WOLVERHAMPTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales · Charity number 1135146

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2010-03-24
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Beckminster Methodist Church Birches Barn Road PennFields Wolverhampton WV3 7BQ
Phone	01902422100
Email	robturton@btinternet.com
Website	www.wolverhamptoncircuit.co.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: Provision of Religous and outreach activities through a network of local churches within the City and locality of Wolverhampton.

Classification

- **How:** Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

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Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL
- Dudley
- Staffordshire
- Wolverhampton

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£543,074	£768,673	£2,475,625	19
2024-08-31	£1,046,669	£903,852	£2,701,010	23
2023-08-31	£1,363,328	£788,258	£2,551,238	18
2022-08-31	£597,575	£684,445	£1,980,032	16
2021-08-31	£476,169	£621,639	-	-
2020-08-31	£545,399	£596,033	£2,204,488	16

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Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andre Burns		2013-08-31
BRENDA SHUTTLEWORTH		
BRIAN JOHN JUGGINS		
CHRISTINE ELIZABETH LEES		
Carol Doughty		2016-09-01
Christine Mary Westwood		2019-02-14
David Brown		2013-08-31
David John Crook		2022-09-01
Deacon Linda Gilson		2021-09-01
Dianna Beaumont		2017-09-01
Dianne Lesley Cripps		2021-01-21
Dorothy Howells		2014-09-01
ELAINE KAREN JONES		
Elizabeth Caroline Green		2017-09-01
Emma Verio		2017-10-01
Florence Jennifer Ridgeway		2014-09-01
Francis Moreton		2019-02-14
Gabriel Gidi		2023-03-13
Gail Lynda Cresswell		2023-05-02
George Howard Tonks		2018-06-01
Gill Silvester		2017-09-01
JANET ELIZABETH ANN PUNFIELD		
JUDY BROWN		
James Robert Peterson		2019-02-14
Jean ORDIDGE		
Jonathan Banele Mtsambiwa		2021-01-28
LESLEY VIVIENNE COOK		

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Name	Role	Appointed
Lyn Price		2013-11-30
MARGARET EMILY LOWBRIDGE		
MARGARET JANE MOTTRAM		
Margaret Elizabeth Porteus		2017-09-01
Martin Cresswell		2021-01-21
Michael Bateman		2019-02-14
Michael Dickenson		2013-08-31
Nicola Jane Field		2019-02-14
Nicola Jones		2017-09-01
PETER JOHN SHARE		
PHILIP SHUTTLEWORTH		
Paul Levett		2016-09-01
Pauline Hurst		2017-10-01
REV MARGARET GLENNYS BAMFORD		
REVD DONALD HOLT RYAN		
RICHARD ANDREW FRENCH		
ROBERT PETER TURTON		2021-09-09
Rev Ivor Sperring		2015-09-01
Rev JOHN ROBERT BARRETT		
Rev Joanne Cox-Darling		2017-09-01
Rev PAUL NZACAHAYO		2017-09-01
Rev Robert Readshaw		2016-03-01
Rev Rosemary Anne Elizabeth Nash		2022-09-01
Rev Steve Jackson		2016-09-01
Rev Teddy Siwila		2017-09-01
Rob Fownes		2016-09-01
SISTER BETTY VAUGHAN		
Susan Whatmore		2017-10-01

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WOLVERHAMPTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1135146

Accounts

Circuit Number 2801

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 August 2025

(Charity Number 1135146)

Muras Baker Jones Limited
Chartered Accountants
Wolverhampton

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

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For the year Ended 31 August 2025

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Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Administrative Information

Registered Charity Number	1135146	
Superintendent Ministers:	Revd Paul Nzacahayo and Revd Rosemary Nash	
Ministers in the active work:	Revd. Steve Jackson. Revd. Ildiko Haras	Revd. Teddy Siwila Deacon Linda Gilson
Senior Steward:	David Crook	
Circuit Stewards:	Denis Beaumont Alan Eccles	Gabriel Gidi Lesley Cook
Circuit Treasurer:	Rob Turton FCA	
Other Trustees:	Revd. Glennys Bamford Revd. Steve Singleton Revd. Robert Readshaw Revd. Trevor Pratt Together with 51 other Trustees	Revd. Donald Ryan Revd. Margaret Heim Revd. Ivor Sperring
Registered Office:	Beckminster Methodist Church Birches Barn Road Penn Fields Wolverhampton West Midlands WV3 7BQ	
Charity:	1135146	
Auditors	Muras Baker Jones Limited Regent House Bath Avenue Wolverhampton West Midlands WV1 4EG	
Bankers:	Lloyds Bank Plc Queen Square Wolverhampton West Midlands WV1 1TF Barclays Bank Plc Queen Square Wolverhampton West Midlands HSBC Bank Plc Queen Square Wolverhampton West Midlands	

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Administrative Information

Bankers (continued):	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church 9 Bonhill Street London EC2A 4PE
Investment advisors:	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) Central Buildings Oldham Street Manchester M1 1JQ
Solicitors:	Anthony Collins LLP 134 Edmund Street Birmingham B3 2ES

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Trustees Report

For the year ended 31 August 2025

Objects and Activities of the Circuit

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.

The objectives outlined above are achieved through the strategic direction of the Circuit Leadership team and the Circuit meeting. The Leadership team meet at least 6 times a year and the Circuit meeting at least 3 times a year to review and implement objectives, monitor our discipleship and to receive regulatory information either from the Methodist Church or other means.

Public Benefit

We confirm the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The work which we carry out with our Churches and the Communities in which they are situated is designed for the benefit of all. It not only supports our Church members but also provides the resources required to deliver mission and outreach to the most needy in our Society. This is achieved in various ways through the use of our Church buildings to work with people and organisations, through support of local food bank and homelessness projects and also through other forms of partnership working within our Local Communities.

Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document for the circuit is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976).

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference. These are updated annually.

Day to day management of the circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team, which comprises of the Superintendent Minister, the Ministerial Team, the Circuit Stewards and the Honorary Treasurer. Together they represent the key management team. They are supported by the Local Preachers meeting.

The Circuit Leadership team is accountable to the Members of the Circuit meeting who are also Trustees of the Circuit.

Trustee Training

A range of guidance is produced by the Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the circuit, specifically the leaflet 'The Role of a Trustee in The Methodist Church' is given to all new Circuit meeting members as induction to their role as trustees.

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Trustees Report

For the year ended 31 August 2025

Related Parties

The Circuit was part of the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District of the Methodist Church up to 31 August 2025. On 1 September 2025 the District merged with the Birmingham District to form the new West Midlands District of the Methodist Church and accordingly is now a member of that larger District. The circuit and District remain accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The following Methodist Churches are members of the circuit:

Beckminster
Bradley
Brewood
Codsall
Cranmer
Coven
East Park (ceased to worship during the year)
Fallings Park
Hurst Hill
Lanesfield
Rakegate
Springdale
St Johns
Stratton Street
Upper Ettingshall
Wombourne

In addition to the above, St Andrews United Reformed/Methodist Church based in Sedgley remains part of the Circuit under a sharing arrangement with the United Reformed Church.

Review of Activities

In designing and monitoring the activities of the Charity, the Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commissions guidance on public benefit as further detailed on page 4. The review of activities in the following sections demonstrates how the Charity has provided benefit directly to the churches which comprise the Circuit and thereby to the local congregations and wider local communities involved with those churches.

General Review

The Circuit continues to be an active and major member of the Methodist District. Locally, and within our own Circuit boundaries, the Circuit has continued to support the congregations and communities that our Churches serve. It has achieved this with the support of 7 ordained Presbyters who received stipends for their roles. The Circuit also employs several key lay support workers who are paid for from Church contributions, donations and Circuit funds.

Additional support continued to be provided by retired ministers who continued to have closer day to day involvement with several of our smaller congregations.

The local churches continue to provide programmes of worship, pastoral care and community involvement under the leadership of Ministers, lay employees and local Church Trustees.

During the year Reverend Christopher Parkes retired from the Circuit and we thank him for his dedication and Ministry whilst amongst us. Our Superintendent Minister, Rev Jo Cox- Darling, reached

General Review (Continued)

the end of her appointment on 31 August 2025 and left to take on a similar role in Manchester. We thank her for her Ministry and work on our behalf and wish her well in her new appointment. Finally, on 1 September 2025 we welcomed into the Circuit a new probationer minister in Ildiko Haraszti.

With regard to the superintendency vacated when Rev Cox -Darling left on 31 August, the leadership team are pleased to confirm that moving forward the superintendency of the Circuit is to be shared between Rev Paul Nazacahayo and Rev Rosemary Nash. The shared roles having been approved by the Methodist Church District.

Activities and Future Plans

As part of the on-going development of the Mission of the Circuit and of its objectives, the Circuit conducted a structural review several years ago. The Circuit Leadership Team have continued to take this forward during the year. The aim being to improve our use of resources, to provide missional leadership to support growth and to ease the current burden on our Presbyters and Leadership Team, all of this whilst acknowledging that our problems are the same as those the Church faces generally in the light of a general lack of people able to carry out the roles that Church Trusteeship requires in the modern world.

