47,369
Transfers between funds	17	42,300	(5,000)	(47,300)	10,000	-	-
Net movement in funds		(18,289)	(9,568)	422,088	(14,914)	379,317	47,369
Total funds brought forward		348,721	49,885	105,547	76,944	581,097	533,728
Total funds carried forward		<u><u>330,432</u></u>	<u><u>40,317</u></u>	<u><u>527,635</u></u>	<u><u>62,030</u></u>	<u><u>960,414</u></u>	<u><u>581,097</u></u>

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Balance Sheet as at 31st August 2022

	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	District Advance Fund (restricted)	Other Restrict- ed Funds (restricted)	Total Funds at 31 Aug 22	Total Funds at 31 Aug 21
<i>Note</i>	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets						
Tangible assets	18	265,000	-	-	265,000	265,000
Current assets						
Debtors	19	-	325	-	374	724
Cash on deposit:						
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		-	791,634	-	791,634	393,121
Central Finance Board		77,584	38,575	56,498	185,157	227,932
Cash at bank		1,436	1,417	6,202	9,055	14,277
Prepaid currency cards		400	-	200	600	541
<i>Total current assets</i>		<u>79,420</u>	<u>40,317</u>	<u>804,134</u>	<u>986,820</u>	<u>636,595</u>
Liabilities						
Creditors due within 1 year:						
Creditors	20	13,988	-	919	14,907	32,524
Grants payable	21	-	-	143,888	143,888	141,645
		<u>13,988</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>143,888</u>	<u>158,795</u>	<u>174,169</u>
<i>Net current assets</i>		65,432	40,317	62,030	828,025	462,426
<i>Total assets less current liabilities</i>		330,432	40,317	660,246	1,093,025	727,426
Creditors due after 1 year:						
Grants payable	21	-	-	132,611	132,611	146,329
<i>Total net assets</i>		<u><u>330,432</u></u>	<u><u>40,317</u></u>	<u><u>527,635</u></u>	<u><u>960,414</u></u>	<u><u>581,097</u></u>
Represented by	22					
Unrestricted Funds:						
District Expenses Fund		330,432	-	-	330,432	348,721
Designated Funds:						
District Training Fund		-	11,732	-	11,732	16,300
Manse Fund		-	28,585	-	28,585	33,585
Restricted Funds:						
District Advance Fund		-	-	527,635	527,635	105,547
Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund		-	-	51,791	51,791	63,583
Children Support Fund		-	-	5,296	5,296	9,343
Chair's Benevolent Fund		-	-	1,633	1,633	1,993
Komera Partnership Rwanda		-	-	3,310	3,310	2,025
<i>Total funds</i>		<u><u>330,432</u></u>	<u><u>40,317</u></u>	<u><u>527,635</u></u>	<u><u>960,414</u></u>	<u><u>581,097</u></u>

The notes on pages 14 to 27 form part of these accounts

The accounts were approved by the District Policy Committee as Trustees on 9th March 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:

R Parkinson

REV R.E. PARKINSON

District Chair

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31st August 2022

		Total Funds 2021/22	Total Funds 2020/21
	Note	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	See below	346,286	27,961
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest receivable		4,289	1,680
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		350,575	29,641
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		635,871	606,230
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year		986,446	635,871
Represented by			
Cash on deposit:			
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		791,634	393,121
Central Finance Board		185,157	227,932
Cash at bank		9,055	14,277
Prepaid currency cards		600	541
		986,446	635,871
Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities			
Net income/(expenditure) for the year as per Statement of Financial Activities	Page 12	379,317	47,369
Deduct interest receivable (investing activity)		(4,289)	(1,680)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	Note 19	350	787
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	Notes 20, 21	(29,092)	(18,515)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		346,286	27,961

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2022

1 Basis of accounting and accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the following:

- i) The Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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),
- ii) FRS 102 - The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (as above), and
- iii) The Charities Act 2011.

The Charities SORP (FRS 102) has been used, despite the relevant 2008 accounting regulations still requiring use of the Charities SORP 2005, on the grounds that it is necessary to use the newer SORP in order to comply with the legal obligation to give a true and fair view.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the use of an historical insured value as the deemed cost of the District manse. The accruals basis has been used to show a true and fair view of the District's financial position and activities.

(b) Public benefit entity

The Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District (the "District") meets the definition of a public benefit entity in FRS 102 as its primary objectives require it to act so as to provide public, community or social benefit rather than to provide economic benefit to its members or participants.

(c) Going concern

The trustees consider there are no material uncertainties that would cast significant doubt on the District's ability to continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future, being a period of more than 12 months from the date these accounts are approved. They reached their view having taken into account the financial position of the District shown in these accounts, budgets for the next two years, and the connexional structure of the Methodist Church of Great Britain of which the District forms an integral part.

(d) Funds

The District operates a District Expenses Fund, which is the general unrestricted fund that can be used for any District purposes and holds cash, other current assets and the District manse. In addition there are designated funds holding cash and current assets designated for particular purposes but which may be used for other District purposes at the discretion of the trustees. There are also several restricted funds holding cash and current assets which can only be used for the specified purpose because of the terms on which their funding was received whether by grant, donation or fundraising.

(e) Income recognition

Income is recognised when the District becomes entitled to the economic benefit of the income, it is probable (i.e. more likely than not) that it will be received, and its monetary value can be measured reliably. No attempt is made to measure the considerable value of services or time donated by volunteers.

The District acts as agent in the following matters:

- i) collections taken at Synod for various charities, which are paid over to the respective charities shortly afterwards; and
- ii) payments received from the Methodist Church Fund to reimburse the District for the expenses of District representatives attending the Methodist Conference.

The receipts and payments for the above matters are not income or expenditure of the District and are therefore not reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2022

1 Basis of accounting and accounting policies (continued)

(f) Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is recognised when there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the District to pay out resources, it is probable (i.e. more likely than not) that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

(g) Grants payable

The District makes a significant number of grants to third parties in furtherance of its objects, sometimes as one-off payments and sometimes as a series of periodic payments that may cover several years. As soon as a grant is awarded to a third party they have a valid expectation that the District will discharge its obligation to make the payments whenever they are to become due. This creates a constructive obligation in respect of the total value of the award. Even though multi-year grant awards are subject to annual monitoring, no specific conditions are imposed that would make the awards conditional and payment of the full amount is therefore probable. Accordingly all awards are immediately recognised as expenditure and a liability for future payments is recorded.

(h) Value added tax

Since the District is not registered for value added tax ("VAT"), all input VAT is charged with the expense to which it relates.

(i) Pensions

All employees of the District are either auto-enrolled in or invited to join the TPT Retirement Solutions Flexible Retirement Plan, a defined contribution pension scheme. The District's contribution is set at 6% of salary and the District has no liability beyond making its contributions and paying over the deductions for the employees' contributions. There were no contributions outstanding at the year-end.

(j) Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost more than £1,000. They are valued at historical cost, except for the District Chair's manse, which is stated at deemed cost, being its insured value in 2011. The manse is currently the only fixed asset held and it is assessed each year for any indication of impairment.

(k) Depreciation

Depreciation is provided to write-off the cost of a fixed asset, less its residual value, over its useful economic life. In the case of the manse, its residual value is estimated and provided it is not less than cost no depreciation is required.

(l) Debtors and creditors

Debtors are stated at the amount the District expects to receive or the amount it has paid in advance for goods or services. Creditors are stated at the amount the District expects to pay or the amount it has received as an advance payment for goods or services.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2022

2 Controlling body, connected organisations and glossary of terms

The ultimate controlling body of the District is the Conference of the Methodist Church in Great Britain.

The "Conference" is a representative body drawn from across the Connexion, and is the policy-making and governing body of the Church. It makes and amends Standing Orders, which are published annually in the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church, as the basis for governance of the Church throughout the Connexion.

The "Connexion" is the larger connected community of the Methodist Church in Great Britain, comprising the Conference, the central team of Connexional Officers and support systems directed by the Methodist Council, and the regional organisation of Districts, Circuits and Churches.

"Districts" are regional bodies comprising a number of Circuits.

"Circuits" are local groupings of churches.

"Churches" are the local places to which Methodists belong.

Each of the entities in these layers of the church community is a separate charity with its own trustees and many of the District's trustees are also trustees of some of these. However, the District has no significant influence over any of these entities nor, with the exception of the Conference, do they have significant influence over the District. The District is bound by the Standing Orders laid down by Conference as law and policy but within that framework it is able to determine for itself how to fulfill its role. All the entities within the Connexion are therefore connected organisations in relation to the District but, because of the lack of significant influence, they are not considered related parties for accounting purposes.

The District receives grants from Connexional funds to support certain aspects of its work. It also receives the proceeds of an annual levy set by Conference charged on money held in trust funds by its Circuits. Conference has also set a levy to be charged on most property sales within the Connexion for the Connexional Priority Fund. Part of the proceeds of this fund is distributed annually to the Districts.

Conference has established the Methodist Church Fund as a major source of finance for the activities of the Church and it determines an assessment to be paid into the fund each year, which is allocated between the Districts. The Districts in turn make an assessment on their Circuits to collect the Methodist Church Fund assessment together with a contribution to District expenses.

Many Circuits and Churches make grants and donations and provide personnel to support District activities. The District in turn makes grants to Circuits and Churches for personnel and property projects.

The "Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes" is the legal owner and custodian trustee of all property held on Methodist model trusts.

The "Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church" manages a common deposit fund and a series of pooled investment funds for Methodist entities.

Insurance cover is provided to the District by Methodist Insurance PLC.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2022

3 Grants from connexional funds

	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	District Advance Fund (restricted) £	Other Restricted- ed Funds (restricted) £	Total Funds £
2021/22					
For the work of the Ministry & Mission Co-ordinator	22,975	-	-	-	22,975
Exploratory funding for evangelism and growth	3,000	-	-	-	3,000
City centre property grant (see below)	-	-	302,919	-	302,919
Mission alongside the poor grant	-	-	10,922	-	10,922
	<u>25,975</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>313,841</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>339,816</u>
2020/21					
For the work of the Ministry & Mission Co-ordinator	22,525	-	-	-	22,525
For the recruitment of a property consultant	5,000	-	-	-	5,000
For the work of the agricultural chaplaincy co-ordinator	-	-	-	22,000	22,000
	<u>27,525</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,000</u>	<u>49,525</u>

The city centre property grant arises from the sale of Darlington Street Methodist Church, Wolverhampton by Wolverhampton Circuit. Under standing orders of the Methodist Church, such sale proceeds are to be transferred to the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes who are then to give the funds to the district in which the sold church was located for the purpose of continuing the work in that city. The District Policy Committee resolved that the best way to achieve that purpose was to transfer the money to Wolverhampton Circuit who were already engaged in that work by employing a deacon to work exclusively in the city centre. Standing orders require the use of the fund to be approved by the Synod, which was duly done at its meeting on 17th September 2022. Following that approval, the fund was transferred to a restricted fund of Wolverhampton Circuit.

4 Other grants and donations

	Agric. Chaplain- cy Fund (restricted) £	Chair's Benevol- ent Fund (restricted) £	Komera Partner- ship Fund (restricted) £	Other Funds £	Total Funds £
2021/22					
Donations from churches	1,920	-	125	-	2,045
Donations from individuals	750	-	1,210	-	1,960
Grant from Shropshire & Marches Circuit	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Grant from Hereford Diocese	16,000	-	-	-	16,000
NFU Mutual Agency Giving Fund	6,379	-	-	-	6,379
The Prince's Countryside Fund	5,000	-	-	-	5,000
Other donations and grants	4,583	-	-	-	4,583
Gift aid	150	-	167	-	317
	<u>44,782</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,502</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>46,284</u>
2020/21					
Donations from churches	1,767	125	50	-	1,942
Donations from individuals	110	-	600	-	710
Grant from Shropshire & Marches Circuit	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Grant from Hereford Diocese	16,000	-	-	-	16,000
Other donations and grants	185	100	595	-	880
Gift aid	106	-	144	-	250
	<u>28,168</u>	<u>225</u>	<u>1,389</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>29,782</u>

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2022

5 Assessments on circuits

The Methodist Conference levies an annual assessment on the Circuits through the several Districts to finance the Methodist Church Fund ("MCF"). The assessment is payable by the Districts who then collect Circuit assessments to cover the MCF assessment plus a contribution to District expenses and training.

The allocation of the MCF assessment between Districts is based on staffing numbers at Circuit and District level. The allocation of the Circuit assessment between the Circuits is provisionally agreed between the District Treasurer and the Circuit Treasurers, subject to the approval of the District Policy Committee, and is based on a number of factors, including staffing levels and membership and attendance statistics.

The Circuit Treasurers believe this produces a fairer way of allocating the costs between Circuits. Accordingly the District cannot be said to act merely as agent for the collection of the MCF assessment and the full Circuit assessments are therefore shown as income of the District and the MCF assessment paid to the Connexion is shown as expenditure.

	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	District Advance Fund (restricted) £	Other Restricted Funds (restricted) £	Total Funds £
2021/22					
For Methodist Church Fund	538,881	-	-	-	538,881
For District expenses	55,029	-	-	-	55,029
	<u>593,910</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>593,910</u>
2020/21					
For Methodist Church Fund	532,149	-	-	-	532,149
For District expenses	69,150	-	-	-	69,150
	<u>601,299</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>601,299</u>

6 Other charitable activities

	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) 2021/22 £	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) 2020/21 £
Charges and fundraising for visit to partners in Rwanda	10,500	-
Charges for District Pilgrimage	740	-
Circuit contribution to cost of employing lay worker	-	1,359
	<u>11,240</u>	<u>1,359</u>

7 Other trading activities

	Komera Partner- ship Fund (restricted) 2021/22 £	Komera Partner- ship Fund (restricted) 2020/21 £
Sale of beneficiary-made merchandise	<u>390</u>	<u>1,352</u>

The merchandise is made in Rwanda by women working together for peace and the well-being of their communities under a project set up by the Peacekeeping, Healing and Reconciliation Programme ("PHARP"), one of the partners supported by the Komera Partnership Fund. The proceeds have been remitted as grants to PHARP.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2022

8 Investment income

	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	District Advance Fund (restricted) £	Other Restricted Funds (restricted) £	Total Funds £
Interest receivable					
2021/22					
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes:					
District Advance Fund account	-	-	2,461	-	2,461
City Centre Properties account	-	-	1,065	-	1,065
Central Finance Board	556	-	-	207	763
	<u>556</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,526</u>	<u>207</u>	<u>4,289</u>
2020/21					
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes:					
District Advance Fund account	-	-	1,322	-	1,322
Central Finance Board	263	-	-	95	358
	<u>263</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,322</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>1,680</u>

9 Payments to trustees

The members of the District Policy Committee are the trustees of the District and none of them received any remuneration for their role as trustee. One of the trustees, Mrs Margaret Reynolds, was paid under a contract of employment as District Safeguarding Officer, as follows:

	2021/22 £	2020/21 £
Safeguarding Officer:		
Salary (employment ceased on 24th September 2021)	1,022	15,007
Employer's national insurance contributions	39	855

The Chair of the District, Rev Rachel Parkinson, is a trustee and is regarded as the sole key management person of the District. Under the authority of the Methodist Conference, the Chair was paid by the Connexion and was required to occupy the manse owned and maintained by the District. Total annual costs were as follows:

	2021/22 £	2020/21 £
Stipend and chair's allowance	32,451	31,905
Employer's national insurance contributions	3,343	3,191
Employer's contributions to defined benefit pension scheme	6,947	6,866
District manse maintenance and running costs	14,943	9,722
	<u>57,684</u>	<u>51,684</u>

During the year two (2020/21 two) trustees received reimbursement of expenses incurred in carrying out their duties:

	2021/22 £	2020/21 £
Cost of travel for District purposes	1,497	370
Postage, telephone, stationery, hospitality, conferences and sundries	689	958
	<u>2,186</u>	<u>1,328</u>

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2022

10 Auditor/Independent examiner

	2021/22	2020/21
	£	£
Auditor's remuneration	4,000	-
Fees charged for independent examination of accounts	-	1,620

The auditor did not carry out any other work for the District during the year.

