

**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	Rev John Hartley
Ms Helen Allen	Rev David Lavender
Mrs Franklina Appiah-Nimo (from 1/9/24)	Dr Susan McCready-Shea (from 31/10/23)
Ms Stella Cofie	Mr Brian Oakley
Mrs Lesley Cook	Mrs Elaine Panchal
Rev Nicholas Collison	Mr Max Reynolds (from 1/9/24)
Deacon Susan Culver (from 31/10/23)	Rev Stuart Reed (until 31/8/24)
Rev Elizabeth Dunning (until 31/8/24)	Rev Teddy Siwila
Mrs Angela Evans (until 31/8/24)	Rev Julia Skitt
Mrs Claire Evans	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

<b>Bankers</b>	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](http://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	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income from:</b>							
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>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
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>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>(113,538)</b>	<b>(5,950)</b>	<b>301,221</b>	<b>(14,620)</b>	<b>167,113</b>	<b>(359,635)</b>
Transfers between funds	15	111,241	4,000	(135,241)	20,000	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(2,297)</b>	<b>(1,950)</b>	<b>165,980</b>	<b>5,380</b>	<b>167,113</b>	<b>(359,635)</b>
Total funds brought forward		338,978	39,765	187,016	35,020	600,779	960,414
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<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

	<b>Note</b>	<b>District Expenses Fund (unrestricted)</b> £	<b>Designated Funds (unrestricted)</b> £	<b>District Advance Fund (restricted)</b> £	<b>Other Restricted Funds (restricted)</b> £	<b>Total Funds at 31 Aug 24</b> £	<b>Total Funds at 31 Aug 23</b> £
<b>Fixed assets</b>							
Tangible assets	<b>16</b>	265,000	-	-	2,700	267,700	268,600
<b>Current assets</b>							
Debtors	<b>17</b>	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
<i>Total current assets</i>		<u>95,849</u>	<u>39,386</u>	<u>730,437</u>	<u>38,237</u>	<u>903,909</u>	<u>725,603</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>							
Creditors due within 1 year:							
Creditors	<b>18</b>	24,168	1,571	-	537	26,276	11,412
Grants payable	<b>19</b>	-	-	137,958	-	137,958	139,924
		<u>24,168</u>	<u>1,571</u>	<u>137,958</u>	<u>537</u>	<u>164,234</u>	<u>151,336</u>
<i>Net current assets</i>		71,681	37,815	592,479	37,700	739,675	574,267
<i>Total assets less current liabilities</i>		336,681	37,815	592,479	40,400	1,007,375	842,867
Creditors due after 1 year:							
Grants payable	<b>19</b>	-	-	239,483	-	239,483	242,088
<i>Total net assets</i>		<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>
<b>Represented by</b>	<b>20</b>						
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
<i>Total funds</i>		<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>

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  £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	<b>See below</b>	107,310	(285,605)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Interest receivable		48,926	26,533
Purchase of equipment		-	(4,800)
<b>Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>		<b>156,236</b>	<b>(263,872)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		722,574	986,446
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>		<b>878,810</b>	<b>722,574</b>
<b>Represented by</b>			
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
		<b>878,810</b>	<b>722,574</b>
<b>Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities</b>			
Net income/(expenditure) for the year as per Statement of Financial Activities	<b>Page 11</b>	167,113	(359,635)
Add back depreciation charge		900	1,200
Deduct interest receivable (investing activity)		(48,926)	(26,533)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	<b>Note 17</b>	(22,070)	(2,655)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	<b>Notes 18, 19</b>	10,293	102,018
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>		<b>107,310</b>	<b>(285,605)</b>

# 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 £
<b>2023/24</b>					
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>
<b>2022/23</b>					
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 £
<b>2023/24</b>					
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>
<b>2022/23</b>					
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 £
<b>2023/24</b>					
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>
<b>2022/23</b>					
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 £
<b>Interest receivable</b>					
<b>2023/24</b>					
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>
<b>2022/23</b>					
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 £
<b>2023/24</b>					
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>
<b>2022/23</b>					
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 £
<b>2023/24</b>					
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>
<b>2022/23</b>					
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.

	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
	£	£
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 £
<b>2023/24 transfers to/(from) funds</b>					
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>
<b>2022/23 transfers to/(from) funds</b>					
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 £
<b>Cost</b>			
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>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
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>
<b>Net book value</b>			
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**

	<b>31/8/24</b>	<b>31/8/23</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
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**

	<b>31/8/24</b>	<b>31/8/23</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
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**

	<b>31/8/24</b>	<b>31/8/23</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
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
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>2023/24 Unrestricted fund movements</b>					
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
	<b>378,743</b>	<b>682,582</b>	<b>802,070</b>	<b>115,241</b>	<b>374,496</b>
<b>2023/24 Restricted fund movements</b>					
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
	<b>222,036</b>	<b>519,186</b>	<b>232,585</b>	<b>(115,241)</b>	<b>393,396</b>
<b>2023/24 Total fund movements</b>	<b>600,779</b>	<b>1,201,768</b>	<b>1,034,655</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>767,892</b>
<b>2022/23 Unrestricted fund movements</b>					
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
	<b>370,749</b>	<b>647,119</b>	<b>732,920</b>	<b>93,795</b>	<b>378,743</b>
<b>2022/23 Restricted fund movements</b>					
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
	<b>589,665</b>	<b>362,029</b>	<b>635,863</b>	<b>(93,795)</b>	<b>222,036</b>
<b>2022/23 Total fund movements</b>	<b>960,414</b>	<b>1,009,148</b>	<b>1,368,783</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>600,779</b>

## **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.