A hub structure reflecting the above was agreed upon by the Circuit meeting during the year. Two new hubs came into being on 1 September 2025. These being Crossways and Connexus. The Crossways hub comprises the church congregations of Beckminster, Cranmer, Springdale and Wombourne with the Connexus hub comprising the congregations at Codsall, Rakegate, Brewood and Coven. The other Churches in the Circuit have, at the moment, decided to remain as they are but conversations will continue between those Churches with regard to the formation of further hubs.

The City Centre missional work remains outside the hub structure as a beacon of outreach.

The creation of this structure will see a further investment of model trust monies into the Circuit as it develops and increases outreach. As an LEP St Andrews will remain as part of the Circuit but will not be part of a hub.

Both the Connexus and Crossways hubs have been registered as Charities with the Charity commission.

East Park Methodist Church ceased to meet in late 2024 and since then the protection and management of the Church buildings has been undertaken by the Circuit whilst retaining an active outreach to the disadvantaged communities of the area continuing from the Church buildings.

The Leadership team continued to pursue opportunities for the ongoing use of the Bilston Church buildings. This has resulted in the formation of a new Church community in Bilston centred around the Zimbabwean Methodist Fellowship. The new Church became a full member of the Circuit, under the name of All Souls, on 1 September 2025. The Circuit are grateful for the work of the Fellowship and the Bilston steering group in bringing this to fruition.

The Circuit has also continued its work in respect of the disadvantaged communities of Bilston and continues to work with a homelessness charity and to develop responses to the needs of people in in an ever-changing environment.

The Ministers, Trustees and senior leadership team continue to believe that the implementation of the Strategic Vision for the Circuit as described above will leave it better placed to react to areas of need

in the future across an area where there are significant differences in wealth with many of our Communities located in areas of significant deprivation and diverse beliefs where currently the cost of living crisis is further exacerbating matters.

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

- The care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults;
- The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable;

- The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse;
- We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes;
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, co-operating with the police and local authority in any investigation;
- We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care;
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust;
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult;
- In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

Safeguarding continues to be an important area of consideration for the Church and we continue to work with the District and the wider connection in order to ensure that our policies, training and practices meet all of the statutory and legal requirements in this area.

Major Activities

The year to 31 August 2025 continued to present significant financial challenges operationally which the Circuit has had to deal with. The effects of some of these, which in part are being caused by the cost of living and energy crisis, are still being felt within our Communities and we continue to carry out work to help in these areas.

Further, there continues to be several Churches within the Circuit who are struggling to cope financially and the Circuit continues to work with those churches, both through short term support and longer-term planning (through our vision work), in order to find sustainable solutions for the future which further the objects that we have as a Methodist Circuit whilst continuing to help our local congregations and communities.

Major Activities (Continued)

Our City Centre Mission work, led by Deacon Linda Gilson, continues to develop and grow. Funding for this comes from the Model Trust monies held following the sale of Darlington Street together with the balance of the monies held within WPM at the point of the transfer of responsibility. These amounted to just over £330,000. This continues to be an exciting and growing area of our Mission.

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Leadership Team and Circuit meeting with professional advice taken as required. These centre around, the General economic climate, risks associated with our properties (Manses and Churches), in particular maintenance costs and finally the need to stay up to date with safeguarding protocols and procedures and GDPR legislation.

Income and Expenditure continues to be monitored throughout the year both in total and in detail and is compared with the approved annual budget on a half yearly basis to detect trends as part of the risk management process and to avoid unplanned calls upon reserves.

The Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit has committed itself to ensuring the implementation of the Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.

It has also committed itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Trustees Report

For the year ended 31 August 2025

Financial Report

The result for the year shows an overall deficit of £225,385 (2024 surplus – £149,772). The result is split across funds as follows:

General fund	£15,183 deficit (2024 - Deficit £163,964)
Circuit Model Trust Fund	£210,539 deficit (2024 - Surplus £310,487)
Designated Funds	£ Nil (2024 - Deficit £2,024)
Restricted Funds	£337 surplus (2024 - Surplus £5,273)

The principal elements affecting the result for the year are as follows:

A) The General Fund produced a deficit for the year of £15,183 (2024 – deficit £163,964) after transfers from other Funds. Before transfers the fund was in deficit by £194,524 (2024 - £186,524. The pre-transfer result is after depreciation of £23,290 (2024 - £26,782) has been charged.
This result is explained by the decision the Circuit took in previous years to fund a deficit budget and to fund the City Centre mission from the proceeds of sale of Darlington Street. This is the case in the current year too.

In total net transfers of £179,341 (2024 - £ 22,560) were made from other funds. These were largely monies withdrawn from Model Trust Funds to support the ongoing work of the Circuit and the City Centre Mission post.

At the end of the year the General reserves stood at £1,400,120 (2024 - £1,415,303) and principally comprised Fixed assets (being manses and related costs) and net current assets held for working capital purposes.

B) The Circuit Model Trust fund produced an operating deficit before transfers of £32,380 (2024 - £327,660) principally the result can be attributed to the district levy net of interest earned on funds invested.
The principal transfers during the year were to cover the ongoing expenditure within the general fund.
At the year end the Model Trust Fund stood at £1,009,876 (2024 - £1,220,415). These monies are held on behalf of the Circuit by TMCP within investment and deposit accounts and are administered by them.

C) The restricted fund produced a surplus of £1,305 (2024 – Surplus £3,087) before transfers of £1,142 (2024 - £2,473). Income for the year arose largely due to the receipt of interest and dividends on monies held within TMCP and surpluses arising largely as result of investment gains (2024 - Gains).

Financial Report (Continued)

The Circuit Trustees are satisfied with the overall result achieved for the year against the backdrop of the economic constraints which affect us all.

The Budget set for 2025/26 is once again for a deficit position, which will be covered from Model Trust monies, as Churches continue to struggle to meet the levels of assessment that the Circuit requires. Trustees continue to monitor this.

Going Concern

The Trustees have prepared detailed forecasts through to 31 August 2028. These have been reviewed, and stress tested, particularly for a fall in income during that period resulting from the inability of Churches to meet assessments fully in the year ended 31 August 2026.

Based upon the forecasts and their review the Trustees believe that the Circuit has adequate financial resources available to enable it to carry on operating as a Going concern for the foreseeable future.

Investment Policy and Performance

To comply with Methodist Standing Orders, monies for short and long term investment are lodged with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP). In addition, TMCP acts as custodian trustee for all real estate held by Circuits and for all large (individually over £20k) bequests and for the proceeds of sale of any property formerly owned by the Circuit. These sums are invested in unitised investments or held on deposit. The capital returns are close to tracking the movements in the FTSE100 index. The income mirrors the deposit rates available elsewhere. Both the Central Finance Board (CFB) and TMCP take into consideration social, environmental and ethical considerations, both negatively and positively, in establishing investment policy.

Short term deposits are lodged directly with the CFB and attract good rates of interest.

There are no benchmarks for the expected returns or appreciation on investments at TMCP and CFB. It is the Circuit's policy to manage the cash and investment resources of the Circuit so that a rate of return on investment – both by way of dividend and capital appreciation – is obtained at least as good as market rate considering our low appetite for risk.

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Trustees Report

For the year ended 31 August 2025

Reserves policy

The Circuit has a reserves policy covering its unrestricted funds which is reviewed annually.

Our policy is to ensure that there are sufficient free reserves available to maintain and secure the viability and future of the Circuit whilst ensuring through openness and transparency that its resources are being used for its charitable purposes. The Trustees are of the view that at 31 August 2025 free reserves meet these criteria. The reserves held at the end of the year were as follows:

	£
Unrestricted funds	
General Fund	1,400,120
Model Trust Fund	1,009,876
	2,409,996
Designated funds	
Wednesfield Methodist Church Funds	-
	2,409,996
Total unrestricted funds	**2,409,996**
Surplus Funds	5,037
Endowed Funds from Wednesfield Methodist Church	60,592
Total restricted funds	**65,629**
Total funds	**2,475,625**
Less: Tied up in freehold property and fixtures	(1,221,539)
Restricted Funds	(65,629)
	(1,287,168)
Total readily available reserves	**1,188,457**

All funds are separately invested either with CFB or TMCP. No money is directly invested in property, securities or other forms of investment.

Reserves policy (continued)

The financial position of the Circuit remains healthy in that its resources are not only sufficient to meet future known liabilities but also sufficient for the Circuit to carry out its plans for the following year.

Purposes of the funds

General Fund: this provides the working capital necessary for the day-to-day operation of the Circuit.

Model Trust Fund: this money is held in reserve to support capital and revenue projects within the Circuit including the purchase of and major items of maintenance within manse properties. Monies can only be used with the agreement of Trustees of the Circuit through TMCP.