11 Staff costs

	2021/22	2020/21
	No.	No.
Average number of full-time employees during the year	2.0	2.0
Average number of part-time employees during the year	5.1	5.8
Average full-time equivalent number of staff during the year	4.3	4.7

	2021/22	2020/21
	£	£
Salaries	125,052	139,463
Employer's national insurance contributions	10,539	10,583
Employer's contributions to defined contribution pension scheme	6,344	6,639
Apprenticeship levy	615	697
	<u>142,550</u>	<u>157,382</u>

Charged to:

District Expenses Fund (unrestricted)	79,394	95,781
Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund (restricted)	63,156	61,601
	<u>142,550</u>	<u>157,382</u>

All staff are paid at a rate above the living wage and no employees received emoluments of more than £60,000. Members of staff served as Agricultural Chaplain, Ministry and Mission Co-ordinator, Safeguarding Officer and in other support and administrative posts.

12 Expenditure on raising funds

	District Advance Fund (restricted) 2021/22	District Advance Fund (restricted) 2020/21
	£	£
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes investment management fees	<u>1,120</u>	<u>706</u>

The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes hold the District Advance Fund as custodian trustees and invest it in a deposit fund at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church. The management fee is 0.285%pa of the fund value at the beginning of the year.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2022

13 Other charitable activities undertaken directly

	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	District Advance Fund (restricted) £	Other Restrict- ed Funds (restricted) £	Total Funds £
2021/22					
Ministry & Mission Co-ordinator	41,968	-	-	-	41,968
Intergenerational Lay Worker	2,124	-	-	-	2,124
Safeguarding costs	21,901	-	-	-	21,901
Property Consultant	18,572	-	-	-	18,572
Agricultural chaplaincy costs	-	-	-	66,781	66,781
Supervision and other District services	4,371	-	-	-	4,371
Visit to partners in Rwanda	10,794	-	-	-	10,794
Training and other activities	1,244	4,568	-	360	6,172
	<u>100,974</u>	<u>4,568</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>67,141</u>	<u>172,683</u>
2020/21					
Ministry & Mission Co-ordinator	39,622	-	-	-	39,622
Intergenerational Lay Worker	9,098	-	-	-	9,098
Safeguarding costs	17,145	-	-	-	17,145
Property Consultant	14,423	-	-	-	14,423
Agricultural chaplaincy costs	-	-	-	63,323	63,323
Supervision and other District services	3,635	-	-	-	3,635
Training and other activities	-	1,011	-	300	1,311
	<u>83,923</u>	<u>1,011</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>63,623</u>	<u>148,557</u>

14 Grant funding of charitable activities

	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	District Advance Fund (restricted) £	Other Restrict- ed Funds (restricted) £	Total Funds £
2021/22					
Grants paid in year:					
Local ecumenical organisations	-	-	25,708	-	25,708
Grants to circuits and churches	3,000	-	121,792	-	124,792
Grants to partners in Rwanda	-	-	-	607	607
Other grants	3,000	-	3,140	4,047	10,187
	<u>6,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>150,640</u>	<u>4,654</u>	<u>161,294</u>
Grants awarded but unpaid at end of year	-	-	276,499	-	276,499
Grants awarded but unpaid at start of year	-	-	(287,574)	-	(287,574)
	<u>6,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>139,565</u>	<u>4,654</u>	<u>150,219</u>
2020/21					
Grants paid in year:					
Local ecumenical organisations	-	-	30,153	-	30,153
Grants to circuits and churches	-	-	97,555	-	97,555
Grants to partners in Rwanda	-	-	-	2,643	2,643
Other grants	-	-	-	3,076	3,076
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>127,708</u>	<u>5,719</u>	<u>133,427</u>
Grants awarded but unpaid at end of year	-	-	287,574	-	287,574
Grants awarded but unpaid at start of year	-	-	(303,277)	-	(303,277)
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>112,005</u>	<u>5,719</u>	<u>117,724</u>

All these grants were made to projects financed jointly by the District and other parts of the Methodist Church or to other organisations, and none was made to an individual.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2022

14 Grant funding of charitable activities (continued)

The grants awarded during the year from the District Advance Fund are for personnel, ecumenical, outreach or property projects related to mission and ministry, predominantly within circuits or local churches.

	2021/22	2020/21
	£	£
Personnel, ecumenical and outreach projects	134,565	100,845
Property projects	5,000	11,160
	<u>139,565</u>	<u>112,005</u>

There were 36 grants awarded during the year from the District Advance Fund, of which the following grants were the largest and accounted for 72% of the gross amount awarded, each being payable in annual instalments:

Disability inclusion project financed jointly with the Connexion as part of the New Places for New People strategy for three years from the project commencement in 2022/23	£ 59,930
Fallings Park Methodist Church, Wolverhampton Circuit - to support the employment of a children and families worker for three years from January 2022	£ 30,000
Stratton Street Methodist Church, Wolverhampton Circuit - to support the employment of a community development worker for three years from March 2022	£ 30,000
Walsall Circuit - to support the stationing of a deacon to work at Ablewell Advice Centre, Walsall Central Hall and the Revive Café, Bloxwich for three years from September 2022	£ 30,000

There are no support costs included in the cost of grant funding as they would not be material. The District Advance Fund is overseen by the Resourcing Mission Committee, the work of which is largely carried out by its officers, predominantly the District Grants Officer, on a voluntary basis.

15 Support costs

	2021/22	2020/21
	£	£
Chair's travel and miscellaneous expenses	2,517	818
Administration staff costs	18,917	18,486
District office expenses	4,305	3,357
District manse expenses	14,943	9,722
Synod expenses	632	820
Meeting, travel and other administrative expenses	1,101	383
Governance costs	4,000	1,620
	<u>46,415</u>	<u>35,206</u>

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2022

16 Other expenditure

	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) 2021/22 £	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) 2020/21 £
Savings from reduced expenditure during pandemic returned to circuits	-	20,000

17 Transfers between funds

	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) £	Desig- nated Funds (unrestricted) £	District Advance Fund (restricted) £	Other Restrict- ed Funds (restricted) £	Total Funds £
2021/22 transfers to/(from) funds					
Ministry & Mission Co-ordinator costs	19,300	-	(19,300)	-	-
Agricultural chaplaincy costs	-	-	(10,000)	10,000	-
Manse maintenance budget overspend	5,000	(5,000)	-	-	-
District Property Consultant costs	17,500	-	(17,500)	-	-
3Generate transport costs	500	-	(500)	-	-
	<u>42,300</u>	<u>(5,000)</u>	<u>(47,300)</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>-</u>
2020/21 transfers to/(from) funds					
Ministry & Mission Co-ordinator costs	18,000	-	(18,000)	-	-
Agricultural chaplaincy costs	-	-	(10,000)	10,000	-
Intergenerational Lay Worker costs	10,400	-	(10,400)	-	-
District Property Consultant costs	11,000	-	(11,000)	-	-
	<u>39,400</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(49,400)</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>-</u>

18 Tangible fixed assets

District manse	31/8/22 £	31/8/21 £
Deemed cost	<u>265,000</u>	<u>265,000</u>

The Chair's manse is stated at deemed cost, being its insured value in 2011. The manse was professionally valued at £370,000 by Jackson Lile & Close on 27th January 2020 and accordingly no depreciation has been provided.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2022

19 Debtors

	31/8/22	31/8/21
	£	£
Prepayments - deposits paid for retreat accommodation	325	480
Accrued income - gift aid refund receivable	49	219
Other debtors	-	25
	<u>374</u>	<u>724</u>

20 Creditors

	31/8/22	31/8/21
	£	£
Accrued expenses		
Reimbursement of employees' and volunteers' expenses	1,790	1,005
Accrued expenses due to third party suppliers	10,713	1,620
Accrued holiday pay	2,124	-
	<u>14,627</u>	<u>2,625</u>
Deferred income		
Grants received in advance	-	22,975
Charges received in advance for 2022 Rwanda trip	-	6,750
Other creditors	280	174
	<u>14,907</u>	<u>32,524</u>

21 Liabilities for grants payable in future years

	31/8/22	31/8/21
	£	£
Grants payable within one year:		
District Advance Fund grants	143,888	141,245
Children Support Fund grant	-	400
	<u>143,888</u>	<u>141,645</u>
Grants payable after more than one year:		
District Advance Fund grants:		
Payable in - 2022/23	-	91,743
2023/24	97,514	50,043
2024/25	35,097	4,543
	<u>132,611</u>	<u>146,329</u>
Total grant commitments	<u>276,499</u>	<u>287,974</u>

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2022

22 Summary of fund movements

	Fund balances brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers between funds (Note 17)	Fund balances carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£
2021/22 Unrestricted fund movements					
District Expenses Fund	348,721	631,681	692,270	42,300	330,432
District Training Fund	16,300	-	4,568	-	11,732
Manses Fund	33,585	-	-	(5,000)	28,585
	<u>398,606</u>	<u>631,681</u>	<u>696,838</u>	<u>37,300</u>	<u>370,749</u>
2021/22 Restricted fund movements					
District Advance Fund	105,547	610,073	140,685	(47,300)	527,635
Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund	63,583	44,989	66,781	10,000	51,791
Children Support Fund	9,343	-	4,047	-	5,296
Chair's Benevolent Fund	1,993	-	360	-	1,633
Komera Partnership Fund	2,025	1,892	607	-	3,310
	<u>182,491</u>	<u>656,954</u>	<u>212,480</u>	<u>(37,300)</u>	<u>589,665</u>
2021/22 Total fund movements	<u>581,097</u>	<u>1,288,635</u>	<u>909,318</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>960,414</u>
2020/21 Unrestricted fund movements					
District Expenses Fund	350,153	630,446	671,278	39,400	348,721
District Training Fund	17,311	-	1,011	-	16,300
Manses Fund	33,585	-	-	-	33,585
	<u>401,049</u>	<u>630,446</u>	<u>672,289</u>	<u>39,400</u>	<u>398,606</u>
2020/21 Restricted fund movements					
District Advance Fund	49,622	218,036	112,711	(49,400)	105,547
Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund	66,743	50,263	63,423	10,000	63,583
Children Support Fund	12,319	-	2,976	-	9,343
Chair's Benevolent Fund	2,068	225	300	-	1,993
Komera Partnership Fund	1,927	2,741	2,643	-	2,025
	<u>132,679</u>	<u>271,265</u>	<u>182,053</u>	<u>(39,400)</u>	<u>182,491</u>
2020/21 Total fund movements	<u>533,728</u>	<u>901,711</u>	<u>854,342</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>581,097</u>

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2022

23 Unrestricted funds

(a) District Expenses Fund

This is the general fund used for running the District and has no restrictions. It is financed principally by circuit assessments and the fund balance includes the book value of the District manse (£265,000).

(b) Designated funds

These funds are designated for particular purposes by the District Policy Committee but they are not held on terms that prevent their use for other District purposes if the Committee so resolve.

The District Training Fund is used to fund ministerial and lay training. This fund is financed by transfers from the District Advance Fund ("DAF") as and when required. Although the DAF is a restricted fund its purposes include the support of personnel working in the District and transfers to the Training Fund will be made by grants awarded in the usual way in accordance with the DAF policy as long as the Training Fund continues to meet that purpose of the DAF.

The Manse Fund is used as a reserve to cover occasional heavy expenditure on maintenance of the District manse. Manse maintenance is charged to the District Expenses Fund but any underspend compared to budget is transferred to the Manse Fund and any overspend is covered by drawing on the Manse Fund.

24 Restricted funds

(a) District Advance Fund

This fund is set up under Methodist Standing Orders and is funded by a levy on the end-of-year balances of the Circuit Model Trust Funds of the Circuits in the District and by a distribution from the Connexional Priority Fund, as part of the process of moving money around the Connexion to enable it to best be used for the mission of the Church. The fund is administered by the Resourcing Mission Committee who award grants in accordance with the fund policy to support personnel or property projects related to mission and ministry and to support outreach, evangelism and ecumenical work.

In 2021/22 the income of this fund was supplemented by a one-off City Centre Property grant of £302,919 from the Connexion. Full details of the grant and how it is being used are given in Note 3 above.

(b) Other restricted funds

The Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund finances the work of Borderlands Rural Chaplaincy, a joint Methodist and Anglican initiative among rural communities in the Welsh borders. Its income comes mainly from grants and donations from a range of Methodist and Anglican sources and it employs a full-time chaplain and a part-time area co-ordinator, who are supported by a team of volunteers.

The Children Support Fund is used to make grants to churches who are working with children in deprived circumstances.

The Chair's Benevolent Fund provides small grants from donations to allow the Chair to meet cases of personal need in a confidential way.

The Komera Partnership Fund supports the District's partnership with the Free Methodist Church of Rwanda and the Peacebuilding Healing and Reconciliation Programme of Rwanda with funds from donations and fundraising activities.

Accounts

The Methodist Church
Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District

Registered Charity Number 1134902

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended
31st August 2021

The Methodist Church

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District

**Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31st August 2021**

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Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2021

Reference and administrative information

Registered charity name Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Registered charity number 1134902

Trustees (members of the District Policy Committee)

The members of the District Policy Committee at the date of this report and those who served during the year ended 31st August 2021 are as follows:

Rev Rachel Parkinson - Chair
Rev Pauline Salter - Deputy Chair
Mr Andrew Beattie - Synod Secretary
Mr Christopher Reed - District Treasurer

Rev David Alford
Miss Rosie Bryant (appointed 1/9/21)
Rev Christopher Collins (until 31/8/21)
Rev Nicholas Collison
Rev Alan Combes
Rev Joanne Cox-Darling
Rev Elizabeth Dunning (appointed 14/10/21)
Rev Margaret Eales
Mrs Angela Evans
Rev Richard Hall
Mr David Hemingway (appointed 27/5/21)
Rev Roger Hides (appointed 1/9/21)
Rev Jimione Kaci (appointed 1/9/21)
Mrs Gillian Jolly (until 31/8/21)

Rev David Lavender
Rev Susan Levitt
Mr Ian Mason (until 31/8/21)
Mr Leon Murray
Mr Brian Oakley
Rev Hendry Ponniah
Mrs Margaret Reynolds (until 31/8/21)
Rev Neil Richardson
Rev Teddy Siwila
Rev Julia Skitt
Mr Keith Walton
Mr Robert Whitehouse (until 31/8/21)
Rev Denise Williams
Rev Rachel Wood (appointed 1/9/21)

Principal address District Office
Beckminster Methodist Church
Birches Barn Road
Wolverhampton
WV3 7BQ

Telephone 01902 658383

Website wsmethodist.org.uk

Independent examiner Ian Cattell FCA
Crombies Accountants Limited
34 Waterloo Road
Wolverhampton
WV1 4DG

Bankers	The Co-operative Bank PLC PO Box 250 Delf House Southway Skelmersdale WN8 6WT	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church 9 Bonhill Street London EC2A 4PE
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Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2021

Objectives and activities

The purpose of the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District is laid out in Standing Order 400A of the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church, namely that: *"the District is constituted to advance the mission of the Church in the region, by providing opportunities for Circuits to work together and support each other, by offering them resources of finance, personnel and expertise which may not be available locally and by enabling them to engage with the wider society of the region as a whole and address its concerns."* The central priorities of the Methodist Church are Worship, Learning and Caring, Service and Evangelism.

The District comprises around 190 local Methodist churches grouped into 12 circuits and served by a ministerial team of around 40 active ministers and around 40 lay employees. A number of supernumerary (retired) ministers also offer significant support.

There were 6,838 people holding membership of churches in the District in October 2020. Twenty-seven people were brought into membership during the year. However there were ten times that number of deaths amongst the membership. Whilst the District consistently sees a pattern of deaths outnumbering new members made, the difference is likely to be much greater in this period because of the effects of the pandemic.

For substantial parts of the twelve months reported upon, churches' buildings were not open for worship. Any expectation in the Summer of 2020 that church life would gradually return to normal patterns was overturned by mid-Autumn. In response to this, the District continued to evolve new ways of supporting churches and circuits. In addition to online meetings and Sunday worship, the Chair prepared a number of pastoral messages posted on YouTube and Probationer Ministers were provided with a 3-day retreat in their own homes, supported by physical resources sent through the post and short sessions on Zoom.

For Advent and Christmas 2020, the District encouraged circuits to consider ways of reaching out to their local communities, using people's homes as a mission base rather than the local church buildings which were closed. So successful was this *God is With Us* grant scheme that the District repurposed and repeated it, encouraging churches to make community links around Valentine's Day and Mothering Sunday.

Recognising the cumulative effect of the pandemic upon those in leadership positions, the District engaged the *Tragedy and Congregations Team* to provide training for ministers on responding to individual and collective trauma. We have also been able to keep in mind the pandemic in its global context by occasional Zoom meetings with our partners in the Free Methodist Church in Rwanda.

An important appointment to the District team has been that of Matthew McDade to the new post of District Property Consultant. Matthew brings considerable experience to the task of helping circuits assess the mission potential of their property portfolio and advising upon either development or disposal. This has proved particularly beneficial at a time when the pandemic has prompted an increasing number of congregations to draw their life as a worshipping community to a close.

A major piece of work for the District this year was in preparing for the vote at the 2021 Methodist Conference on the report on Marriage and Relationships known as *"God in Love Unites Us"*. The resolutions in the report were ones upon which many Methodist members have strongly held contradictory convictions. Our inability to meet in person to discuss sensitive topics made the task more challenging. The District Synod voted on these resolutions in April 2021, in the run-up to which a series of three online preparatory sessions were organised to ensure Synod members had opportunity to fully explore the report and hear a range of views upon it. In the event the District recorded strong majorities in favour of all the resolutions.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2021

Conversations have been held throughout the year with the neighbouring Birmingham District and a plan agreed in principle to merge the two Districts by August 2025. This is in line with ambitions to streamline oversight and trusteeship functions throughout the Methodist Connexion.

As a result of the pandemic, the three-month sabbatical due to be taken by the Chair of District was spread between the summers of 2020 and 2021, with cover being provided by the Deputy Chair, the Rev'd Pauline Salter.

The District awarded £118K in grants during the year. These were all "Ministry" grants, supporting people-based activities across the entire District. No property grants were awarded this year, mainly due to the lockdown.

Public benefit

The activities mentioned above were undertaken so as to further the District's purposes for the public benefit and the District Policy Committee has had regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission when exercising its powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Achievements and performance

- In anticipation of the retirement of the District Safeguarding Officer in August 2021, plans were made during this period to combine Safeguarding functions across the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury and Birmingham Districts.
- As a follow-up to the Representative Synod focusing on Racial Justice, reported last year, the District provided a suite of online worship resources which were well used by churches and circuits marking Racial Justice Sunday.
- The District hosted an online welcome service for Phoebe Parkin, the Youth President of the Methodist Church for 2020/21, who comes from Telford.
- Synods provided opportunity for learning, development and spiritual nurture. Speakers this year addressed the *Methodist Way of Life* and the *Deep Silence of God*.
- The Christmas small grant scheme led to twenty-seven different projects engaging every circuit in the District. These were designed to be a source of blessing and to remind communities that "God is With Us". An example of the innovation this produced is the #BeAnAngel campaign in Codsall where the local church worked with partner locations to host large graffiti murals of angels' wings, inviting local people to "become an angel" as a starting point for further supported reflection. Combined with the Valentine's scheme, a total of £6500 was awarded in small grants.
- The Methodist President for 2020/21, Rev'd Richard Teal, made an online visitation to the District with a particular focus on encouraging our most rural circuit.
- The District Ministry and Missions Co-ordinator, Jo Yair, led the *FX Multiplier* project across this and the neighbouring Birmingham District with the aim of encouraging Fresh Expressions of Church. Nineteen separate teams engaged with this project.
- The District worked with two circuits to develop new Diaconal appointments offering community ministry in Wolverhampton and Dudley. Two deacons were appointed to begin in September 2021.

Financial review

The above activities and achievements illustrate the work of the District and the attached accounts show how the financial resources necessary for that work have been raised and expended. The accounts are also the means by which members of the District Policy Committee, as trustees, account for their stewardship of those funds to the circuits, the membership of the churches within the District and the wider community.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2021

The finances of the District are held in eight different funds to account properly for the different purposes for which money comes into the District. Most of the income comes from other parts of the Methodist Church: assessments are received from the Circuits in the District to fund the work done directly and the payment to the Connexion of a contribution to the Methodist Church Fund, and distributions are received via the Connexional structure of the Methodist Church to fund grant-making activities, as explained more fully in Note 2 to the accounts.

The income of the District for the year ended 31st August 2021 was £901,711 and expenditure was £854,342. The resulting surplus of £47,369 increased reserves to £581,097 (2020 £533,728) of which £265,000 was the book value of the District Chair's manse, leaving free reserves of £316,097 across all eight funds. A review of significant matters affecting District finances is as follows:

The income of the District was down by £22,228 (2%) on the previous year. The reduction reflected the absence this year of £33,532 of non-recurring income in the previous year together with a fall of £11,865 in donations received attributable to the effects of the pandemic. These adverse variances were partially offset by an increase of £25,500 in income from the Connexion.

Expenditure was down £52,465 (6%). Grant funding fell by £81,484 and support costs were £2,091 lower, both as a result of the effects of the pandemic curtailing activities at District, Circuit and Church level. These reductions were partially offset by a payment of £20,000 as a return to circuits of the cost savings realised during the pandemic compared to the budget for the two years 2019/20 and 2020/21.

The net result was a surplus of £47,369. The District Advance Fund showed a surplus of £55,925 due to the reduction in grants awarded, and other funds were left with small deficits. All funds have adequate reserves carried forward to enable them to continue their activities. A review of significant matters affecting the finances of each fund is as follows:

District Expenses Fund (unrestricted)

The budget for the District Expenses Fund for 2020/21 was approved in March 2020 and was set with the object of breaking even. After taking into account the £20,000 cashback to circuits that objective was broadly achieved. The free reserves of the District Expenses Fund at £83,721 represent 14.1% of circuit assessments receivable in the following year, compared to a target level of 10%. The budget for 2021/22 was approved in April 2021 and provides for a deficit to bring the reserves down towards the target level.

District Training Fund (designated)

Training activities were affected by the pandemic like everything else and expenditure only amounted to £1,011. This was taken from reserves, leaving £16,300 to carry forward.

Manse Fund (designated)

There was no movement on this fund and the balance of £33,585 is carried forward.

District Advance Fund (restricted)

The District Advance Fund saw an increase in income from the levy on Circuit Model Trust Funds and a reduction in grants awarded. The resulting increase in its reserves from £49,622 to £105,547, while unintended, will leave the District in a strong position to engage with the Connexional "God for All" project commencing in September 2022.

Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund (restricted)

The Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund has now received the last of the three annual grant instalments of £22,000 from the Mission in Britain Fund. Its reserves of £63,583 are just enough to cover one year's expenditure as per its reserves policy, but further sources of income are urgently required to replace the expired grant.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2021

Children Support Fund (restricted)

The money in this fund is left over from the annual children's holiday that ceased after 2018 and, with the consent of the donors, it is being used to offer grants to churches who want to work with children in deprived circumstances. During the year grants of £2,976 were made, leaving a balance of £9,343 available for further grant-making.

Chair's Benevolent Fund (restricted)

This fund continues with modest receipts and payments and a balance of £1,993 is carried forward.

Komera Partnership Fund (restricted)

Further donations were received and grants paid to our partners in Rwanda, and a balance of £2,025 is carried forward.

Reserves policies

The reserves policy for the District Expenses Fund is based on a free reserves target of 10% of total circuit assessments, to reflect the risk that a circuit may not be able to meet their assessment in full. For 2021/22 circuit assessments are £593,910, giving a reserves target of £59,000. The actual level of free reserves at 31st August 2021 was £83,721 or 14.1% of circuit assessments (2020 14.2%).

The District Training Fund does not have a specific reserve requirement. It has excess funds at present and no further income will be sought for the time being.

The Manse Fund reserve requirement is £40,000, to cover major repairs to the Chair's manse in excess of the annual budget, and the current fund balance is £33,585.

The reserves in the District Advance Fund are already stated after taking into account future commitments and as the annual tranche of funding is received in September/October this fund does not need more than a nominal balance of reserves at the year-end.

The scale and scope of the work funded by the Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund is significant and its funding is dependent on grants from various sources, many of which are under financial pressure. In these circumstances, reserves of up to one year's expenditure are considered appropriate to ensure the resilience of the project.

The Children Support Fund is currently using money left over following the cessation of the annual holiday to make small grants and therefore has no particular reserves requirement.

The Chair's Benevolent Fund and the Komera Partnership Fund are there to make grants to beneficiaries from the funds that have been raised for those purposes and thus do not require any specific target levels of reserves.

Investment policy

Surplus monies of the District's Funds (other than the District Advance Fund) are held in an interest-bearing deposit account with the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church, which is a common deposit fund reporting directly to Conference. The District Advance Fund is held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes as custodian trustees on behalf of the District, and this fund is also invested in an interest-bearing account with the Central Finance Board.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2021

Plans for the future

A main focus for the District in 2021/22 will be to encourage Circuits and Churches to strike an appropriate balance between consolidation, rest and refreshment after the ravages of the pandemic, whilst still maintaining momentum in attending to our priorities of Worship, Learning and Caring, Service, and Evangelism.

The District will enter the first year of engagement with the Connexional *God for All* project. This will involve discerning and developing an appropriate "District Project" focused on *Church at the Margins* and *New Places for New People*.

Further progress will be made to align the life of this District with our neighbour in Birmingham, in preparation for an anticipated merger.

Structure, governance and management

The District, as part of the Methodist Church, is constituted under the terms of the Deed of Union of 1932, which was promulgated under the authority of legislation that is now found in the Methodist Church Act 1976. This Act provides the foundation on which all the remainder of the constitutional structure of the Church is raised.

The governing body of the Methodist Church in Great Britain is the Conference. Under the authority of the Act and the Deed of Union, Conference makes and amends Standing Orders, which are published annually in the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church. This is the basis for governance of the Church as a connexion of local churches, circuits and districts working together within the one framework.

The District Synod is the principal body responsible for the affairs of the District and is constituted in accordance with the Deed of Union and Standing Orders. It is the church court for the District, serving as a link between the Conference and the Connexional Team on the one hand and the Circuits and Local Churches on the other. It has oversight of all District affairs.

The Synod annually appoints the members of the District Policy Committee whose responsibilities include the formulation and promotion of policy and the supervision of the use of resources of personnel, property and finance. Under charity law the members of the District Policy Committee are treated as the Trustees of the Charity and the names of the Trustees who served during the year or have been appointed since are shown above.

The District Policy Committee nominates persons to the Synod for appointment as district officers and as members of the District Policy Committee and other district committees. In addition, the Chair of the District, the Secretary of the Synod and any member of the Methodist Council nominated by the Synod are ex-officio members of the District Policy Committee.

The District is one of thirty-one Districts of the Methodist Church in Great Britain. The Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District brings together twelve Circuits, based in the City of Wolverhampton, two West Midlands Metropolitan Boroughs, parts of Staffordshire and Worcestershire, most of Shropshire, about half of Herefordshire and parts of Wales. The structure of the District and its constituent Circuits and Churches, and their inter-relationships with each other, is explained more fully in Note 2 to the accounts.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2021

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

Charity law requires the District Policy Committee (as Trustees) to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its financial activities for that period, together with its assets and liabilities at the end of the period, and adequately distinguish any material special trust or other restricted fund of the Charity. In preparing those financial statements the District Policy Committee is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the policies adopted are in accordance with the appropriate SORP and the Accounting Regulations and with applicable Accounting Standards, 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 in operation.

The District Policy Committee also has overall responsibility for ensuring that there is in place an appropriate system of controls, financial and otherwise, to provide reasonable confidence and assurance that:

- the District's administration is operating effectively and efficiently;
- the assets of the District are properly safeguarded against unauthorised loss or damage;
- proper records are maintained and information produced for management control, fiscal and statutory reasons; and
- the District complies with the relevant laws and guidelines.