Designated reserves: these reserves are held to support the mission work associated with Wednesfield Methodist Church.

Restricted Funds: are held for use on specific projects related to those funds and they can only be used for these purposes with the approval of Trustees and TMCP.

Statement of Disclosure to Auditors

So far as the Trustees believe there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors have not been made aware.

The Trustees have taken all the steps they ought to have taken as Trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

This report is signed on behalf of the Trustees by



Reverend Paul Nazacahayo
Joint Superintendent Minister

Date: 7/5/26

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Statement of Circuit Members' Responsibilities

For the year ended 31 August 2025

Trustees' Responsibilities

The members are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the members to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the members are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The members are responsible for keeping accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Independent Auditors' Report to the members of Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

For the year ended 31 August 2025

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2025 which comprise of the Statement of Financial Activities, including Income and Expenditure Account, the Statement of Financial Position, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied to their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2025, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company 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 directors' 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 company'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 directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

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

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

Responsibilities of Circuit Members

As explained more fully in the Circuit Members' Responsibilities Statement, the members 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 members 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 members 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 directors either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

In planning and designing our audit tests we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement within the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. Our assessment of these risks includes consideration of the nature of the industry and sector, the control environment and the charity performance along with the results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of risks and irregularities. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override. We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charitable company operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Companies Act, Charities Act, UK tax legislation and other laws and regulations identified as risk areas identified from our discussions with management.

We communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members including internal specialists, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

After consideration of the above risks, we then carried out audit procedures including the following:

- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of trustees' meetings;
- reviewing correspondence with H M Revenue & Customs;
- enquiring of management and reviewing any correspondence with legal advisors concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that the laws and regulations are from financial transactions the less likely it is that we would be aware on non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

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 auditor's report.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Muras Baker Jones Limited
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
Regent House
Bath Avenue
Wolverhampton
West Midlands
WV1 4EG

Date: 7/5/2026

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

	Note	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Totals 2025 £**	Totals 2024 £
Income							
Donations and legacies	9	169	-	-	-	**169**	**2,558**
Charitable activities:							
Assessment or share	6	330,699	-	-	-	**330,699**	**347,820**
Grants	8	28,969	-	-	-	**28,969**	**17,281**
Other income	10	121,258	-	-	-	**121,258**	**137,034**
Investment income:							
Income from monetary investments		8,056	50,991	-	1,533	**60,580**	**64,997**
Property disposal	7	-	1,399	-	-	**1,399**	**476,979**
Total Income		**489,151**	**52,390**	**-**	**1,533**	**543,074**	**1,046,669**
Expenditure on							
Charitable activities:							
Salaries and associated costs	12	442,304	-	-	-	**442,304**	**432,511**
District assessment		95,487	-	-	-	**95,487**	**94,967**
MTF levy		-	80,821	-	-	**80,821**	**60,431**
Property Costs	14	71,059	-	-	-	**71,059**	**63,856**
Office Expenses	15	18,422	-	-	-	**18,422**	**13,570**
Depreciation		23,290	-	-	-	**23,290**	**26,782**
Other outgoings	16, 17	16,690	3,949	-	228	**20,867**	**211,735**
Grants and donations	11	16,423	-	-	-	**16,423**	**-**
Total Expenditure		**683,675**	**84,770**	**-**	**228**	**768,673**	**903,852**
Net Income/ (expenditure)		**(194,524)**	**(32,380)**	**-**	**1,305**	**(225,599)**	**142,817**
Gains/(deficits) on investments		-	40	-	174	214	6,955
Transfers between funds	18	179,341	(178,199)	-	(1,142)	-	-
Net movement in funds		**(15,183)**	**(210,539)**	**-**	**337**	**(225,385)**	**149,772**
Total funds brought forward		1,415,303	1,220,415	-	65,292	**2,701,010**	**2,551,238**
Total funds carried forward at end of year		**1,400,120**	**1,009,876**	**-**	**65,629**	**2,475,625**	**2,701,010**

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Statement of financial position

As at 31 August 2025

	Note	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	**Totals 2025 £**	Totals 2024 £
Fixed Assets							
Tangible fixed assets	19	1,221,539	-	-	-	**1,221,539**	**1,244,001**
Investments with TMCP	20	-	33,509	-	61,054	**94,563**	**94,206**
		1,221,539	33,509		61,054	**1,316,102**	**1,338,207**
Current Assets							
Debtors	21	31,317	-	-	-	**31,317**	**28,276**
Investments with TMCP	22	-	976,367	-	4,575	**980,942**	**1,191,501**
Central Finance Board Deposits	22	183,042	-	-	-	**183,042**	**184,771**
Cash at Bank and in hand	22	4,459	-	-	-	**4,459**	**5,533**
		218,818	976,367		4,575	**1,199,760**	**1,410,081**
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	25	40,237	-	-	-	**40,237**	**47,278**
Net current assets		178,581	976,367	-	4,575	**1,159,523**	**1,362,803**
Total assets less current liabilities		1,400,120	1,009,876	-	65,629	**2,475,625**	**2,701,010**
Net assets		1,400,120	1,009,876	-	65,629	**2,475,625**	**2,701,010**
Funds of the circuit							
General Fund (Unrestricted)	26.1	1,400,120	-	-	-	**1,400,120**	**1,415,303**
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)	26.2	-	1,002,863	-	-	**1,002,863**	**1,213,442**
Revaluation Fund (Unrestricted)	26.2	-	7,013	-	-	**7,013**	**6,973**
Designated Fund (Unrestricted)	26.2	-	-	-	-	**-**	-
Other Funds (Restricted)	27	-	-	-	56,530	**56,530**	**56,367**
Revaluation Fund (Restricted)	27	-	-	-	9,099	**9,099**	**8,925**
Total Funds	28	**1,400,120**	**1,009,876**	**-**	**65,629**	**2,475,625**	**2,701,010**

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 7/5/26 and signed on their behalf by:

Mr R Turton - Treasurer

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Cash flow statement

For the year ended 31 August 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Cash from operating activities			
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year		(225,599)	142,817
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation		23,290	26,782
Decrease/(increase) in debtors		(3,041)	36,789
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		(7,041)	(6,166)
Surplus on Fixed Asset disposal		(1,399)	(476,979)
		11,809	**(419,574)**
Net cash generated by / (used in) operating activities		**(213,790)**	**(276,757)**
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible assets		(828)	(1,990)
Purchase of fixed asset investments		(143)	-
Proceeds from Fixed Asset disposal		1,399	658,959
Net cash (used in) / from investing activities		**428**	**656,969**
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the period		(213,362)	380,212
Cash and cash equivalents at start of period		1,381,805	1,001,593
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	22	**1,168,443**	**1,381,805**

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2025

1. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective from 1 January 2015) – (the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

The Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

2. Accounting policies

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities - Charities SORP (FRS102).

These accounts have been prepared on the accruals basis and on the basis of historical cost except that investments are shown at their market value at the end of the year in order to show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £ Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

Funds

The funds held constitute General Funds held for any purpose of the Circuit which are unrestricted. The Circuit Model Trust Fund has wide purposes defined in standing orders and is categorized as unrestricted. Restricted funds are held for a narrower purpose and include Endowment funds which represent gifts, the capital normally being unavailable for spending and the income from which is either Restricted or Unrestricted. Details of each material fund are disclosed in note 28 to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

Taxation

The charity, is a registered charity and has no taxable activities.

Pension costs

The Circuit is a member of the Connexional pension scheme (MMPS) which covers presbyters and deacons of the Methodist Church. The contribution rates are set each year by the Methodist Conference. The MMPS is a multi-employer scheme and in accordance with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission, the Circuit accounts for these contributions as if it were a defined contribution scheme.

The Circuit also has two lay employees enrolled in a defined contribution pension scheme administered by Nest Pension. Employer contributions are made at a rate of 6% to this scheme on behalf of employees who are members.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

Going concern

Based upon operational budgets and cash flow projections together with the close monitoring of the continuing effect of Covid-19 restrictions upon the income raising ability of Churches, the trustees believe that the Circuit has adequate financial resources available to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Financial Statements therefore continue to be prepared using the going concern basis of accounting.

Consolidation

The Circuit oversees the work of ministers and lay workers in Churches within the Circuit but does not have control over those Churches, Ministers or lay workers except in extreme circumstances, none of which were applicable. For this reason, the financial statements of the Churches within the Circuit are not consolidated into these financial statements.

Income recognition

Income is brought into account when it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will accrue to the Circuit. No attempt is made to measure the value of services donated by volunteers.

Individual amounts categorised as Other Income in the SOFA are shown separately if they are considered to be material.

Donations are recognised in the statement of financial activities when they are receivable.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

The Circuit acts as agent in one matter:

- the collection from churches and payment over of their contributions to various funds administered and controlled by The Methodist Church in England and Wales.

In these circumstances the transactions are not reflected in the SOFA because there is no obligation on the Circuit.

Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings in the statement of financial activities as appropriate.

Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the Circuit to pay out resources.

Grants

Grants are recognised in full when the award is made and once the Circuit accepts that there is an obligation to make the payment and that payment is probable.

VAT

Since the Circuit is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged within the expense headings upon which it was paid.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000. The freehold property, being church manses, is shown in the accounts at its deemed historical cost at 1 September 2015, being the properties insurance reinstatement value as calculated by the Circuit's Insurers, Methodist Insurance Limited, less any subsequent depreciation.

No depreciation is provided on the land element of the manses whilst the building element is depreciated straight line over a useful economic life of 75 years. There is one exception to this where the cost of improvement works to a manse is being written off over a 5-year period to accord with its estimated useful life. All properties have been reviewed for impairment. Depreciation is provided on fixtures and fittings at the rate of 20% per annum from the date that the fixtures are brought into use by the Circuit.

Investments

The investments of the Circuit are held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees. The valuations, at market value, are those provided by TMCP. The unrealised gains and deficits arising on investments at the end of the year are shown in the SOFA.

Receivables and Payables; Bank and Cash

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the Circuit or the amount prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any related discounts, where normal credit terms apply, or the amount advanced to the Circuit. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds comprising of bank balances and deposit account balances are shown at their realisable values.

3. Glossary of terms

CFB: Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church manages a Common Deposit Fund and a series of pooled investment funds for Methodist entities in Great Britain and provides investment advice to those bodies.

Church: a group of members from fewer than 10 to more than 300.

Circuit: a group of Methodist Churches near each other, typically between 10 and 30.

MTF: Circuit Model Trust Fund.

Connexion: The Methodist Church in GB which includes the Head Office at Methodist Church House, all Methodist Districts, Circuits and Churches in Great Britain.

District: a group of contiguous Circuits, usually between 15 and 30.

SOFA: Statement of Financial Activities.

SORP: Statement of Recommended Practice.

TMCP: Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds.

4. Payment to Trustees

None of the Trustees received any remuneration during the year (2024 - £nil).

Trustees were reimbursed expenses during the year, consisting of reimbursement of travel and sundry office costs.

	2025	2024
Number of trustees who were paid expenses	**1**	1

	2025 £	2024 £
Total amount paid	**59**	195

5. Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

	2025 £	2024 £
Included within 'other expenditure' are the following: Auditors' fee for reporting on the accounts	**3,690**	**3,222**

6. Assessments on Churches

The Circuit comprises the Churches referred to within the Trustees report.

Church Assessments are determined annually and approved by the Circuit meeting using a formulaic methodology which takes into account the size of the Church, the ability of the Church to pay and its income.

In addition, St Andrews Methodist/URC church in Sedgley is also part of the Circuit but until 31 August 2021 was under the responsibility of the URC under a sharing Agreement. From 1 September 2021 the Church has been the responsibility of the Methodist Circuit under the same sharing agreement. Under this agreement it paid £43,092 (2024 - £43,092) which is included in the total assessments of £ 330,699 (2024 - £347,820) included within these accounts.

At the year end, amounts totalling £796 (2024 - £nil) were owed to the Circuit in respect of assessments.

7. Profit on Sale of Fixed Assets

During the year the Circuit disposed of no empty Churches or manse properties (2024 – 2). The disposals in 2024 realised a total surplus over book value of £476,979. TMCP also took a levy on those sale proceeds of £189,451. Under Methodist convention the net proceeds of sale were placed into the Circuit Model Trust Fund for future use. A further small adjusting amount was received during the year of £1,399 in respect of one of the manses disposed of in 2024.

8. Grants

The Circuit was in receipt of grants from District Funds totalling £28,969 (2024 - £17,281).

9. Donations and legacies

Small Donations and legacies totalling £169 (2024 - £1,850) were received into the General Fund and £nil (2024 - £708) into the Model Trust Fund during the current year.

10. Other Charitable income

The Circuit was in receipt of the following other income:

	General £	Designated £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Church lay contributions	69,278	-	69,278	66,375
Rent from empty manses	12,077	-	12,077	20,172
Income generated from Bilston Methodist Church after Cessation to meet	13,851	-	13,851	5,153
Shared Costs of Minister shared with Queens College	26,052	-	26,052	26,296
Donations toward City Centre mission work	-	-	-	19,038
	121,258	-	**121,258**	137,034

11. Grants and donations

During the year the Circuit made grants to Churches and others as follows:

	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Trinity Codsall	15,000	-
Springdale for youth weekend	1,423	-
	16,423	-

12. Staff costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Staff costs paid during the year were:		
Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind	336,190	330,009
Employer's National Insurance costs	28,013	21,080
Pension costs	43,990	53,528
Other non-payroll costs	34,111	27,894
Total staff costs	**442,304**	**432,511**
Average number of full-time equivalent employees in the year were:	**19**	**21**

No employee earned more than £60,000 in the year.

The costs can be summarised between ministry and lay worker support as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Ministry	300,419	287,831
Gross cost of lay support	141,885	144,680
	442,304	**432,511**

Gross lay support costs are part funded through Church lay and donations toward city centre mission contributions as detailed in note 10 above totalling £69,278 (2024 - £85,413). In addition, a connexional grant was received in the sum of £27,555 (2024 - £15,000) towards the cost of City Centre Mission. The Cost of lay support therefore funded directly by the Circuit was £45,052 (2024 - £44,267).

The presbyters and the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) are also Trustees of the Circuit. Other than presbyters no member of the CLT received any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the Circuit although certain travelling and administration costs were reimbursed relating to specific meetings or projects.

13. Pensions

Most ordained presbyters and deacons are members of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS). This is a defined benefit scheme. The Supreme Court held in 2014 that Methodist ministers (which term includes presbyters and deacons) are not employees of the Church. For simplicity, however, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions and pension contributions, the terms 'employer' and 'employee' are used as they would be in an employing body.

13. Pensions (Continued)

On the other hand, lay employees are contractually employees and have the option of joining a pension scheme. At the year end, there were 2 (2024 - 2) employees who were members of such a scheme, the scheme being provided by NEST which is a defined contribution scheme.

The MMPS contributions were reduced in the year following actuarial valuations and reports to Conference. Details of the schemes can be found in the Annual Report and Accounts of The Methodist Church at www.methodist.org.uk.

14. Property costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Property Maintenance	23,109	12,340
Rental of manses	18,669	17,397
Insurance	10,302	7,185
Utilities (principally rates, light and heat at Bilston and water rates)	18,979	26,934
	71,059	**63,856**

The above Costs include £Nil (2024 - £1,406) incurred in respect of the Wednesfield property and this has been charged to the Designated Fund.

The above costs also include £13,818 (2024 - £12,807) in respect of the Circuit's responsibilities (other than caretaking costs included in lay pay) for Bilston Methodist Church after its congregation ceased to meet. The costs also include £Nil (2024 - £1,322) in respect of the Church at Stowlawn which was disposed of during the 2023/24 financial year.

15. Office expenses

	2025	2024
	£	£
Printing, postage and stationery and Use of office and facilities	12,420	10,348
Audit fee	3,690	3,222
Training	2,312	-
	18,422	**13,570**

16. Other outgoings

	2025 £	2024 £
Pulpit supply	1,819	2,275
Professional fees	11,071	18,150
Sundry outgoings	559	128
Mission and outreach	3,241	1,731
TMCP levies (charged to MTF and Restricted Fund)	4,177	189,451
	20,867	**211,735**

The TMCP levy of £4,177 (2024 - £189,451) represents amounts paid on the net sale proceeds realised upon the sale of manses and churches during the year together with amounts for admin charges.

17. Investment management

During the year the Circuit paid £4,177 (2024 - £2,765) to TMCP, the custodians of the Circuit's investments within the MTF.

18. Transfers between funds

A sum of £1,142 (2024 - £2,473) was withdrawn from the Restricted Surplus Funds account to contribute to the mission work of the Circuit and £Nil (2024 - £Nil) to contribute to ongoing Circuits costs. A net sum of £178,199 (2024 - £19,469) was transferred from the Model Trust Fund to the General Fund in respect of monies required to support the work of the City Centre Mission and the wider Circuit.