This report was approved by the District Policy Committee as Trustees on 23rd March 2022 and is signed on their behalf by:

R Parkinson

REV R.E. PARKINSON

District Chair

J Christopher Reed

J.C. REED

District Treasurer

Trustees

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st August 2021

		District Expenses Fund (unrestricted)	Desig- nated Funds (unrestricted)	District Advance Fund (restricted)	Other Restrict- ed Funds (restricted)	Total Funds 2020/21	Total Funds 2019/20
	Note	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:							
Donations and grants							
Grants from connexional funds	3	27,525	-	-	22,000	49,525	44,126
Other grants and donations	4	-	-	-	29,782	29,782	58,279
<i>Total donations and grants</i>		<u>27,525</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>51,782</u>	<u>79,307</u>	<u>102,405</u>
Charitable activities							
Assessments on circuits	5	601,299	-	-	-	601,299	608,276
Levies on circuit model trust funds		-	-	120,687	-	120,687	85,656
Distribution from Connexional Priority Fund		-	-	96,027	-	96,027	110,957
Other charitable activities	6	1,359	-	-	-	1,359	600
<i>Total charitable activities</i>		<u>602,658</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>216,714</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>819,372</u>	<u>805,489</u>
Other trading activities	7	-	-	-	1,352	1,352	1,219
Investments	8	263	-	1,322	95	1,680	4,826
Other income	9	-	-	-	-	-	10,000
<i>Total income</i>		<u>630,446</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>218,036</u>	<u>53,229</u>	<u>901,711</u>	<u>923,939</u>
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	13	-	-	706	-	706	674
Charitable activities							
Contribution to Methodist Church Fund		532,149	-	-	-	532,149	529,636
Other charitable activities undertaken directly	14	83,923	1,011	-	63,623	148,557	139,992
Grant funding of charitable activities	15	-	-	112,005	5,719	117,724	199,208
Support costs	16	35,206	-	-	-	35,206	37,297
<i>Total charitable activities</i>		<u>651,278</u>	<u>1,011</u>	<u>112,005</u>	<u>69,342</u>	<u>833,636</u>	<u>906,133</u>
Other expenditure	17	20,000	-	-	-	20,000	-
<i>Total expenditure</i>		<u>671,278</u>	<u>1,011</u>	<u>112,711</u>	<u>69,342</u>	<u>854,342</u>	<u>906,807</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		(40,832)	(1,011)	105,325	(16,113)	47,369	17,132
Transfers between funds	18	39,400	-	(49,400)	10,000	-	-
Net movement in funds		(1,432)	(1,011)	55,925	(6,113)	47,369	17,132
Total funds brought forward		350,153	50,896	49,622	83,057	533,728	516,596
Total funds carried forward		<u><u>348,721</u></u>	<u><u>49,885</u></u>	<u><u>105,547</u></u>	<u><u>76,944</u></u>	<u><u>581,097</u></u>	<u><u>533,728</u></u>

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Balance Sheet as at 31st August 2021

	Note	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	District Advance Fund (restricted) £	Other Restricted Funds (restricted) £	Total Funds at 31 Aug 21 £	Total Funds at 31 Aug 20 £
Fixed assets							
Tangible assets	19	265,000	-	-	-	265,000	265,000
Current assets							
Debtors	20	25	480	-	219	724	1,511
Cash on deposit:							
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		-	-	393,121	-	393,121	352,899
Central Finance Board		109,690	48,075	-	70,167	227,932	242,934
Cash at bank		6,028	1,330	-	6,919	14,277	9,611
Prepaid currency cards		141	-	-	400	541	786
Total current assets		115,884	49,885	393,121	77,705	636,595	607,741
Liabilities							
Creditors due within 1 year:							
Creditors	21	32,163	-	-	361	32,524	35,236
Grants payable	22	-	-	141,245	400	141,645	151,625
		32,163	-	141,245	761	174,169	186,861
Net current assets		83,721	49,885	251,876	76,944	462,426	420,880
Total assets less current liabilities		348,721	49,885	251,876	76,944	727,426	685,880
Creditors due after 1 year:							
Grants payable	22	-	-	146,329	-	146,329	152,152
Total net assets		348,721	49,885	105,547	76,944	581,097	533,728
Represented by	23						
Unrestricted Funds:							
District Expenses Fund		348,721				348,721	350,153
Designated Funds:							
District Training Fund			16,300			16,300	17,311
Manse Fund			33,585			33,585	33,585
Restricted Funds:							
District Advance Fund				105,547		105,547	49,622
Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund					63,583	63,583	66,743
Children Support Fund					9,343	9,343	12,319
Chair's Benevolent Fund					1,993	1,993	2,068
Komera Partnership Rwanda					2,025	2,025	1,927
Total funds		348,721	49,885	105,547	76,944	581,097	533,728

The notes on pages 11 to 23 form part of these accounts

The accounts were approved by the District Policy Committee as Trustees on 23rd March 2022 and are signed on their behalf by:

R Parkinson

REV R.E. PARKINSON

District Chair

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31st August 2021

		Total Funds 2020/21	Total Funds 2019/20
	<i>Note</i>	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	See below	27,961	44,156
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest receivable		1,680	4,826
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		29,641	48,982
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		606,230	557,248
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year		635,871	606,230
Represented by			
Cash on deposit:			
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		393,121	352,899
Central Finance Board		227,932	242,934
Cash at bank		14,277	9,611
Prepaid currency cards		541	786
		635,871	606,230
Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities			
Net income/(expenditure) for the year as per Statement of Financial Activities	Page 8	47,369	17,132
Deduct interest receivable (investing activity)		(1,680)	(4,826)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	Note 19	787	25
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	Notes 20, 21	(18,515)	31,825
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		27,961	44,156

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021

1 Basis of accounting and accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the following:

- i) The Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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),
- ii) FRS 102 - The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (as above), and
- iii) The Charities Act 2011.

The Charities SORP (FRS 102) has been used, despite the relevant 2008 accounting regulations still requiring use of the Charities SORP 2005, on the grounds that it is necessary to use the newer SORP in order to comply with the legal obligation to give a true and fair view.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the use of an historical insured value as the deemed cost of the District manse. The accruals basis has been used to show a true and fair view of the District's financial position and activities.

(b) Public benefit entity

The Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District (the "District") meets the definition of a public benefit entity in FRS 102 as its primary objectives require it to act so as to provide public, community or social benefit rather than to provide economic benefit to its members or participants.

(c) Going concern

The trustees consider there are no material uncertainties that would cast significant doubt on the District's ability to continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future, being a period of more than 12 months from the date these accounts are approved. They reached their view having taken into account the financial position of the District shown in these accounts, budgets for the next two years, and the connexional structure of the Methodist Church of Great Britain of which the District forms an integral part.

(d) Funds

The District operates a District Expenses Fund, which is the general unrestricted fund that can be used for any District purposes and holds cash, other current assets and the District manse. In addition there are designated funds holding cash and current assets designated for particular purposes but which may be used for other District purposes at the discretion of the trustees. There are also several restricted funds holding cash and current assets which can only be used for the specified purpose because of the terms on which their funding was received whether by grant, donation or fundraising.

(e) Income recognition

Income is recognised when the District becomes entitled to the economic benefit of the income, it is probable (i.e. more likely than not) that it will be received, and its monetary value can be measured reliably. No attempt is made to measure the considerable value of services or time donated by volunteers.

The District acts as agent in the following matters:

- i) collections taken at Synod for various charities, which are paid over to the respective charities shortly afterwards; and
- ii) payments received from the Methodist Church Fund to reimburse the District for the expenses of District representatives attending the Methodist Conference.

The receipts and payments for the above matters are not income or expenditure of the District and are therefore not reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021

1 Basis of accounting and accounting policies (continued)

(f) Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is recognised when there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the District to pay out resources, it is probable (i.e. more likely than not) that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

(g) Grants payable

The District makes a significant number of grants to third parties in furtherance of its objects, sometimes as one-off payments and sometimes as a series of periodic payments that may cover several years. As soon as a grant is awarded to a third party they have a valid expectation that the District will discharge its obligation to make the payments whenever they are to become due. This creates a constructive obligation in respect of the total value of the award. Even though multi-year grant awards are subject to annual monitoring, no specific conditions are imposed that would make the awards conditional and payment of the full amount is therefore probable. Accordingly all awards are immediately recognised as expenditure and a liability for future payments is recorded.

(h) Value added tax

Since the District is not registered for value added tax ("VAT"), all input VAT is charged with the expense to which it relates.

(i) Pensions

All employees of the District are either auto-enrolled in or invited to join The Pensions Trust defined contribution pension scheme. The District's contribution is set at 6% of salary and the District has no liability beyond making its contributions and paying over the deductions for the employees' contributions. There were no contributions outstanding at the year-end.

(j) Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost more than £1,000. They are valued at historical cost, except for the District Chair's manse, which is stated at deemed cost, being its insured value in 2011. The manse is currently the only fixed asset held and it is assessed each year for any indication of impairment.

(k) Depreciation

Depreciation is provided to write-off the cost of a fixed asset, less its residual value, over its useful economic life. In the case of the manse, its residual value is estimated and provided it is not less than cost no depreciation is required.

(l) Debtors and creditors

Debtors are stated at the amount the District expects to receive or the amount it has paid in advance for goods or services. Creditors are stated at the amount the District expects to pay or the amount it has received as an advance payment for goods or services.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021

2 Controlling body, connected organisations and glossary of terms

The ultimate controlling body of the District is the Conference of the Methodist Church in Great Britain.

The "Conference" is a representative body drawn from across the Connexion, and is the policy-making and governing body of the Church. It makes and amends Standing Orders, which are published annually in the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church, as the basis for governance of the Church throughout the Connexion.

The "Connexion" is the larger connected community of the Methodist Church in Great Britain, comprising the Conference, the central team of Connexional Officers and support systems directed by the Methodist Council, and the regional organisation of Districts, Circuits and Churches.

"Districts" are regional bodies comprising a number of Circuits.

"Circuits" are local groupings of churches.

"Churches" are the local places to which Methodists belong.

Each of the entities in these layers of the church community is a separate charity with its own trustees and many of the District's trustees are also trustees of some of these. However, the District has no significant influence over any of these entities nor, with the exception of the Conference, do they have significant influence over the District. The District is bound by the Standing Orders laid down by Conference as law and policy but within that framework it is able to determine for itself how to fulfill its role. All the entities within the Connexion are therefore connected organisations in relation to the District but, because of the lack of significant influence, they are not considered related parties for accounting purposes.

The District receives grants from Connexional funds to support certain aspects of its work. It also receives the proceeds of an annual levy set by Conference charged on money held in trust funds by its Circuits. Conference has also set a levy to be charged on most property sales within the Connexion for the Connexional Priority Fund. Part of the proceeds of this fund is distributed annually to the Districts.

Conference has established the Methodist Church Fund as a major source of finance for the activities of the Church and it determines an assessment to be paid into the fund each year, which is allocated between the Districts. The Districts in turn make an assessment on their Circuits to collect the Methodist Church Fund assessment together with a contribution to District expenses.

Many Circuits and Churches make grants and donations and provide personnel to support District activities. The District in turn makes grants to Circuits and Churches for personnel and property projects.

The "Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes" is the legal owner and custodian trustee of all property held on Methodist model trusts.

The "Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church" manages a common deposit fund and a series of pooled investment funds for Methodist entities.

Insurance cover is provided to the District by Methodist Insurance PLC.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021

3 Grants from connexional funds

	2020/21 £	2019/20 £
Connexional Priority Fund grant supporting the reaffirmation of "Our Calling" to support the work of the Ministry & Mission Co-ordinator (District Expenses Fund)	22,525	22,126
Mission in Britain Fund grant to fund the appointment of area co-ordinators for the Agricultural Chaplaincy (restricted fund)	22,000	22,000
Grant to fund the recruitment of a District Property Consultant (District Expenses Fund)	5,000	-
	<u>49,525</u>	<u>44,126</u>

The first two of the above grants represent annual instalments of three-year grants in each case. The total amounts awarded were £140,800 but instalment payments are subject to the work for which the grants were awarded being delivered, and to monitoring and evaluation. The third grant above was a one-off payment.

4 Other grants and donations

	Agric. Chaplain- cy Fund (restricted) £	Chair's Benevol- ent Fund (restricted) £	Komera Partner- ship Fund (restricted) £	Other Funds £	Total Funds £
2020/21					
Donations from churches	1,767	125	50	-	1,942
Donations from individuals	110	-	600	-	710
Grant from Shropshire & Marches Circuit	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Grant from Hereford Diocese	16,000	-	-	-	16,000
Other donations and grants	185	100	595	-	880
Gift aid	106	-	144	-	250
	<u>28,168</u>	<u>225</u>	<u>1,389</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>29,782</u>
2019/20					
Donations from churches	8,358	302	50	746	9,456
Donations from individuals	1,838	-	2,185	50	4,073
Grant from Shropshire & Marches Circuit	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Grant from Hereford Diocese	16,000	-	-	-	16,000
Flood appeal donations	4,405	12,227	-	-	16,632
Other donations and grants	1,023	-	500	-	1,523
Gift aid	446	-	149	-	595
	<u>42,070</u>	<u>12,529</u>	<u>2,884</u>	<u>796</u>	<u>58,279</u>

5 Assessments on circuits

The Methodist Conference levies an annual assessment on the Circuits through the several Districts to finance the Methodist Church Fund ("MCF"). The assessment is payable by the Districts who then collect Circuit assessments to cover the MCF assessment plus a contribution to District expenses and training.

The allocation of the MCF assessment between Districts is based on staffing numbers at Circuit and District level. The allocation of the Circuit assessment between the Circuits is provisionally agreed between the District Treasurer and the Circuit Treasurers, subject to the approval of the District Policy Committee, and is based on a number of factors, including staffing levels and membership and attendance statistics.

The Circuit Treasurers believe this produces a fairer way of allocating the costs between Circuits. Accordingly the District cannot be said to act merely as agent for the collection of the MCF assessment and the full Circuit assessments are therefore shown as income of the District and the MCF assessment paid to the Connexion is shown as expenditure.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021

5 Assessments on circuits (continued)	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	District Advance Fund (restricted)	Other Restricted Funds (restricted)	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
2020/21					
For Methodist Church Fund	532,149	-	-	-	532,149
For District expenses	69,150	-	-	-	69,150
	<u>601,299</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>601,299</u>
2019/20					
For Methodist Church Fund	529,636	-	-	-	529,636
For District expenses and training	71,740	6,900	-	-	78,640
	<u>601,376</u>	<u>6,900</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>608,276</u>

6 Other charitable activities	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted)	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted)
	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Circuit contribution to cost of employing lay worker	1,359	600
	<u>1,359</u>	<u>600</u>

7 Other trading activities	Komera Partnership Fund (restricted)	Komera Partnership Fund (restricted)
	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Sale of beneficiary-made merchandise	1,352	1,219
	<u>1,352</u>	<u>1,219</u>

The merchandise is made in Rwanda by women working together for peace and the well-being of their communities under a project set up by the Peacekeeping, Healing and Reconciliation Programme ("PHARP"), one of the partners supported by the Komera Partnership Fund. The proceeds have been remitted as grants to PHARP.

8 Investment income	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	District Advance Fund (restricted)	Other Restricted Funds (restricted)	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Interest receivable:					
2020/21	263	-	1,322	95	1,680
2019/20	1,201	-	3,077	548	4,826

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021

9 Other income

	District Advance Fund (restricted) 2020/21 £	District Advance Fund (restricted) 2019/20 £
Repayment of unspent grant made in previous year	-	10,000

10 Payments to trustees

The members of the District Policy Committee are the trustees of the District and none of them received any remuneration for their role as trustee. One of the trustees, Mrs Margaret Reynolds, was paid under a contract of employment as District Safeguarding Officer, as follows:

	2020/21 £	2019/20 £
Safeguarding Officer:		
Salary	15,007	14,517
Employer's national insurance contributions	855	803

The Chair of the District, Rev Rachel Parkinson, is a trustee and is regarded as the sole key management person of the District. Under the authority of the Methodist Conference, the Chair was paid by the Connexion and was required to occupy the manse owned and maintained by the District. Total annual costs were as follows:

	2020/21 £	2019/20 £
Stipend and chair's allowance	31,905	31,065
Employer's national insurance contributions	3,191	3,075
Employer's contributions to defined benefit pension scheme	6,866	6,685
District manse maintenance and running costs	9,722	8,436
	<u>51,684</u>	<u>49,261</u>

During the year two (2019/20 four) trustees received reimbursement of expenses incurred in carrying out their duties:

	2020/21 £	2019/20 £
Cost of travel for District purposes	370	2,802
Postage, telephone, stationery, hospitality, conferences and sundries	958	2,084
	<u>1,328</u>	<u>4,886</u>

11 Independent examiner

	2020/21 £	2019/20 £
Fees charged for independent examination of accounts	<u>1,620</u>	<u>1,620</u>

The independent examiner did not carry out any other work for the District during the year.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021

12 Staff costs

	2020/21	2019/20
	No.	No.
Average number of full-time employees during the year	2.0	2.0
Average number of part-time employees during the year	5.8	4.8
Average full-time equivalent number of staff during the year	4.7	4.2
	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Salaries	139,463	122,919
Employer's national insurance contributions	10,583	9,381
Employer's contributions to defined contribution pension scheme	6,639	6,318
Apprenticeship levy	697	614
	<u>157,382</u>	<u>139,232</u>
Charged to:		
District Expenses Fund (unrestricted)	95,781	79,687
Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund (restricted)	61,601	59,545
	<u>157,382</u>	<u>139,232</u>

All staff are paid at a rate above the living wage and no employees received emoluments of more than £60,000. Members of staff served as Agricultural Chaplain, Ministry and Mission Co-ordinator, Safeguarding Officer and in other support and administrative posts.

13 Expenditure on raising funds

	District Advance Fund (restricted) 2020/21 £	District Advance Fund (restricted) 2019/20 £
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes investment management fees	<u>706</u>	<u>674</u>

The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes hold the District Advance Fund as custodian trustees and invest it in a deposit fund at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church. The management fee is 0.2%pa of the fund value at the beginning of the year.

14 Other charitable activities undertaken directly

	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) £	Desig- nated Funds (unrestricted) £	District Advance Fund (restricted) £	Other Restrict- ed Funds (restricted) £	Total Funds £
2020/21					
Ministry & Mission Co-ordinator	39,622	-	-	-	39,622
Intergenerational Lay Worker	9,098	-	-	-	9,098
Safeguarding costs	17,145	-	-	-	17,145
Property Consultant	14,423	-	-	-	14,423
Agricultural chaplaincy costs	-	-	-	63,323	63,323
Supervision and other District services	3,635	-	-	-	3,635
Training and other activities	-	1,011	-	300	1,311
	<u>83,923</u>	<u>1,011</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>63,623</u>	<u>148,557</u>
2019/20					
Ministry & Mission Co-ordinator	39,613	-	-	-	39,613
Intergenerational Lay Worker	9,248	-	-	-	9,248
Safeguarding costs	17,502	-	-	-	17,502
Agricultural chaplaincy costs	-	-	-	65,006	65,006
Supervision and other District services	2,729	-	-	-	2,729
Training and other activities	985	4,609	-	300	5,894
	<u>70,077</u>	<u>4,609</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>65,306</u>	<u>139,992</u>

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021

15 Grant funding of charitable activities

	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	District Advance Fund (restricted) £	Other Restricted Funds (restricted) £	Total Funds £
2020/21					
Grants paid in year:					
Local ecumenical organisations	-	-	30,153	-	30,153
Grants to circuits and churches	-	-	97,555	-	97,555
Grants to partners in Rwanda	-	-	-	2,643	2,643
Other grants	-	-	-	3,076	3,076
	-	-	127,708	5,719	133,427
Grants awarded but unpaid at end of year	-	-	287,574	-	287,574
Grants awarded but unpaid at start of year	-	-	(303,277)	-	(303,277)
	-	-	112,005	5,719	117,724
2019/20					
Grants paid in year:					
Local ecumenical organisations	6,768	-	19,686	-	26,454
Grants to circuits and churches	-	-	133,550	-	133,550
Grants to partners in Rwanda	-	-	-	4,303	4,303
Tenbury Wells flood relief (from flood appeal)	-	-	-	4,500	4,500
Other grants	-	-	540	6,600	7,140
	6,768	-	153,776	15,403	175,947
Grants awarded but unpaid at end of year	-	-	303,277	-	303,277
Grants awarded but unpaid at start of year	-	-	(280,016)	-	(280,016)
	6,768	-	177,037	15,403	199,208

All these grants were made to organisations and none was made to an individual.

The grants awarded during the year from the District Advance Fund are for personnel, ecumenical, outreach or property projects related to mission and ministry, predominantly within circuits or local churches.

	2020/21 £	2019/20 £
Personnel, ecumenical and outreach projects	112,005	166,057
Property projects	-	10,980
	112,005	177,037

There were 19 grants awarded during the year, of which the following grants were the largest and accounted for 68% of the total, each being payable in annual instalments:

Dudley and Netherton Circuit - to support the appointment of a Deacon for three years from September 2021	£ 30,000
Dudley and Netherton Circuit - to continue to support the employment of a circuit mission enabler and administrator for a further three years from September 2021	£ 25,500
Berkswich Methodist Church, Stafford Circuit - to support the employment of a lay outreach worker for three years from September 2021	£ 21,000

There are no support costs included in the cost of grant funding as they would not be material. The District Advance Fund is overseen by the Resourcing Mission Committee, the work of which is largely carried out by its officers, predominantly the District Grants Officer, on a voluntary basis.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021

16 Support costs

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Chair's travel and miscellaneous expenses	818	2,006
Administration staff costs	18,486	17,861
District office expenses	3,357	4,062
District manse expenses	9,722	8,436
Synod expenses	820	1,088
Meeting, travel and other administrative expenses	383	2,185
Governance costs	1,620	1,659
	<u>35,206</u>	<u>37,297</u>

17 Other expenditure

	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) 2020/21	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) 2019/20
	£	£
Savings from reduced expenditure during pandemic returned to circuits	<u>20,000</u>	<u>-</u>

The budget for 2020/21 was approved in March 2020 and that determined the circuit assessments required in 2020/21. This was just before the restrictions to combat the Covid-19 pandemic were imposed and, in the event, the actual outcomes for 2019/20 and 2020/21 were severely impacted. Some charitable activities undertaken directly had to be scaled back and incurred lower than normal expenses and there were also savings in support costs.

The pandemic affected six months of 2019/20 and the savings compared to budget were about £12,000. In March 2020 the further savings in 2020/21 were estimated at £8,000 and the District Policy Committee agreed to return £20,000 to circuits to support churches that were struggling financially. It was agreed that the refund be shared equally between the five circuits with the lowest amount of unrestricted cash reserves per member. The refund was approved by Synod on 24th April 2021.

18 Transfers between funds

	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	District Advance Fund (restricted) £	Other Restricted Funds (restricted) £	Total Funds £
2020/21 transfers to/(from) funds					
Ministry & Mission Co-ordinator costs	18,000	-	(18,000)	-	-
Agricultural chaplaincy costs	-	-	(10,000)	10,000	-
Intergenerational Lay Worker costs	10,400	-	(10,400)	-	-
District Property Consultant costs	11,000	-	(11,000)	-	-
	<u>39,400</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(49,400)</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>-</u>
2019/20 transfers to/(from) funds					
Ministry & Mission Co-ordinator costs	18,000	-	(18,000)	-	-
Agricultural chaplaincy costs	-	-	(10,000)	10,000	-
Intergenerational Lay Worker costs	10,400	-	(10,400)	-	-
Coach fares to 3Generate	1,160	-	(1,160)	-	-
Underspend on manse maintenance	(1,000)	1,000	-	-	-
	<u>28,560</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>(39,560)</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>-</u>

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021

19 Tangible fixed assets

District manse	31/8/21	31/8/20
	£	£
Deemed cost	265,000	265,000

The Chair's manse is stated at deemed cost, being its insured value in 2011. The manse was professionally valued at £370,000 by Jackson Life & Close on 27th January 2020 and accordingly no depreciation has been provided.

20 Debtors

	31/8/21	31/8/20
	£	£
Prepayments - deposits for retreat fees and manse maintenance	480	885
Accrued income - gift aid refund receivable	219	626
Other debtors	25	-
	<u>724</u>	<u>1,511</u>

21 Creditors

	31/8/21	31/8/20
	£	£
Accrued expenses		
Reimbursement of employees' and volunteers' expenses	1,005	892
Accrued expenses due to third party suppliers	1,620	2,674
Bristol Methodist District - Probationers' Retreat	-	1,114
Use of facilities at Beckminster Methodist Church	-	40
	<u>2,625</u>	<u>4,720</u>
Deferred income		
Grants received in advance	22,975	27,525
Charges received in advance for 2022 Rwanda trip	6,750	-
Other creditors	174	2,991
	<u>32,524</u>	<u>35,236</u>

22 Liabilities for grants payable in future years

	31/8/21	31/8/20
	£	£
Grants payable within one year:		
District Advance Fund grants	141,245	151,125
Children Support Fund grant	400	500
	<u>141,645</u>	<u>151,625</u>
Grants payable after more than one year:		
District Advance Fund grants:		
Payable in - 2021/22	-	97,177
2022/23	91,743	51,575
2023/24	50,043	3,400
2024/25	4,543	-
	<u>146,329</u>	<u>152,152</u>
Total grant commitments	<u>287,974</u>	<u>303,777</u>

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021

23 Summary of fund movements

	Fund balances brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers between funds (Note 18)	Fund balances carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£
2020/21 Unrestricted fund movements					
District Expenses Fund	350,153	630,446	671,278	39,400	348,721
District Training Fund	17,311	-	1,011	-	16,300
Manses Fund	33,585	-	-	-	33,585
	<u>401,049</u>	<u>630,446</u>	<u>672,289</u>	<u>39,400</u>	<u>398,606</u>
2020/21 Restricted fund movements					
District Advance Fund	49,622	218,036	112,711	(49,400)	105,547
Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund	66,743	50,263	63,423	10,000	63,583
Children Support Fund	12,319	-	2,976	-	9,343
Chair's Benevolent Fund	2,068	225	300	-	1,993
Komera Partnership Fund	1,927	2,741	2,643	-	2,025
	<u>132,679</u>	<u>271,265</u>	<u>182,053</u>	<u>(39,400)</u>	<u>182,491</u>
2020/21 Total fund movements	<u>533,728</u>	<u>901,711</u>	<u>854,342</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>581,097</u>
2019/20 Unrestricted fund movements					
District Expenses Fund	340,068	625,303	643,778	28,560	350,153
District Training Fund	15,020	6,900	4,609	-	17,311
Manses Fund	32,585	-	-	1,000	33,585
	<u>387,673</u>	<u>632,203</u>	<u>648,387</u>	<u>29,560</u>	<u>401,049</u>
2019/20 Restricted fund movements					
District Advance Fund	57,203	209,690	177,711	(39,560)	49,622
Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund	53,004	64,518	68,506	17,727	66,743
Children Support Fund	14,523	896	3,100	-	12,319
Chair's Benevolent Fund	2,066	12,529	4,800	(7,727)	2,068
Komera Partnership Fund	2,127	4,103	4,303	-	1,927
	<u>128,923</u>	<u>291,736</u>	<u>258,420</u>	<u>(29,560)</u>	<u>132,679</u>
2019/20 Total fund movements	<u>516,596</u>	<u>923,939</u>	<u>906,807</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>533,728</u>

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021

24 Unrestricted funds

(a) District Expenses Fund

This is the general fund used for running the District and has no restrictions. It is financed principally by circuit assessments and the fund balance includes the book value of the District manse (£265,000).

(b) Designated funds

These funds are designated for particular purposes by the District Policy Committee but they are not held on terms that prevent their use for other District purposes if the Committee so resolve.

The District Training Fund is used to fund ministerial and lay training. From 1st September 2020 this fund will be financed by transfers from the District Advance Fund ("DAF") as and when required. Although the DAF is a restricted fund its purposes include the support of personnel working in the District and transfers to the Training Fund will be made by grants awarded in the usual way in accordance with the DAF policy as long as the Training Fund continues to meet that purpose of the DAF.

The Manse Fund is used as a reserve to cover occasional heavy expenditure on maintenance of the District manse. Manse maintenance is charged to the District Expenses Fund but any underspend compared to budget is transferred to the Manse Fund and any overspend is covered by drawing on the Manse Fund.

25 Restricted funds

(a) District Advance Fund

This fund is set up under Methodist Standing Orders and is funded by a levy on the end-of-year balances of the Circuit Model Trust Funds of the Circuits in the District and by a distribution from the Connexional Priority Fund, as part of the process of moving money around the Connexion to enable it to best be used for the mission of the Church. The fund is administered by the Resourcing Mission Committee who award grants in accordance with the fund policy to support personnel or property projects related to mission and ministry and to support outreach, evangelism and ecumenical work.

(b) Other restricted funds

The Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund finances the work of Borderlands Rural Chaplaincy, a joint Methodist and Anglican initiative among rural communities in the Welsh borders. Its income comes mainly from grants and donations from a range of Methodist and Anglican sources and it employs a full-time chaplain and a part-time area co-ordinator, who are supported by a team of volunteers.

The Children Support Fund is used to make grants to churches who are working with children in deprived circumstances.

The Chair's Benevolent Fund provides modest sums from donations to allow the Chair to meet cases of personal need in a confidential way.

The Komera Partnership Fund supports the District's partnership with the Free Methodist Church of Rwanda and the Peacebuilding Healing and Reconciliation Programme of Rwanda with funds from donations and fundraising activities.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021

DECLARATIONS

Treasurer

I confirm that these accruals-based accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021 have been prepared from the records of the District and that they include all funds under the control of the District Policy Committee.

Signature of Treasurer

J Christopher Reed

Date 23rd March 2022

Name

J. Christopher Reed FCA TEP

Address

3 Castlecroft Lane
Wolverhampton
WV3 8JX

Approval by the District Policy Committee

The trustees' annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021 were approved by the District Policy Committee as trustees on 23rd March 2022 and are signed on their behalf by:

Signature of Chair of the meeting

R Parkinson

Date 23rd March 2022

Name of the Chair of the meeting

Rev Rachel E. Parkinson

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District ("the District") for the year ended 31st August 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the District, you, the members of the District Policy Committee, are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

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

Independent examiner's statement

Since the District's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the District as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signature of Examiner

I Cattell

Name of Examiner

Ian Cattell FCA

Relevant professional body

The Institute of Chartered Accountants
in England and Wales

Address of Examiner

Crombies Accountants Limited
34 Waterloo Road
Wolverhampton
WV1 4DG

Date

23rd March 2022

Accounts

The Methodist Church
Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District

Registered Charity Number 1134902

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended
31st August 2020

The Methodist Church

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District

**Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31st August 2020**

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Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2020

Reference and administrative information

Registered charity name Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Registered charity number 1134902

Trustees (members of the District Policy Committee)

The members of the District Policy Committee at the date of this report and those who served during the year ended 31st August 2020 are as follows:

Rev Rachel Parkinson - Chair
Rev Pauline Salter - Deputy Chair
Mr Andrew Beattie - Synod Secretary
Mr Christopher Reed - District Treasurer

Rev David Alford (appointed 1/9/20)
Mr William Burden (until 31/8/20)
Rev Christopher Collins
Rev Nicholas Collison
Rev Alan Combes (appointed 18/1/20)
Rev Joanne Cox-Darling (appointed 1/9/20)
Rev Margaret Eales (appointed 1/9/20)
Mrs Angela Evans
Mr Roy Evans (until 31/8/20)
Rev Richard Hall
Miss Jacqueline Hill (until 18/1/20)
Mrs Gillian Jolly
Rev Kevin Jones (until 6/1/20)
Rev Derrick Lander (until 15/10/19)
Rev David Lavender

Rev Susan Levitt
Mr Ian Mason
Mr Leon Murray
Mr Brian Oakley
Rev Christopher Parkes (until 31/8/20)
Rev Hendry Ponniah (appointed 1/9/19)
Mr Peter Prescott (until 31/8/20)
Mrs Margaret Reynolds
Rev Neil Richardson
Miss Andrea Sheppick (until 26/3/20)
Rev Teddy Siwila
Rev Julia Skitt (appointed 1/9/20)
Mr Keith Walton (appointed 1/9/20)
Mr Robert Whitehouse
Rev Denise Williams

Principal address District Office
Beckminster Methodist Church
Birches Barn Road
Wolverhampton
WV3 7BQ

Telephone 01902 658383

Website wsmethodist.org.uk

Independent examiner Ian Cattell FCA
Crombies Accountants Limited
34 Waterloo Road
Wolverhampton
WV1 4DG

Bankers	The Co-operative Bank PLC PO Box 250 Delf House Southway Skelmersdale WN8 6WT	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church 9 Bonhill Street London EC2A 4PE
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Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2020

Objectives and activities

The purpose of the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District is laid out in Standing Order 400A of the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church, namely that: *"the District is constituted to advance the mission of the Church in the region, by providing opportunities for Circuits to work together and support each other, by offering them resources of finance, personnel and expertise which may not be available locally and by enabling them to engage with the wider society of the region as a whole and address its concerns."* The central priorities of the Methodist Church are Worship, Learning and Caring, Service and Evangelism.