19. Tangible fixed assets

Cost or valuation	Manses £	Fixtures, fittings and Equipment £	Total £
At 1 September 2024	1,365,572	89,400	1,454,972
Additions	-	828	828
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 August 2025	**1,365,572**	**90,228**	**1,455,800**
Depreciation			
At 1 September 2024	129,673	81,298	210,971
Charge for year	19,384	3,906	23,290
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 August 2025	**149,057**	**85,204**	**234,261**
Net book value			
At 31 August 2025	**1,216,515**	**5,024**	**1,221,539**
At 31 August 2024	1,235,899	8,102	1,244,001

20. Fixed Asset Investments

	2025 £	**2024 £**
Cost brought forward	94,206	87,253
Additions (disposals)	143	-
Unrealised (losses)/gains on revaluation	214	6,953
Cost carried forward	**94,563**	**94,206**

21. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade Debtors	796	-
Prepayments and other debtors	27,101	25,491
Short term loans	3,420	2,785
	31,317	**28,276**

22. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise the following:

	2025 £	2024 £
Investments with TMCP	980,942	1,191,501
Central Finance Board deposits	183,042	184,771
Cash at bank and in hand	4,459	5,533
	1,168,443	**1,381,805**

23. Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

a) The funds that support the Model Trust Fund and the Restricted Fund are held by TMCP in Trustees Interest Funds and in CFB mixed funds. Interest is credited to the Trustee interest funds each month and is regarded as a short-term investment in these accounts.

b) The monies held in the CFB Mixed funds are regarded as long-term investments and are revalued at mid-market value at each year end.

c) TMCP is the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds. Trust property is held for and on behalf of local Managing Trustees who are responsible for the day-to-day management of trust property. TMCP ensure that, through providing guidance and acting under their direction, the Managing Trustees comply with charity law and Methodist law and policy as determined by the Methodist Conference.

24. Central Finance Board (CFB) and Cash at Bank

The Circuit has two current accounts at Lloyds Bank plc and Barclays Bank Plc, both of which are authorised institutions. The sums held on these accounts are immediately available. In addition, the Circuit has a deposit account at CFB, a common deposit fund. Interest is earned on that account and credited monthly; the sums deposited can be withdrawn without notice and without loss of interest. These sums are viewed as being liquid.

25. Creditors – amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Accruals	19,892	14,343
Assessments in advance	18,140	30,306
Other Creditors	2,205	2,629
	40,237	**47,278**

It is expected that all sums accrued at 31 August 2025 will be paid during the year to 31 August 2026.

Included within other creditors is an amount of £2,062 (2024 - £2,487) held within the Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit benevolent fund which is used to meet cases of need arising within the Circuit and which is controlled by the Circuit Meeting through the Circuit Leadership Team.

26. Unrestricted Funds

26.1 General Fund – balance of £1,400,120 at 31 August 2025 (2024 - £1,415,303)

The purpose of the fund is for use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the Circuit and which have not been designated for other purposes. About 87% (2024:90%) of this fund is held as freehold properties for the use of Presbyters.

26.2 Other unrestricted Funds – balance of £1,009,876 at 31 August 2025 (2024 - £1,220,415)

These comprise the following four elements:

Model Trust Fund – balance of £1,002,863 at 31 August 2025 (2024 - £1,213,442)

These monies are not restricted in purpose but can only be used for projects that pass through the appropriate Circuit and TMCP authorisations.

Included within this fund is £167,785 (2024 £261,158) held for the purposes of supporting the City Centre Mission work within the Circuit

Revaluation Fund – balance of £7,013 at 31 August 2025 (2024 - £6,973)

These are the unrealised gains on the fixed asset investments held with TMCP. Once realised, these monies will be included as part of the Model Trust Fund and will be used in line with the purposes of that fund as outlined above.

26.2 Unrestricted Funds (Continued)

Designated Fund - Monies received on the ceasing to meet of Wednesfield Methodist Church – balance of £nil at 31 August 2025 (2024 - £618)

These monies have now been utilised for mission by the Circuit after the disposal of Wednesfield Church.

27. Restricted Funds

These comprise the following:

a) Surplus Funds £4,864 (2024 - £4,876)

The restricted funds are the residual surplus funds left after the merger of the three Circuits some years ago. They can only be used for projects within the enlarged Circuit at the discretion of the Circuit meeting and TMCP.

b) Endowed funds £51,666 (2024 - £51,491)

c) Endowed Funds Revaluation Fund £9,099 (2024 - £8,925)

The funds at (b) and (c) above were transferred to the Circuit by the Trustees of Wednesfield Methodist Church when they ceased to meet in the summer of 2017. These monies are currently restricted for use by the Trustees of the Circuit for projects related to the Wednesfield church buildings and surrounding area.

28. Funds

Unrestricted funds – Current year

Unrestricted Fund Name	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
General Fund	1,415,303	489,151	(683,675)	-	179,341	1,400,120
Circuit Model Trust Fund	1,213,442	52,390	(84,770)	-	(178,199)	1,002,863
Revaluation Fund	6,973	-	-	40	-	7,013
Totals	**2,635,718**	**541,541**	**(769,142)**	**40**	**1,142**	**2,409,996**

Unrestricted funds – Previous year

Unrestricted Fund Name	Opening balance £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
General Fund	1,579,267	517,388	(703,912)	-	22,560	1,415,303
Circuit Model Trust Fund	905,251	526,035	(198,375)	-	(19,469)	1,213,442
Revaluation Fund	4,677	-	-	2,296	-	6,973
Totals	**2,489,195**	**1,043,423**	**(902,287)**	**2,296**	**3,091**	**2,635,718**

28. Funds (continued)

The Circuit Model Trust Fund: consists of income from legacy churches and property sales. They have wide purposes as defined by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) and are categorized as unrestricted. Permission must be sought from TMCP to call on money for specific building projects or to support the mission in general.

Designated funds – Current year

Designated Fund Name	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
Wednesfield Designated Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

Designated funds – Previous year

Designated Fund Name	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains (Losses) £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
Wednesfield Designated Fund	2,024	-	(1,406)	-	(618)	-
	2,024	**-**	**(1,406)**	**-**	**(618)**	**-**

Restricted funds – Current year

Restricted Fund Name	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
Surplus Funds and other small Accounts	4,876	-	(12)	-	-	4,864
Wednesfield Endowed Funds	51,491	1,533	(216)	-	(1,142)	51,666
Wednesfield Endowed Revaluation Fund	8,925	-	-	174	-	9,099
Totals	**65,292**	**1,533**	**(228)**	**174**	**(1,142)**	**65,629**

Restricted funds – Previous year

Restricted Fund Name	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
Surplus Funds Account	4,168	708	-	-	-	4,876
Wednesfield Endowed Funds	51,585	2,538	(159)	-	(2,473)	51,491
Wednesfield Endowed Revaluation Fund	4,266	-	-	4,659	-	8,925
Totals	**60,019**	**3,246**	**(159)**	**4,659**	**(2,473)**	**65,292**

28. Funds (continued)

Surplus Funds Account: represents monies invested with TMCP which arose at the point the three Circuits came together to form the Wolverhampton Circuit some years ago. These monies are available for use to support mission and outreach projects within the Circuit.

29. Analysis of net assets between funds

	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds (Restricted) £	Totals 2025 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible fixed assets	1,221,539	-	-	-	1,221,539
Fixed asset investments	-	33,509	-	61,054	94,563
Current Assets					
Debtors	31,317	-	-	-	31,317
TMCP Investments	-	976,367	-	4,575	980,942
Deposit accounts	183,042	-	-	-	183,042
Cash at Bank and in hand	4,459	-	-	-	4,459
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(40,237)	-	-	-	(40,237)
Total	**1,400,120**	**1,009,876**	**-**	**65,629**	**2,475,625**

30. Related Party Transactions

As part of its normal operational structure, The Circuit makes contributions to the District and receives contributions from its member churches (details as per SOFA).

All of the Circuit trustees are members of one or another Church within the Circuit and may be Trustees in their own churches.

Connected organisations include the Methodist Connexion, other Circuits and Churches within the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District, CFB and TMCP. All of these entities have their own trustees or directors and autonomous administration such that the Circuit has no significant influence over any of them, nor they over the Circuit. They are, therefore, not considered related parties.

Transactions with connected parties during the year are as follows:

Names of Connected Organisations	Receipts £	Payments £
Donor: District Advance Fund	27,555	-
Donor: Churches within the Circuit in respect of assessments	330,699	-
Donee: Grants to churches within the Circuit	(16,423)	-

In addition to the above the Circuit paid the District assessment of £95,487 (2024 - £94,967) to the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District. This is detailed on the face of the statement of financial activities. There were no other related party transactions.

31. Volunteer contributions

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit, and Church) within the Methodist Church in GB is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. Principally this contribution is by serving on committees of the Circuit that deal with mission, manses, finance, policy, grants, training and development. We are grateful to all of them for their help and commitment.

32. Capital commitments and contingent liabilities

There were no capital commitments or contingent liabilities as at 31 August 2025 (2024 - £nil).

WOLVERHAMPTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1135146

Accounts

Circuit Number 2801

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 August 2024

(Charity Number 1135146)

Muras Baker Jones Limited
Chartered Accountants
Wolverhampton

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

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Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Administrative Information

Registered Charity Number	1135146	
Superintendent Minister:	Revd. Dr Joanne Cox-Darling	
Ministers in the active work:	Revd. Steve Jackson Revd. Christopher Parkes Revd. Rosemary Nash	Revd. Paul Nzacahayo Revd. Teddy Siwila Deacon Linda Gilson
Senior Steward:	David Crook	
Circuit Stewards:	Denis Beaumont Andre Burns Alan Eccles	Gabriel Gidi Lesley Cook. Edward Bridgwood
Circuit Treasurer:	Rob Turton FCA	
Other Trustees:	Revd. Glennys Bamford Revd. Steve Singleton Revd. Robert Readshaw Revd. Trevor Pratt Together with 51 other Trustees	Revd. Donald Ryan Revd. Margaret Heim Revd. Ivor Sperring
Registered Office:	Beckminster Methodist Church Birches Barn Road Penn Fields Wolverhampton West Midlands WV3 7BQ	
Charity:	1135146	
Auditors	Muras Baker Jones Limited Regent House Bath Avenue Wolverhampton West Midlands WV1 4EG	
Bankers:	Lloyds Bank Plc Queen Square Wolverhampton West Midlands WV1 1TF Barclays Bank Plc Queen Square Wolverhampton West Midlands HSBC Bank Plc Queen Square Wolverhampton West Midlands	

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Administrative Information

	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church 9 Bonhill Street London EC2A 4PE
Investment advisors:	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) Central Buildings Oldham Street Manchester M1 1JQ
Solicitors:	Anthony Collins LLP 134 Edmund Street Birmingham B3 2ES

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Trustees Report

For the year ended 31 August 2024

Objects and Activities of the Circuit

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.

The objectives outlined above are achieved through the strategic direction of the Circuit Leadership team and the Circuit meeting. The Leadership team meet at least 6 times a year and the Circuit meeting at least 3 times a year to review and implement objectives, monitor our discipleship and to receive regulatory information either from the Methodist Church or other means.

Public Benefit

We confirm the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The work which we carry out with our Churches and the Communities in which they are situated is designed for the benefit of all. It not only supports our Church members but also provides the resources required to deliver mission and outreach to the most needy in our Society. This is achieved in various ways through the use of our Church buildings to work with people and organisations, through support of local food bank and homelessness projects and also through other forms of partnership working within our Local Communities.

Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document for the circuit is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976).

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference. These are updated annually.

Day to day management of the circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team, which comprises of the Superintendent Minister, the Ministerial Team, the Circuit Stewards and the Honorary Treasurer. Together they represent the key management team. They are supported by the Local Preachers meeting.

The Circuit Leadership team is accountable to the Members of the Circuit meeting who are also Trustees of the Circuit.

Trustee Training

A range of guidance is produced by the Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the circuit, specifically the leaflet 'The Role of a Trustee in The Methodist Church' is given to all new Circuit meeting members as induction to their role as trustees.

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Trustees Report

For the year ended 31 August 2024

Related Parties

The Circuit is part of the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District of the Methodist Church and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The following Methodist Churches are members of the circuit:

Beckminster
Bradley
Brewood
Codsall
Cranmer
Coven
East Park
Fallings Park
Hurst Hill
Lanesfield
Rakegate
Springdale
St Johns
Stratton Street
Upper Ettingshall
Wombourne

Further to this the Circuit managed two Churches for part of the year ,these being Wednesfield Methodist Church ,whose congregation ceased to meet several years ago, and Stowlawn Methodist Church, whose congregation ceased to meet in 2022.These properties were disposed of during the years further detailed in Note 7 to the Financial Statements.

In addition to the above St Andrews United Reformed/Methodist Church based in Sedgley remains part of the Circuit under a sharing arrangement with the United Reformed Church.

Review of Activities

In designing and monitoring the activities of the Charity, the Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commissions guidance on public benefit as further detailed on page 4. The review of activities in the following sections demonstrates how the Charity has provided benefit directly to the churches which comprise the Circuit and thereby to the local congregations and wider local communities involved with those churches.

General Review

The Circuit continues to be an active and major member of the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District. Locally, and within our own Circuit boundaries, the Circuit has continued to support the congregations and communities that our Churches serve. It has achieved this with the support of 7 ordained Presbyters who received stipends for their roles. The Circuit also employs several key lay support workers who are paid for from Church contributions, donations and Circuit funds.

Additional support continued to be provided by retired ministers who continued to have closer day to day involvement with several of our smaller congregations.

The local churches continue to provide programmes of worship, pastoral care and community involvement under the leadership of Ministers, lay employees and local Church Trustees.

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Trustees Report

For the year ended 31 August 2024

On 1 September 2023 we welcomed Rev Christopher Parkes to the Circuit on a reduced hour's basis.

Activities and Future Plans

As part of the on-going development of the Mission of the Circuit and of its objectives, the Circuit conducted a structural review several years ago. The Circuit Leadership Team have taken this forward during the year and have developed a circuit vision for the future which has been shared with our Circuit meeting and Churches. The aim being to improve our use of resources, to provide missional leadership to support growth and to ease the current burden on our Presbyters and Leadership Team, all of this whilst acknowledging that our problems are the same as those the Church faces generally in the light of a general lack of people able to carry out the roles that Church Trusteeship requires in the modern world.

A 3 hub structure for Churches was agreed upon by the Circuit meeting during the year. The City Centre missional work remains outside the hub structure as a beacon of outreach. The CLT and Circuit meeting are now planning for the new the structure to be operational from 1 September 2025.The creation of this structure will see a further investment of model trust monies into the Circuit as it develops and increases outreach. As an LEP St Andrews will remain as part of the Circuit but will not be part of a hub.

The hub structures will eventually see each hub registered as a Charity with their own Trustee body who will oversee the running and finances of the Churches in the hub.

Bilston Methodist Church ceased to meet in November 2023 and since then the protection and management of the Church buildings has been undertaken by the Circuit. The Leadership team are actively pursuing opportunities for the ongoing use of the building and currently they are being utilised by the Zimbabwean Methodist Fellowship and by a local homeless charity. In addition a number of smaller lettings take place from time to time.

The empty manse at Lewis Street, Bilston was sold by auction during the year.

The disposal of properties referred to above has taken a considerable burden away from the Circuit finances and leadership team and also reduced the outgoings of the Circuit whilst increasing our model trust reserves for use in future missional activity.

The Ministers, Trustees and senior leadership team continue to believe that the implementation of the Strategic Vision for the Circuit as described above will leave it better placed to react to areas of need in the future across an area where there are significant differences in wealth with many of our Communities located in areas of significant deprivation and diverse beliefs where currently the cost of living crisis is further exacerbating matters.

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

- The care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults;
- The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable;

- The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse;
- We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes;
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation;
- We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care;
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust;
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult;
- In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

Safeguarding continues to be an important area of consideration for the Church and we continue to work with the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District and the wider connection in order to ensure that our policies, training and practices meet all of the statutory and legal requirements in this area.

Major Activities

The year to 31 August 2024 continued to present significant financial challenges operationally which the Circuit has had to deal with. The effects of some of these, some of which are being caused by the cost of living and energy crisis, are still being felt within our Communities and we continue to carry out work to help in these areas.

As already referred to one of our Churches, Bilston Methodist Church, took the decision during the year to cease to meet and its final service was held on 30 November 2023. The responsibility for the Church has accordingly now transferred to the Circuit meeting. As explained above potential uses of the Church buildings are currently under consideration and, as yet, no firm decision has been taken on retention or disposal of the buildings. This will be done in the coming months.

Further to the above there continue to be several other Churches within the Circuit who are struggling to cope financially and the Circuit continues to work with those churches, both through short term support and longer term planning (through our vision work), in order to find sustainable solutions for the future which further the objects that we have as a Methodist Circuit whilst continuing to help our local congregations and communities.

Our City Centre Mission work, led by Deacon Linda Gilson, continues to develop and grow. The ministry operates as part of the Missional work being undertaken by Deacon Linda Gilson. Funding for this comes from the Model Trust monies held following the sale of Darlington Street together with the balance of the monies held within WPM at the point of the transfer of responsibility. These amounted to just over £33000.This is an exciting development for the Circuit and its Mission and we are already seeing signs of how this missional work is benefiting the City.

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Leadership Team and Circuit meeting with professional advice taken as required. These centre around, the effects of Covid-19 (where risk assessments and opening protocols for each property have been put in place by local Trustees after approval by the Circuit leadership team) property (Manses and Churches) maintenance costs and finally the need to stay up to date with safeguarding protocols and procedures and with GDPR legislation.

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Trustees Report

For the year ended 31 August 2024

Income and Expenditure continues to be monitored throughout the year both in total and in detail and is compared with the approved annual budget on a half yearly basis to detect trends as part of the risk management process and to avoid unplanned calls upon reserves.

The Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit has committed itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.

It has also committed itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Trustees Report

For the year ended 31 August 2024

Financial Report

The result for the year shows an overall surplus of £149,772 (2023 surplus – £571,205). The result is split across funds as follows:

General fund	£(163,964)	(2023 - £16,258)	Surplus
Circuit Model Trust Fund	£310,487	(2023 - £565,249)	Surplus
Designated Funds	£(2,024)	(2023 - £(1,635))	Deficit for both years
Restricted Funds	£5,273	(2023 - £(8,667))	Surplus / (Deficit)

The principal elements affecting the result for the year are as follows:

A) The General Fund produced a deficit for the year of £163,964 (2023 – surplus £16,258) after transfers from other Funds. Before transfers the fund was in deficit by £186,524 (2023 - £58,080). The pre-transfer result is after depreciation of £26,782 (2023 - £27,200) has been charged.