The District comprises around 200 local Methodist churches grouped into 12 circuits and served by a ministerial team of around 50 active ministers and around 30 lay employees. A number of supernumerary (retired) ministers also offer significant support.

There were 6,891 people holding membership of churches in the District in October 2019. Seventy people were brought into membership in the previous year but overall there was a fall of 136 on the previous year because of the deaths of members. However, despite the fact that presenting these numbers has become the traditional way of the District making this account to its membership, the wider community and the Charity Commission, the pandemic has revealed that both the "objective" and "activity" of the District is far less tied to numbers of people associated with numbers of church buildings than may have previously appeared.

The District theme for 2019-20 was "What's the Story...?" This picked up the theme of the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference who visited the District in January 2020. "The story" turned out to be much as expected for the first half of the year and radically different for the second.

A major focus at the Autumn Synod was racial justice and inclusion, placing emphasis on the testimony of members. The Synod also reflected on Brexit and on the climate crisis, as a result of which we voted to register our intent to become an Eco-District under the scheme run by A Rocha.

An important chapter in the life of the District came to an end with the decision to close the District Children's Holiday scheme which had run since 1964 and been instrumental in providing a holiday to a huge number of children suffering disadvantage. The decision arose largely because of the decreasing number of experienced volunteers available to run the holiday safely. The District remains committed to the welfare of disadvantaged children and families across our geography and has a targeted grant scheme available to churches able to work in this area.

In February 2020 severe floods affected swathes of the District as the Rivers Wye and Severn breached their banks. A flood appeal raised more than £12K for the support of rural communities hit by the flooding and, specifically, the town of Tenbury Wells which was very badly affected.

The lockdown in March brought drastic changes to the life of all the churches as buildings closed, though very limited on-site activity remained in a few places in order to allow facilities such as Food Banks to continue. Most premises remained closed throughout the Spring and Summer. The Circuits and churches proved remarkably adaptable, establishing patterns of online worship with remarkable speed. Essential meetings also moved online. It is notable that lack of broadband connection has not been as much of a barrier as might be anticipated since a significant number of church members regularly join worship or meetings by phone. This has been supplemented by mailings and personal phone calls for those who would otherwise be excluded.

The very strong community identity of our churches means that the story of lockdown is overwhelmingly one of loss, both for our members and for the communities who gather on our premises. The financial implications for churches across the District are also likely to be very significant. Nevertheless, the necessity of adjusting to new ways of relating has brought some significant gains. It has proved what we have long said - that the church is more than just the building. In some cases, relationships have been strengthened, especially across larger geographical areas; new skills have been learned and new talents come to the fore.

The District had responsibility for awarding £217K in grants during the year. £206K were "Ministry" grants, supporting projects operating across the entire District, within Circuits and in individual churches.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2020

Public benefit

The activities mentioned above were undertaken so as to further the District's purposes for the public benefit and the District Policy Committee has had regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission when exercising its powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Achievements and performance

- The supervision programme approved by the Methodist Connexion has been extended as planned and now includes all ministers. Supervision has moved online.
- Four candidates from the District were accepted for ministerial training, the highest number of accepted candidates for any District in the Connexion.
- In November 2019 the children and young people of the Methodist Church, meeting at the 3Generate Youth Assembly, elected Phoebe Parkin of the Telford Circuit to be Youth President for 2020/21. This was a fruit of investment in the skills of young people in preceding years.
- Circuits in the District engaged in internal conversations on the Report of the Connexional Marriage and Relationships Task Group, *God in Love Unites Us*, in preparation for expected decisions of the Methodist Conference in June 2020. In the event, as a result of the pandemic, consideration of this report was postponed until 2021.
- As a result of much preparatory work with the Hereford Diocese over the preceding year, two intergenerational missionaries were appointed jointly by the District and Diocese to work in the Craven Arms / Clun / Bishops Castle area.
- A visit by Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, to the Hereford Diocese included a visit to the "Butty Van" - an initiative designed to counter rural isolation run by the Borderlands Chaplaincy, a joint District and Diocese project.
- The Reimagine Church Conference, organised jointly with the Birmingham District, inspired Methodists from across the West Midlands. The main speaker was Michael Harvey, speaking on how to develop a culture of invitation.

Financial review

The above activities and achievements illustrate the work of the District and the attached accounts show how the financial resources necessary for that work have been raised and expended. The accounts are also the means by which members of the District Policy Committee, as trustees, account for their stewardship of those funds to the circuits, the membership of the churches within the District and the wider community.

The finances of the District are held in eight different funds to account properly for the different purposes for which money comes into the District. Most of the income comes from other parts of the Methodist Church: assessments are received from the Circuits in the District to fund the work done directly and the payment to the Connexion of a contribution to the Methodist Church Fund, and distributions are received via the Connexional structure of the Methodist Church to fund grant-making activities, as explained more fully in Note 2 to the accounts.

The income of the District for the year ended 31st August 2020 was £923,939 and expenditure was £906,807. The resulting surplus of £17,132 increased reserves to £533,728 (2019 £516,596) of which £265,000 was the book value of the District Chair's manse, leaving free reserves of £268,728 across all eight funds. A review of significant matters affecting District finances is as follows:

District Expenses Fund (unrestricted)

The budget for 2019/20 was set with the aim of producing a deficit of £2,000 but the second half of the year was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, which led to a drastic reduction in travel and meeting costs. By the end of the year the Fund was showing a surplus of £10,085 with free reserves standing at £85,153.

District Training Fund (designated)

Training grants of £4,609 were paid, a 50% reduction, which left a surplus for the year of £2,291 (2019 deficit £1,120). Closing reserves at £17,311 (2019 £15,020) were high because of the exceptional circumstances.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2020

Manse Fund (designated)

There was an underspend on the manse maintenance budget in the District Expenses Fund of £1,000 and this was transferred to the Manse Fund, boosting its reserves to £33,585.

District Advance Fund (restricted)

Income from the levy on Circuit Model Trust Funds was up by some £10,000 on the previous year. The value of grants awarded was £216,597 including internal transfers, which again exceeded the total income of the Fund, thereby reducing its reserves by a further £7,581 to £49,622.

Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund (restricted)

Part of the proceeds of the flood appeal was allocated to this Fund to support the work being done by Borderlands Rural Chaplaincy with communities in the affected areas. The scale of activities undertaken by the Chaplaincy continued to expand until temporarily restricted by the lockdown, and its income and expenditure were both up on the previous year. At the year-end its reserves stood at £66,743 (2019 £53,004).

Children Support Fund (restricted)

The money in this Fund is left over from the annual children's holiday that ceased after 2018 and, with the consent of the donors, it is being used to offer grants to churches who want to work with children in deprived circumstances. During the year grants of £3,100 were made, leaving a balance of £12,319 available for further grant-making.

Chair's Benevolent Fund (restricted)

The income of this Fund was mainly the proceeds of the flood appeal, which was divided between Tenbury Wells flood relief campaign and Borderlands Rural Chaplaincy (by transfer to the Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund - see above). There was a small amount of other donations received and grants paid and the balance carried forward is £2,068.

Komera Partnership Fund (restricted)

Donations and other income more or less matched the grants paid over to our partners in Rwanda, leaving a balance of £1,927 at the year-end (2019 £2,127).

Reserves policies

The reserves policy for the District Expenses Fund is based on a free reserves target of 10% of total circuit assessments, to reflect the risk that a circuit may not be able to meet their assessment in full. For 2020/21 circuit assessments are £601,299, giving a reserves target of £60,000. The actual level of free reserves at 31st August 2020 was £85,153 or 14.2% of circuit assessments (2019 12.3%). The excess reserves over target have arisen partly because of the exceptional effects of the pandemic and the associated lockdowns, and future budgets will address this with the objective of bringing the reserves down in line with the policy.

The District Training Fund does not have a specific reserve requirement. It has excess funds at present and no further income will be sought for the time being.

The Manse Fund reserve requirement was increased to £40,000 to cover major repairs to the Chair's manse in excess of the annual budget. The increase in the fund balance this year to £33,585 is a step towards the new target.

The reserves in the District Advance Fund are already stated after taking into account future commitments and as the annual tranche of funding is received in September/October this Fund does not need more than a nominal balance of reserves at the year-end.

The Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund held reserves of £66,743 at the end of the year, representing 11.7 months' expenditure (2019 10.5 months' expenditure). The scale and scope of the chaplaincy is becoming significant and its funding is dependent on grants from various sources, many of which are under financial pressure. In these circumstances, reserves of up to one year's expenditure are considered appropriate to ensure the resilience of the project.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2020

The Children Support Fund is currently using money left over following the cessation of the annual holiday to make small grants and therefore has no particular reserves requirement.

The Chair's Benevolent Fund and the Komera Partnership Fund are there to make grants to beneficiaries from the funds that have been raised for those purposes and thus do not require any specific target levels of reserves.

Investment policy

Surplus monies of the District's Funds (other than the District Advance Fund) are held in an interest-bearing deposit account with the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church, which is a common deposit fund reporting directly to Conference. The District Advance Fund is held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes as custodian trustees on behalf of the District, and this fund is also invested in an interest-bearing account with the Central Finance Board.

Plans for the future

The main task for the District in 2020/21 will be to make every effort to stay true to our priorities of Worship, Learning & Caring, Service, and Evangelism whilst adjusting to the varied circumstances presented by Covid-19 and amid all the uncertainties that arise as a result.

The recruitment of a part-time Property Consultant to the team in November 2020 will allow the District to resource Circuits wanting to use their property to enable their mission, either through redevelopment or sale. This appointment should also allow progress towards the aim of reducing the carbon footprint of the District.

Structure, governance and management

The District, as part of the Methodist Church, is constituted under the terms of the Deed of Union of 1932, which was promulgated under the authority of legislation that is now found in the Methodist Church Act 1976. This Act provides the foundation on which all the remainder of the constitutional structure of the Church is raised.

The governing body of the Methodist Church in Great Britain is the Conference. Under the authority of the Act and the Deed of Union, Conference makes and amends Standing Orders, which are published annually in the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church. This is the basis for governance of the Church as a connexion of local churches, circuits and districts working together within the one framework.

The District Synod is the principal body responsible for the affairs of the District and is constituted in accordance with the Deed of Union and Standing Orders. It is the church court for the District, serving as a link between the Conference and the Connexional Team on the one hand and the Circuits and Local Churches on the other. It has oversight of all District affairs.

The Synod annually appoints the members of the District Policy Committee whose responsibilities include the formulation and promotion of policy and the supervision of the use of resources of personnel, property and finance. Under charity law the members of the District Policy Committee are treated as the Trustees of the Charity and the names of the Trustees who served during the year or have been appointed since are shown above.

The District Policy Committee nominates persons to the Synod for appointment as district officers and as members of the District Policy Committee and other district committees. In addition, the Chair of the District, the Secretary of the Synod and any member of the Methodist Council nominated by the Synod are ex-officio members of the District Policy Committee.

The District is one of thirty-one Districts of the Methodist Church in Great Britain. The Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District brings together twelve Circuits, based in the City of Wolverhampton, two West Midlands Metropolitan Boroughs, parts of Staffordshire and Worcestershire, most of Shropshire, about half of Herefordshire and parts of Wales. The structure of the District and its constituent Circuits and Churches, and their inter-relationships with each other, is explained more fully in Note 2 to the accounts.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2020

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

Charity law requires the District Policy Committee (as Trustees) to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its financial activities for that period, together with its assets and liabilities at the end of the period, and adequately distinguish any material special trust or other restricted fund of the Charity. In preparing those financial statements the District Policy Committee is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the policies adopted are in accordance with the appropriate SORP and the Accounting Regulations and with applicable Accounting Standards, 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 in operation.

The District Policy Committee also has overall responsibility for ensuring that there is in place an appropriate system of controls, financial and otherwise, to provide reasonable confidence and assurance that:

- the District's administration is operating effectively and efficiently;
- the assets of the District are properly safeguarded against unauthorised loss or damage;
- proper records are maintained and information produced for management control, fiscal and statutory reasons; and
- the District complies with the relevant laws and guidelines.

This report was approved by the District Policy Committee as Trustees on 23rd March 2021 and is signed on their behalf by:

R Parkinson

REV R.E. PARKINSON

District Chair

J Christopher Reed

J.C. REED

District Treasurer

Trustees

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2020

		District Expenses Fund (unrestricted)	Desig- nated Funds (unrestricted)	District Advance Fund (restricted)	Other Restrict- ed Funds (restricted)	Total Funds 2019/20	Total Funds 2018/19
	<i>Note</i>	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:							
Donations and grants							
Grants from connexional funds	3	22,126	-	-	22,000	44,126	29,174
Other grants and donations	4	-	-	-	58,279	58,279	44,851
<i>Total donations and grants</i>		<u>22,126</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>80,279</u>	<u>102,405</u>	<u>74,025</u>
Charitable activities							
Assessments on circuits	5	601,376	6,900	-	-	608,276	604,967
Levies on circuit model trust funds		-	-	85,656	-	85,656	75,105
Distribution from Connexional Priority Fund		-	-	110,957	-	110,957	113,390
Other charitable activities	6	600	-	-	-	600	14,760
<i>Total charitable activities</i>		<u>601,976</u>	<u>6,900</u>	<u>196,613</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>805,489</u>	<u>808,222</u>
Other trading activities	7	-	-	-	1,219	1,219	614
Investments	8	1,201	-	3,077	548	4,826	4,505
Other income	9	-	-	10,000	-	10,000	-
<i>Total income</i>		<u>625,303</u>	<u>6,900</u>	<u>209,690</u>	<u>82,046</u>	<u>923,939</u>	<u>887,366</u>
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	13	-	-	674	-	674	740
Charitable activities							
Contribution to Methodist Church Fund		529,636	-	-	-	529,636	538,347
Other charitable activities undertaken directly	14	70,077	4,609	-	65,306	139,992	137,556
Grant funding of charitable activities	15	6,768	-	177,037	15,403	199,208	251,919
Support costs	16	37,297	-	-	-	37,297	37,163
<i>Total charitable activities</i>		<u>643,778</u>	<u>4,609</u>	<u>177,037</u>	<u>80,709</u>	<u>906,133</u>	<u>964,985</u>
<i>Total expenditure</i>		<u>643,778</u>	<u>4,609</u>	<u>177,711</u>	<u>80,709</u>	<u>906,807</u>	<u>965,725</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		(18,475)	2,291	31,979	1,337	17,132	(78,359)
Transfers between funds	17	28,560	1,000	(39,560)	10,000	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>10,085</u>	<u>3,291</u>	<u>(7,581)</u>	<u>11,337</u>	<u>17,132</u>	<u>(78,359)</u>
Total funds brought forward		340,068	47,605	57,203	71,720	516,596	594,955
Total funds carried forward		<u><u>350,153</u></u>	<u><u>50,896</u></u>	<u><u>49,622</u></u>	<u><u>83,057</u></u>	<u><u>533,728</u></u>	<u><u>516,596</u></u>

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2020

	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	District Advance Fund (restricted)	Other Restricted Funds (restricted)	Total Funds at 31 Aug 20	Total Funds at 31 Aug 19
<i>Note</i>	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets						
Tangible assets	18	265,000	-	-	265,000	265,000
Current assets						
Debtors	19	405	480	-	626	1,536
Cash on deposit:						
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		-	352,899	-	352,899	337,219
Central Finance Board		116,250	50,575	-	76,109	242,934
Cash at bank		1,974	955	-	6,682	9,611
Prepaid currency cards		386	-	-	400	786
<i>Total current assets</i>		<u>119,015</u>	<u>52,010</u>	<u>352,899</u>	<u>83,817</u>	<u>607,741</u>
Liabilities						
Creditors due within 1 year:						
Creditors	20	33,862	1,114	-	260	35,236
Grants payable	21	-	-	151,125	500	151,625
		<u>33,862</u>	<u>1,114</u>	<u>151,125</u>	<u>760</u>	<u>186,861</u>
<i>Net current assets</i>		85,153	50,896	201,774	83,057	420,880
<i>Total assets less current liabilities</i>		350,153	50,896	201,774	83,057	685,880
Creditors due after 1 year:						
Grants payable	21	-	-	152,152	-	152,152
<i>Total net assets</i>		<u><u>350,153</u></u>	<u><u>50,896</u></u>	<u><u>49,622</u></u>	<u><u>83,057</u></u>	<u><u>533,728</u></u>
Represented by	22					
Unrestricted Funds:						
District Expenses Fund		350,153			350,153	340,068
Designated Funds:						
District Training Fund			17,311		17,311	15,020
Manse Fund			33,585		33,585	32,585
Restricted Funds:						
District Advance Fund			49,622		49,622	57,203
Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund				66,743	66,743	53,004
Children Support Fund				12,319	12,319	14,523
Chair's Benevolent Fund				2,068	2,068	2,066
Komera Partnership Rwanda				1,927	1,927	2,127
<i>Total funds</i>		<u><u>350,153</u></u>	<u><u>50,896</u></u>	<u><u>49,622</u></u>	<u><u>83,057</u></u>	<u><u>533,728</u></u>

The notes on pages 10 to 22 form part of these accounts

The accounts were approved by the District Policy Committee as Trustees on 23rd March 2021 and are signed on their behalf by:

R Parkinson

REV R.E. PARKINSON

District Chair

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2020

		Total Funds 2019/20	Total Funds 2018/19
	<i>Note</i>	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	See below	44,156	(4,380)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest receivable		4,826	4,505
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		<u>48,982</u>	<u>125</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		557,248	557,123
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year		<u>606,230</u>	<u>557,248</u>
Represented by			
Cash on deposit:			
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		352,899	337,219
Central Finance Board		242,934	211,936
Cash at bank		9,611	7,894
Prepaid currency cards		786	199
		<u>606,230</u>	<u>557,248</u>
Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities			
Net income/(expenditure) for the year as per Statement of Financial Activities	Page 8	17,132	(78,359)
Deduct interest receivable (investing activity)		(4,826)	(4,505)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	Note 19	25	(918)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	Notes 20, 21	31,825	79,402
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		<u>44,156</u>	<u>(4,380)</u>

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2020

1 Basis of accounting and accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the following:

- i) The Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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),
- ii) FRS 102 - The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (as above), and
- iii) The Charities Act 2011.

The Charities SORP (FRS 102) has been used, despite the relevant 2008 accounting regulations still requiring use of the Charities SORP 2005, on the grounds that it is necessary to use the newer SORP in order to comply with the legal obligation to give a true and fair view.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the use of an historical insured value as the deemed cost of the District manse. The accruals basis has been used to show a true and fair view of the District's financial position and activities.

(b) Public benefit entity

The Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District (the "District") meets the definition of a public benefit entity in FRS 102 as its primary objectives require it to act so as to provide public, community or social benefit rather than to provide economic benefit to its members or participants.

(c) Going concern

The trustees consider there are no material uncertainties that would cast significant doubt on the District's ability to continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future, being a period of more than 12 months from the date these accounts are approved. They reached their view having taken into account the financial position of the District shown in these accounts, budgets for the next two years, and the connexional structure of the Methodist Church of Great Britain of which the District forms an integral part.

(d) Funds

The District operates a District Expenses Fund, which is the general unrestricted fund that can be used for any District purposes and holds cash, other current assets and the District manse. In addition there are designated funds holding cash and current assets designated for particular purposes but which may be used for other District purposes at the discretion of the trustees. There are also several restricted funds holding cash and current assets which can only be used for the specified purpose because of the terms on which their funding was received whether by grant, donation or fundraising.

(e) Income recognition

Income is recognised when the District becomes entitled to the economic benefit of the income, it is probable (i.e. more likely than not) that it will be received, and its monetary value can be measured reliably. No attempt is made to measure the considerable value of services or time donated by volunteers.

The District acts as agent in the following matters:

- i) collections taken at Synod for various charities, which are paid over to the respective charities shortly afterwards; and
- ii) payments received from the Methodist Church Fund to reimburse the District for the expenses of District representatives attending the Methodist Conference.

The receipts and payments for the above matters are not income or expenditure of the District and are therefore not reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2020

1 Basis of accounting and accounting policies (continued)

(f) Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is recognised when there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the District to pay out resources, it is probable (i.e. more likely than not) that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

(g) Grants payable

The District makes a significant number of grants to third parties in furtherance of its objects, sometimes as one-off payments and sometimes as a series of periodic payments that may cover several years. As soon as a grant is awarded to a third party they have a valid expectation that the District will discharge its obligation to make the payments whenever they are to become due. This creates a constructive obligation in respect of the total value of the award. Even though multi-year grant awards are subject to annual monitoring, no specific conditions are imposed that would make the awards conditional and payment of the full amount is therefore probable. Accordingly all awards are immediately recognised as expenditure and a liability for future payments is recorded.

(h) Value added tax

Since the District is not registered for value added tax ("VAT"), all input VAT is charged with the expense to which it relates.

(i) Pensions

All employees of the District are either auto-enrolled in or invited to join a defined contribution pension scheme managed by The Pensions Trust. The District's contribution is set at 6% of salary and the District has no liability beyond making its contributions and paying over the deductions for the employees' contributions. There were no contributions outstanding at the year-end.

(j) Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost more than £1,000. They are valued at historical cost, except for the District Chair's manse, which is stated at deemed cost, being its insured value in 2011. The manse is currently the only fixed asset held and it is assessed each year for any indication of impairment.

(k) Depreciation

Depreciation is provided to write-off the cost of a fixed asset, less its residual value, over its useful economic life. In the case of the manse, its residual value is estimated and provided it is not less than cost no depreciation is required.

(l) Debtors and creditors

Debtors are stated at the amount the District expects to receive or the amount it has paid in advance for goods or services. Creditors are stated at the amount the District expects to pay or the amount it has received as an advance payment for goods or services.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2020

2 Controlling body, connected organisations and glossary of terms

The ultimate controlling body of the District is the Conference of the Methodist Church in Great Britain.

The "Conference" is a representative body drawn from across the Connexion, and is the policy-making and governing body of the Church. It makes and amends Standing Orders, which are published annually in the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church, as the basis for governance of the Church throughout the Connexion.

The "Connexion" is the larger connected community of the Methodist Church in Great Britain, comprising the Conference, the central team of Connexional Officers and support systems directed by the Methodist Council, and the regional organisation of Districts, Circuits and Churches.

"Districts" are regional bodies comprising a number of Circuits.

"Circuits" are local groupings of churches.

"Churches" are the local places to which Methodists belong.

Each of the entities in these layers of the church community is a separate charity with its own trustees and many of the District's trustees are also trustees of some of these. However, the District has no significant influence over any of these entities nor, with the exception of the Conference, do they have significant influence over the District. The District is bound by the Standing Orders laid down by Conference as law and policy but within that framework it is able to determine for itself how to fulfill its role. All the entities within the Connexion are therefore connected organisations in relation to the District but, because of the lack of significant influence, they are not considered related parties for accounting purposes.

The District receives grants from Connexional funds to support certain aspects of its work. It also receives the proceeds of an annual levy set by Conference charged on money held in trust funds by its Circuits. Conference has also set a levy to be charged on most property sales within the Connexion for the Connexional Priority Fund. Part of the proceeds of this fund is distributed annually to the Districts.

Conference has established the Methodist Church Fund as a major source of finance for the activities of the Church and it determines an assessment to be paid into the fund each year, which is allocated between the Districts. The Districts in turn make an assessment on their Circuits to collect the Methodist Church Fund assessment together with a contribution to District expenses.

Many Circuits and Churches make grants and donations and provide personnel to support District activities. The District in turn makes grants to Circuits and Churches for personnel and property projects.

The "Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes" is the legal owner and custodian trustee of all property held on Methodist model trusts.

The "Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church" manages a common deposit fund and a series of pooled investment funds for Methodist entities.

Insurance cover is provided to the District by Methodist Insurance PLC.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2020

3 Grants from connexional funds

	2019/20	2018/19
	£	£
Connexional Priority Fund grant supporting the reaffirmation of "Our Calling" to support the work of the Ministry & Mission Co-ordinator (District Expenses Fund)	22,126	7,174
Mission in Britain Fund grant to fund the appointment of area co-ordinators for the Agricultural Chaplaincy	22,000	22,000
	<u>44,126</u>	<u>29,174</u>

The above grants represent the second year's instalments of three-year grants in both cases. The total amounts awarded were £140,800 but future payments are subject to the work for which the grants were sought being delivered and to monitoring and evaluation.

4 Other grants and donations

	Agric. Chaplaincy Fund (restricted) £	Chair's Benevolent Fund (restricted) £	Komera Partnership Fund (restricted) £	Other Funds £	Total Funds £
2019/20					
Donations from churches	8,358	302	50	746	9,456
Donations from individuals	1,838	-	2,185	50	4,073
Grant from Shropshire & Marches Circuit	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Grant from Hereford Diocese	16,000	-	-	-	16,000
Flood appeal donations	-	12,227	-	-	12,227
Other donations and grants	5,428	-	500	-	5,928
Gift aid	446	-	149	-	595
	<u>42,070</u>	<u>12,529</u>	<u>2,884</u>	<u>796</u>	<u>58,279</u>

In response to the severe flooding in the Severn and Wye valleys in February 2020, an appeal was launched to give an opportunity for the whole District to express their support for the communities affected. The proceeds were divided between a Tenbury Wells ecumenical relief campaign (£4,500 - see note 15 below) and Borderlands Rural Chaplaincy (£7,727 - by a transfer to the Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund - see note 17 below).

2018/19

Donations from churches	4,137	200	5,833	709	10,879
Donations from individuals	1,917	-	977	30	2,924
Grant from Shropshire & Marches Circuit	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Grant from Hereford Diocese	16,000	-	-	-	16,000
Other donations and grants	-	20	152	4,579	4,751
Gift aid	121	-	176	-	297
	<u>32,175</u>	<u>220</u>	<u>7,138</u>	<u>5,318</u>	<u>44,851</u>

5 Assessments on circuits

The Methodist Conference levies an annual assessment on the Circuits through the several Districts to finance the Methodist Church Fund ("MCF"). The assessment is payable by the Districts who then collect Circuit assessments to cover the MCF assessment plus a contribution to District expenses and training.

The allocation of the MCF assessment between Districts is based on staffing numbers at Circuit and District level. The allocation of the Circuit assessment between the Circuits is the subject of agreement between the District Treasurer and the Circuit Treasurers and is based on a number of factors, including staffing levels and membership and attendance statistics.

The Circuit Treasurers believe this produces a fairer way of allocating the costs between Circuits. Accordingly the District cannot be said to act merely as agent for the collection of the MCF assessment and the full Circuit assessments are therefore shown as income of the District and the MCF assessment paid to the Connexion is shown as expenditure.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2020

5 Assessments on circuits (continued)	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	District Advance Fund (restricted) £	Other Restricted Funds (restricted) £	Total Funds £
2019/20					
For Methodist Church Fund	529,636	-	-	-	529,636
For District expenses and training	71,740	6,900	-	-	78,640
	<u>601,376</u>	<u>6,900</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>608,276</u>
2018/19					
For Methodist Church Fund	538,347	-	-	-	538,347
For District expenses and training	58,820	7,800	-	-	66,620
	<u>597,167</u>	<u>7,800</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>604,967</u>

6 Other charitable activities	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) 2019/20 £	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) 2018/19 £
Charges and fundraising for visit to Rwanda to support the District's Komera Partnership	-	11,460
Circuit contribution to cost of employing lay worker	600	-
Funding received for "Thy Kingdom Come" activities	-	3,300
	<u>600</u>	<u>14,760</u>

7 Other trading activities	Komera Partnership Fund (restricted) 2019/20 £	Komera Partnership Fund (restricted) 2018/19 £
Sale of beneficiary-made merchandise	<u>1,219</u>	<u>614</u>

The merchandise is made in Rwanda by women working together for peace and the well-being of their communities under a project set up by the Peacekeeping, Healing and Reconciliation Programme ("PHARP"), one of the partners supported by the Komera Partnership Fund. The proceeds have been remitted as grants to PHARP.

8 Investment income	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	District Advance Fund (restricted) £	Other Restricted Funds (restricted) £	Total Funds £
Interest receivable:					
2019/20	1,201	-	3,077	548	4,826
2018/19	1,022	-	3,039	444	4,505

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2020

9 Other income

	District Advance Fund (restricted) 2019/20 £	District Advance Fund (restricted) 2018/19 £
Repayment of unspent grant made in previous year	<u>10,000</u>	<u>-</u>

A grant had been made to Telford Circuit in 2018/19 to support the employment of a youth worker. In the event, the project did not go ahead and the grant was repaid in 2019/20.