The actual result before depreciation was a deficit of £159,742 (2023 - £30,880 surplus). This is explained by the decision the Circuit took in previous years to fund a deficit budget and to fund the City Centre mission from the proceeds of sale of Darlington Street. This is the case in the current year too.

In total net transfers of £22,560 (2023 - £74,338) were made from other funds. These were largely monies withdrawn from Model Trust Funds to support the ongoing work of the Circuit and the City Centre Mission post.

At the end of the year the General reserves stood at £1,415,303 (2023 - £1,579,267) and principally comprised Fixed assets (being manses and related costs) and net current assets held for working capital purposes.

B) The Circuit Model Trust fund produced an operating surplus before transfers of £327,660 (2023 -£565,249) principally as a result of the receipt of monies from the sales of Wednesfield and Stowlawn churches, and the disposal of the Lewis Street manse. These amounts were received after deduction of the levy taken on sale proceeds and the annual levy on the value of the funds held at TMCP. The principal transfers during the year were to cover the ongoing expenditure referred to above.
At the year end the Model Trust Fund stood at £1,220,415 (2023 - £909,928). These monies are held on behalf of the Circuit by TMCP within investment and deposit accounts and are administered by them.

C) The designated funds relate to Wednesfield Methodist Church. Activities at Wednesfield produced a deficit of £2,024 (2023 – £1,635). This arose largely as a result of ongoing routine expenditure prior to disposal. During the year net transfers out were made of £618 (2023 - £9,382)

D) The restricted fund produced a surplus (2023 - Deficit) after transfers of £5,273 (2023 - £8,667). Income for the year arose largely due to the receipt of interest and dividends on monies held within TMCP and losses arose largely as result of investment gains (2023 - Deficits) on endowed Funds and transfers of £2,473 (£ 7,950) made to other funds

Financial Report (Cont.)

The Circuit Trustees are satisfied with the overall result achieved for the year against the backdrop of the economic constraints which affect us all.

The Budget set for 2024/25 is once again for a deficit position as Churches continue to struggle to meet the levels of assessment that the Circuit requires. Trustees continue to monitor this.

Going Concern

The Trustees have prepared detailed forecasts through to 31 August 2025. These have been reviewed, and stress tested, particularly for a fall in income during that period resulting from the inability of Churches to meet assessments fully in the year ended 31 August 2025.

Based upon the forecasts and their review the Trustees believe that the Circuit has adequate financial resources available to enable it to carry on operating as a Going concern for the foreseeable future.

Investment Policy and Performance

To comply with Methodist Standing Orders, monies for short and long term investment are lodged with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP). In addition TMCP acts as custodian trustee for all real estate held by Circuits and for all large (individually over £20k) bequests and for the proceeds of sale of any property formerly owned by the Circuit. These sums are invested in unitised investments or held on deposit. The capital returns are close to tracking the movements in the FTSE100 index. The income mirrors the deposit rates available elsewhere. Both the Central Finance Board (CFB) and TMCP take into consideration social, environmental and ethical considerations, both negatively and positively, in establishing investment policy.

Short term deposits are lodged directly with the CFB and attract good rates of interest.

There are no benchmarks for the expected returns or appreciation on investments at TMCP and CFB. It is the Circuit's policy to manage the cash and investment resources of the Circuit so that a rate of return on investment – both by way of dividend and capital appreciation – is obtained at least as good as market rate considering our low appetite for risk.

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Trustees Report

For the year ended 31 August 2024

Reserves policy

The Circuit has a reserves policy covering its unrestricted funds which is reviewed annually.

Our policy is to ensure that there are sufficient free reserves available to maintain and secure the viability and future of the Circuit whilst ensuring through openness and transparency that its resources are being used for its charitable purposes. The Trustees are of the view that at 31 August 2024 free reserves meet these criteria. The reserves held at the end of the year were as follows:

	£
Unrestricted funds	
General Fund	1,415,303
Model Trust Fund	1,220,415
	2,635,718
Designated funds	
Wednesfield Methodist Church Funds	-
	-
Total unrestricted funds	**2,635,718**
Surplus Funds	4,876
Endowed Funds from Wednesfield Methodist Church	60,416
Total restricted funds	**65,292**
Total funds	**2,701,010**
Less: Tied up in freehold property and fixtures	(1,244,001
Restricted Funds	(65,292)
	(1,309,293)
Total readily available reserves	**1,391,717**

All funds are separately invested either with CFB or TMCP. No money is directly invested in property, securities or other forms of investment.

Reserves policy (continued)

The financial position of the Circuit remains healthy in that its resources are not only sufficient to meet future known liabilities but also sufficient for the Circuit to carry out its plans for the following year.

Purposes of the funds

General Fund: this provides the working capital necessary for the day to day operation of the Circuit.

Model Trust Fund: this money is held in reserve to support capital and revenue projects within the Circuit including the purchase of and major items of maintenance within manse properties. Monies can only be used with the agreement of Trustees of the Circuit through TMCP.

Designated reserves: these reserves are held to support the mission work associated with Wednesfield Methodist Church.

Restricted Funds: are held for use on specific projects related to those funds and they can only be used for these purposes with the approval of Trustees and TMCP.

Statement of Disclosure to Auditors

So far as the Trustees believe there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors have not been made aware.

The Trustees have taken all the steps they ought to have taken as Trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

This report is signed on behalf of the Trustees.



Reverend Dr Joanne Cox-Darling
Superintendent Minister

Date: 27/3/2025

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Statement of Circuit Members' Responsibilities

For the year ended 31 August 2024

The members are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the members to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the members are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The members are responsible for keeping accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Independent Auditors' Report to the members of Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

For the year ended 31 August 2024

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise of the Statement of Financial Activities, including Income and Expenditure Account, the Statement of Financial Position, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied to their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company 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

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

- the trustees use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least 12 months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

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

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

Responsibilities of Circuit Members

As explained more fully in the Circuit Members' Responsibilities Statement, the members 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 members 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 members 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 directors either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

In planning and designing our audit tests we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement within the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. Our assessment of these risks includes consideration of the nature of the industry and sector, the control environment and the charity performance along with the results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of risks and irregularities. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override. We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charitable company operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Companies Act, Charities Act, UK tax legislation and other laws and regulations identified as risk areas identified from our discussions with management.

We communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members including internal specialists, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

After consideration of the above risks we then carried out audit procedures including the following:

- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of trustees meetings;
- reviewing correspondence with H M Revenue & Customs;
- enquiring of management and reviewing any correspondence with legal advisors concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that the laws and regulations are from financial transactions the less likely it is that we would be aware on non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

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 auditor's report.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Muras Baker Jones Limited
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
Regent House
Bath Avenue
Wolverhampton
West Midlands
WV1 4EG

Date: 2 April 2025

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA)

For the year ended 31 August 2024

	Note	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Totals 2024 £**	Totals 2023 £
Income							
Donations and legacies	9	1,850			708	**2,558**	-
Charitable activities:							
Assessment or share	6	347,820				**347,820**	362,707
Grants	8	17,281				**17,281**	305,030
Other income	10	137,034				**137,034**	157,608
Investment income:							
Income from monetary investments		7,012	55,447		2,538	**64,997**	29,992
Property disposal	7	6,391	470,588			**476,979**	507,991
Total Income		**517,388**	**526,035**	**-**	**3,246**	**1,046,669**	1,363,328
Expenditure on							
Charitable activities:							
Salaries and associated costs	12	432,511				**432,511**	382,425
District assessment		94,967				**94,967**	90,737
MTF levy			60,272		159	**60,431**	16,294
Property Costs	14	62,450		1,406		**63,856**	61,923
Office Expenses	15	13,570				**13,570**	11,763
Depreciation		26,782				**26,782**	27,200
Other outgoings	16, 17	73,632	138,103			**211,735**	196,916
Grants and donations	11					**-**	1,000
Total Expenditure		**703,912**	**198,375**	**1,406**	**159**	**903,852**	788,258
Net Income/ (expenditure)		**(186,524)**	**327,660**	**(1,406)**	**3087**	**142,817**	575,070
Gains/(deficits) on investments		**-**	**2,296**	**-**	**4,659**	**6,955**	(3,865)
Transfers between funds	18	**22,560**	**(19,469)**	**(618)**	**(2,473)**	**-**	-
Net movement in funds		**(163,964)**	**310,487**	**(2,024)**	**5,273**	**149,772**	571,205
Total funds brought forward		**1,579,267**	**909,928**	**2,024**	**60,019**	**2,551,238**	1,980,033
Total funds carried forward at end of year		**1,415,303**	**1,220,415**	**-**	**65,292**	**2,701,010**	2,551,238