10 Payments to trustees

The members of the District Policy Committee are the trustees of the District and none of them received any remuneration for their role as trustee. One of the trustees, Mrs Margaret Reynolds, was paid under a contract of employment as District Safeguarding Officer, as follows:

	2019/20 £	2018/19 £
Safeguarding Officer:		
Salary	14,517	14,110
Employer's national insurance contributions	803	773

The Chair of the District, Rev Rachel Parkinson, is a trustee and is regarded as the sole key management person of the District. Under the authority of the Methodist Conference, the Chair was paid by the Connexion and was required to occupy the manse owned and maintained by the District. Total annual costs were as follows:

	2019/20 £	2018/19 £
Stipend and chair's allowance	31,065	30,210
Employer's national insurance contributions	3,075	3,019
Employer's contributions to defined benefit pension scheme	6,685	6,501
District manse maintenance and running costs	8,436	4,409
	<u>49,261</u>	<u>44,139</u>

During the year four (2018/19 seven) trustees received reimbursement of expenses incurred in carrying out their duties:

	2019/20 £	2018/19 £
Cost of travel for District purposes	2,802	5,201
Postage, telephone, stationery, hospitality, conferences and sundries	2,084	1,799
	<u>4,886</u>	<u>7,000</u>

11 Independent examiner

	2019/20 £	2018/19 £
Fees charged for independent examination of accounts	<u>1,620</u>	<u>1,620</u>

The independent examiners did not carry out any other work for the District during the year.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2020

12 Staff costs	2019/20	2018/19
	No.	No.
Average number of full-time employees during the year	2.0	1.3
Average number of part-time employees during the year	4.8	4.6
Average full-time equivalent number of staff during the year	4.2	3.4
	2019/20	2018/19
	£	£
Salaries	122,919	97,031
Employer's national insurance contributions	9,381	6,877
Employer's contributions to defined contribution pension scheme	6,318	4,229
Apprenticeship levy	614	484
	<u>139,232</u>	<u>108,621</u>
Charged to:		
District Expenses Fund (unrestricted)	79,687	56,849
Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund (restricted)	59,545	51,772
	<u>139,232</u>	<u>108,621</u>

All staff are paid at a rate above the living wage and no employees received emoluments of more than £60,000. Members of staff served as Agricultural Chaplain, Ministry and Mission Co-ordinator, Safeguarding Officer and in other support and administrative posts.

13 Expenditure on raising funds	District Advance Fund (restricted) 2019/20	District Advance Fund (restricted) 2018/19
	£	£
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes investment management fees	674	740

The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes hold the District Advance Fund as custodian trustees and invest it in a deposit fund at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church. The management fee is 0.2%pa of the fund value.

14 Other charitable activities undertaken directly	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	District Advance Fund (restricted)	Other Restricted Funds (restricted)	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
2019/20					
Ministry & Mission Co-ordinator	39,613	-	-	-	39,613
Intergenerational Lay Worker	9,248	-	-	-	9,248
Safeguarding costs	17,502	-	-	-	17,502
Agricultural chaplaincy costs	-	-	-	65,006	65,006
Supervision and other District services	2,729	-	-	-	2,729
Komera Partnership visits	-	-	-	-	-
Training and other activities	985	4,609	-	300	5,894
	<u>70,077</u>	<u>4,609</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>65,306</u>	<u>139,992</u>
2018/19					
Ministry & Mission Co-ordinator	26,701	-	-	-	26,701
Safeguarding costs	18,199	-	-	-	18,199
Agricultural chaplaincy costs	-	-	-	60,200	60,200
Other District services	2,208	-	-	-	2,208
Komera Partnership visits	11,491	-	-	-	11,491
Training and other activities	9,462	9,025	-	270	18,757
	<u>68,061</u>	<u>9,025</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>60,470</u>	<u>137,556</u>

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2020

15 Grant funding of charitable activities

	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	District Advance Fund (restricted) £	Other Restrict- ed Funds (restricted) £	Total Funds £
2019/20					
Grants paid in year:					
Local ecumenical organisations	6,768	-	19,686	-	26,454
Grants to circuits and churches	-	-	133,550	-	133,550
Grants to partners in Rwanda	-	-	-	4,303	4,303
Tenbury Wells flood relief (from flood appeal)	-	-	-	4,500	4,500
Other grants	-	-	540	6,600	7,140
	<u>6,768</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>153,776</u>	<u>15,403</u>	<u>175,947</u>
Grants awarded but unpaid at end of year	-	-	303,277	-	303,277
Grants awarded but unpaid at start of year	-	-	(280,016)	-	(280,016)
	<u>6,768</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>177,037</u>	<u>15,403</u>	<u>199,208</u>
2018/19					
Grants paid in year:					
Local ecumenical organisations	6,075	-	18,911	-	24,986
Grants to circuits and churches	3,459	-	156,488	-	159,947
Grants to partners in Rwanda	-	-	-	7,592	7,592
Other grants	-	-	750	-	750
	<u>9,534</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>176,149</u>	<u>7,592</u>	<u>193,275</u>
Grants awarded but unpaid at end of year	-	-	280,016	-	280,016
Grants awarded but unpaid at start of year	-	-	(221,372)	-	(221,372)
	<u>9,534</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>234,793</u>	<u>7,592</u>	<u>251,919</u>

All these grants were made to organisations and none was made to an individual.

The grants awarded during the year from the District Advance Fund are for personnel, ecumenical, outreach or property projects related to mission and ministry, predominantly within circuits or local churches.

	2019/20 £	2018/19 £
Personnel, ecumenical and outreach projects	166,057	223,785
Property projects	10,980	11,008
	<u>177,037</u>	<u>234,793</u>

There were 13 grants awarded during the year, of which the following grants were the largest and accounted for 53% of the total, each being payable in annual instalments:

Wolverhampton Pioneer Ministry - to fund half the cost of employing the Team Leader for 3 years from September 2020 in partnership with Lichfield Diocese, who fund the other half.	£ 44,637
Walsall Circuit - to support the work of Ablewell Advice Service for 3 years from September 2020	£ 30,000
Shropshire & Marches Circuit - to support the employment of a lay worker in the Llanymynech cluster for 2 years from September 2020	£ 20,000

There are no support costs included in the cost of grant funding as they would not be material. The District Advance Fund is overseen by the Resourcing Mission Committee, the work of which is largely carried out by its officers, predominantly the District Grants Officer, on a voluntary basis.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2020

16 Support costs

	2019/20	2018/19
	£	£
Chair's travel and miscellaneous expenses	2,006	3,638
Administration staff costs	17,861	17,986
District office expenses	4,062	4,340
District manse expenses	8,436	4,409
Synod expenses	1,088	2,028
Meeting, travel and other administrative expenses	2,185	3,063
Governance costs	1,659	1,699
	<u>37,297</u>	<u>37,163</u>

17 Transfers between funds

	District Expenses Fund (unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	District Advance Fund (restricted) £	Other Restricted Funds (restricted) £	Total Funds £
2019/20 transfers to/(from) funds					
Ministry & Mission Co-ordinator costs	18,000	-	(18,000)	-	-
Agricultural chaplaincy costs	-	-	(10,000)	10,000	-
Intergenerational Lay Worker costs	10,400	-	(10,400)	-	-
Coach fares to 3Generate	1,160	-	(1,160)	-	-
Underspend on manse maintenance	(1,000)	1,000	-	-	-
	<u>28,560</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>(39,560)</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>-</u>

Within Other Restricted Funds there was a transfer of £7,727 from the Chair's Benevolent Fund to the Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund, being part of the proceeds of the flood appeal allocated to Borderlands Rural Chaplaincy (see note 4 above).

2018/19 transfers to/(from) funds

Ministry & Mission Co-ordinator costs	20,950	-	(20,950)	-	-
Agricultural chaplaincy costs	-	-	(17,000)	17,000	-
Cost of Courageous Day Out	8,491	-	(8,491)	-	-
Coach fares to 3Generate	1,050	-	(1,050)	-	-
Production of films on vocation	-	-	-	-	-
Underspend on manse maintenance	(4,800)	4,800	-	-	-
	<u>25,691</u>	<u>4,800</u>	<u>(47,491)</u>	<u>17,000</u>	<u>-</u>

18 Tangible fixed assets

District manse	31/8/20	31/8/19
	£	£
Deemed cost	<u>265,000</u>	<u>265,000</u>

The Chair's manse is stated at deemed cost, being its insured value in 2011. The manse was professionally valued at £370,000 by Jackson Lile & Close on 27th January 2020 and accordingly no depreciation has been provided.

19 Debtors

	31/8/20	31/8/19
	£	£
Prepayments - deposits for retreat fees and manse maintenance	885	480
Accrued income - gift aid refund receivable	626	32
Other debtors	-	1,024
	<u>1,511</u>	<u>1,536</u>

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2020

20 Creditors

	31/8/20 £	31/8/19 £
Accrued expenses		
Reimbursement of employees' and volunteers' expenses	892	2,114
Accrued expenses due to third party suppliers	2,674	2,260
Bristol Methodist District - Probationers' Retreat	1,114	-
Use of facilities at Beckminster Methodist Church	40	-
	<u>4,720</u>	<u>4,374</u>
Deferred income		
Grants received in advance	27,525	22,126
Insurance claim to cover future repairs	-	165
Other creditors	2,991	140
	<u>35,236</u>	<u>26,805</u>

21 Liabilities for grants payable in future years

	31/8/20 £	31/8/19 £
Grants payable within one year:		
District Advance Fund grants	151,125	161,216
Children Support Fund grant	500	-
District Training Fund grants	-	367
	<u>151,625</u>	<u>161,583</u>
Grants payable after more than one year:		
District Advance Fund grants:		
Payable in - 2020/21	-	89,400
2021/22	97,177	26,400
2022/23	51,575	3,000
2023/24	3,400	-
	<u>152,152</u>	<u>118,800</u>
Total grant commitments	<u>303,777</u>	<u>280,383</u>

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2020

22 Summary of fund movements

	Fund balances brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers between funds (Note 17)	Fund balances carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£
2019/20 Unrestricted fund movements					
District Expenses Fund	340,068	625,303	643,778	28,560	350,153
District Training Fund	15,020	6,900	4,609	-	17,311
Manses Fund	32,585	-	-	1,000	33,585
	<u>387,673</u>	<u>632,203</u>	<u>648,387</u>	<u>29,560</u>	<u>401,049</u>
2019/20 Restricted fund movements					
District Advance Fund	57,203	209,690	177,711	(39,560)	49,622
Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund	53,004	64,518	68,506	17,727	66,743
Children Support Fund	14,523	896	3,100	-	12,319
Chair's Benevolent Fund	2,066	12,529	4,800	(7,727)	2,068
Komera Partnership Fund	2,127	4,103	4,303	-	1,927
	<u>128,923</u>	<u>291,736</u>	<u>258,420</u>	<u>(29,560)</u>	<u>132,679</u>
2019/20 Total fund movements	<u>516,596</u>	<u>923,939</u>	<u>906,807</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>533,728</u>
2018/19 Unrestricted fund movements					
District Expenses Fund	347,359	620,123	653,105	25,691	340,068
District Training Fund	16,140	7,905	9,025	-	15,020
Manses Fund	27,785	-	-	4,800	32,585
	<u>391,284</u>	<u>628,028</u>	<u>662,130</u>	<u>30,491</u>	<u>387,673</u>
2018/19 Restricted fund movements					
District Advance Fund	148,693	191,534	235,533	(47,491)	57,203
Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund	41,669	54,535	60,200	17,000	53,004
Children Support Fund	9,226	5,297	-	-	14,523
Chair's Benevolent Fund	2,116	220	270	-	2,066
Komera Partnership Fund	1,967	7,752	7,592	-	2,127
	<u>203,671</u>	<u>259,338</u>	<u>303,595</u>	<u>(30,491)</u>	<u>128,923</u>
2018/19 Total fund movements	<u>594,955</u>	<u>887,366</u>	<u>965,725</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>516,596</u>

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2020

23 Unrestricted funds

(a) District Expenses Fund

This is the general fund used for running the District and has no restrictions. It is financed principally by circuit assessments and the fund balance includes the book value of the District manse (£265,000).

(b) Designated funds

These funds are designated for particular purposes by the District Policy Committee but they are not held on terms that prevent their use for other District purposes if the Committee so resolve.

The District Training Fund is financed by a levy on the number of ministers in each circuit and is used to fund ministerial and lay training. From 1st September 2020 this fund will be financed by transfers from the District Advance Fund ("DAF"). Although the DAF is a restricted fund its purposes include the support of personnel working in the District and transfers to the Training Fund will be made by grants awarded in the usual way in accordance with the DAF policy as long as the Training Fund continues to meet that purpose of the DAF.

The Manse Fund is used as a reserve to cover occasional heavy expenditure on maintenance of the District manse. Manse maintenance is charged to the District Expenses Fund but any underspend compared to budget is transferred to the Manse Fund and any overspend is covered by drawing on the Manse Fund.

24 Restricted funds

(a) District Advance Fund

This fund is set up under Methodist standing orders and is funded by a levy on the end-of-year balances of the Circuit Model Trust Funds of the Circuits in the District and by a distribution from the Connexional Priority Fund, as part of the process of moving money around the Connexion to enable it to best be used for the mission of the church. The fund is administered by the Resourcing Mission Committee who award grants in accordance with the fund policy to support personnel or property projects related to mission and ministry and to support outreach, evangelism and ecumenical work.

(b) Other restricted funds

The Agricultural Chaplaincy Fund finances the work of Borderlands Rural Chaplaincy, a joint Methodist and Anglican initiative among rural communities in the Welsh borders. Its income comes mainly from grants and donations from a range of Methodist and Anglican sources and it employs a full-time chaplain and a part-time area co-ordinator, who are supported by a team of volunteers.

The Children Support Fund is used to make grants to churches who are working with children in deprived circumstances.

The Chair's Benevolent Fund provides modest sums from donations to allow the Chair to meet cases of personal need in a confidential way. In 2019/20 there was also an exceptional appeal to respond to the hardships caused by severe floods in February 2020 (see note 4 above).

The Komera Partnership Fund supports the District's partnership with the Free Methodist Church of Rwanda and the Peacebuilding Healing and Reconciliation Programme of Rwanda with funds from donations and fundraising activities.

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2020

DECLARATIONS

Treasurer

I confirm that these accruals-based accounts for the year ended 31st August 2020 have been prepared from the records of the District and that they include all funds under the control of the District Policy Committee.

Signature of Treasurer

J Christopher Reed

Date 23rd March 2021

Name

J. Christopher Reed FCA TEP

Address

3 Castlecroft Lane
Wolverhampton
WV3 8JX

Approval by the District Policy Committee

The trustees' annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st August 2020 were approved by the District Policy Committee as trustees on 23rd March 2021 and are signed on their behalf by:

Signature of Chair of the meeting

R Parkinson

Date 23rd March 2021

Name of the Chair of the meeting

Rev Rachel E. Parkinson

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2020

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District ("the District") for the year ended 31st August 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the District, you, the members of the District Policy Committee, are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

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

Independent examiner's statement

Since the District's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the District as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signature of Examiner

I Cattell

Name of Examiner

Ian Cattell FCA

Relevant professional body

The Institute of Chartered Accountants
in England and Wales

Address of Examiner

Crombies Accountants Limited
34 Waterloo Road
Wolverhampton
WV1 4DG

Date

23rd March 2021