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Statement of financial position

As at 31 August 2024

	Note	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	**Totals 2024 £**	Totals 2023 £
Fixed Assets							
Tangible fixed assets	19	1,244,001				**1,244,001**	1,450,771
Investments with TMCP	20		34,034		60,172	**94,206**	87,253
		1,244,001	34,034	-	60,172	**1,338,207**	
Current Assets	21	28,276				**28,276**	65,065
Debtors	22		1,186,381		5,120	**1,191,501**	882,694
Investments with TMCP Central Finance Board Deposits	22	184,771				**184,771**	111,454
Cash at Bank and in hand	22	5,533				**5,533**	7,445
		218,580	1,186,381	-	5,120	**1,410,081**	1,066,658
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	25	47,278				**47,278**	53,444
Net current assets		171,302	1,186,381		5,120	**1,362,803**	1,013,214
Total assets less current liabilities		1,415,303	1,220,415		65,292	**2,701,010**	2,551,247
Net assets		1,415,303	1,220,415	-	65,292	**2,701,010**	2,551,238
Funds of the circuit							
General Fund (Unrestricted)	26.1	1,415,303				**1,415,303**	1,579,267
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)	26.2		1,213,442			**1,213,442**	905,251
Revaluation Fund (Unrestricted)	26.2		6,973			**6,973**	4,677
Designated Fund (Unrestricted)	26.2					**-**	2,024
Other Funds (Restricted)	27				56,365	**56,365**	55,751
Revaluation Fund (Restricted)	27				8,927	**8,927**	4,268
Total Funds	28	1,415,303	1,220,415	-	65,292	**2,701,010**	2,551,238

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 21/3/25 and signed on their behalf by:

Mr R Turton - Treasurer

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Cash flow statement

For the year ended 31 August 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Cash from operating activities			
Surplus(Deficit) for the year		142,817	575,070
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation		26,782	27,200
Decrease/(increase) in debtors		36,789	(33,548)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		(6,166)	(4,243)
Surplus on Fixed Asset disposal		(476,979)	(507,991)
		(419,574)	**(518,581)**
Net cash generated by (used in)operating activities		**(276,757)**	56,489
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible assets		(1,990)	(745)
Purchase of fixed asset investments		-	(236)
Proceeds from Fixed Asset disposal		658,959	507,991
Net cash (used in)/from investing activities		**656,969**	**507,010**
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the period		380,212	563,499
Cash and cash equivalents at start of period		1,001,593	438,094
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	22	**1,381,805**	**1,001,593**

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Notes to the accounts

As at 31 August 2024

1. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective from 1 January 2015) – (the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

The Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

2. Accounting policies

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities - Charities SORP (FRS102).

These accounts have been prepared on the accruals basis and on the basis of historical cost except that investments are shown at their market value at the end of the year in order to show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £ Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

Funds

The funds held constitute General Funds held for any purpose of the Circuit which are unrestricted. The Circuit Model Trust Fund has wide purposes defined in standing orders and is categorized as unrestricted. Restricted funds are held for a narrower purpose and include Endowment funds which represent gifts, the capital normally being unavailable for spending and the income from which is either Restricted or Unrestricted. Details of each material fund are disclosed in note 28 to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

Taxation

The charity, is a registered charity and has no taxable activities.

Pension costs

The Circuit is a member of the Connexional pension scheme (MMPS) which covers presbyters and deacons of the Methodist Church. The contribution rates are set each year by the Methodist Conference. The MMPS is a multi-employer scheme and in accordance with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission, the Circuit accounts for these contributions as if it were a defined contribution scheme.

The Circuit also has two lay employees enrolled in a defined contribution pension scheme administered by Nest Pension. Employer contributions are made at a rate of 6% to this scheme on behalf of employees who are members.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

Going concern

Based upon operational budgets and cash flow projections together with the close monitoring of the continuing effect of Covid-19 restrictions upon the income raising ability of Churches, the trustees believe that the Circuit has adequate financial resources available to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Financial Statements therefore continue to be prepared using the going concern basis of accounting.

Consolidation

The Circuit oversees the work of ministers and lay workers in Churches within the Circuit but does not have control over those Churches, Ministers or lay workers except in extreme circumstances, none of which were applicable. For this reason, the financial statements of the Churches within the Circuit are not consolidated into these financial statements.

Income recognition

Income is brought into account when it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will accrue to the Circuit. No attempt is made to measure the value of services donated by volunteers.

Individual amounts categorised as Other Income in the SOFA are shown separately if they are considered to be material.

Donations are recognised in the statement of financial activities when they are receivable.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

The Circuit acts as agent in one matter:

- the collection from churches and payment over of their contributions to various funds administered and controlled by The Methodist Church in England and Wales.

In these circumstances the transactions are not reflected in the SOFA because there is no obligation on the Circuit.

Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings in the statement of financial activities as appropriate.

Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the Circuit to pay out resources.

Grants

Grants are recognised in full when the award is made and once the Circuit accepts that there is an obligation to make the payment and that payment is probable.

VAT

Since the Circuit is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged within the expense headings upon which it was paid.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000. The freehold property, being church manses, is shown in the accounts at its deemed historical cost at 1 September 2015, being the properties insurance reinstatement value as calculated by the Circuit's Insurers, Methodist Insurance Limited, less any subsequent depreciation.

No depreciation is provided on the land element of the manses whilst the building element is depreciated straight line over a useful economic life of 75 years. There is one exception to this where the cost of improvement works to a manse is being written off over a 5 year period to accord with its estimated useful life. All properties have been reviewed for impairment. Depreciation is provided on fixtures and fittings at the rate of 20% per annum from the date that the fixtures are brought into use by the Circuit.

Investments

The investments of the Circuit are held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees. The valuations, at market value, are those provided by TMCP. The unrealised gains and deficits arising on investments at the end of the year are shown in the SOFA.

Receivables and Payables; Bank and Cash

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the Circuit or the amount prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any related discounts, where normal credit terms apply, or the amount advanced to the Circuit. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds comprising of bank balances and deposit account balances are shown at their realisable values.

3. Glossary of terms

CFB: Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church manages a Common Deposit Fund and a series of pooled investment funds for Methodist entities in Great Britain and provides investment advice to those bodies.

Church: a group of members from fewer than 10 to more than 300.

Circuit: a group of Methodist Churches near each other, typically between 10 and 30.

MTF: Circuit Model Trust Fund.

Connexion: The Methodist Church in GB which includes the Head Office at Methodist Church House, all Methodist Districts, Circuits and Churches in Great Britain.

District: a group of contiguous Circuits, usually between 15 and 30.

SOFA: Statement of Financial Activities.

SORP: Statement of Recommended Practice.

TMCP: Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds.

4. Payment to Trustees

None of the Trustees received any remuneration during the year (2023 - £nil).

Trustees were reimbursed expenses during the year, consisting of reimbursement of travel and sundry office costs.

	2024	2023
Number of trustees who were paid expenses	**1**	1

	2024 £	2023 £
Total amount paid	**195**	202

5. Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

	2024 £	2023 £
Included within 'other expenditure' are the following:		
Auditors' fee for reporting on the accounts	**3,222**	2,460

6. Assessments on Churches

The Circuit comprises the Churches referred to within the Trustees report.

Church Assessments are determined annually and approved by the Circuit meeting using a formulaic methodology which takes into account the size of the Church, the ability of the Church to pay, its income and the ministerial input to it.

In addition, St Andrews Methodist/URC church in Sedgley is also part of the Circuit but until 31 August 2021 was under the responsibility of the URC under a sharing Agreement. From 1 September 2021 the Church has been the responsibility of the Methodist Circuit under the same sharing agreement. Under this agreement it paid £43,092 (2023 - £39,672) which is included in the total assessments of £347,820 (2023 - £362,707) included within these accounts.

At the year end, amounts totalling £nil (2023 - £796) were owed to the Circuit in respect of assessments.

7. Profit on Sale of Fixed Assets

During the year the Circuit disposed of 2 (2023 - 1) empty Churches and one manse realising a total surplus over book value of £476,979 (2023 - £507,991). TMCP also took a levy on sale proceeds of £189,451 (2023 - £179,197). Under Methodist convention the net proceeds of sale were placed into the Circuit Model Trust Fund for future use.

8. Grants

The Circuit was in receipt of grants from District Funds totalling £17,281(2023 - £nil).

9. Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies totalling £1,850 (2023 - £nil) were received into the General Fund and £708 (2023 - £nil) into the Model Trust Fund during the current year. These monies arose from the cessation to meet of Bilston Methodist Church during the year.

10. Other Charitable income

The Circuit was in receipt of the following other income:

	General £	Designated £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Church lay contributions	66,375		66,375	66,725
Rent from empty manses	20,172		20,172	12,650
Income generated from Bilston Methodist Church after Cessation to meet	5,153		5,153	-
Shared Costs of Minister shared with Queens College	26,296		26,296	25,024
Donations toward City Centre mission work	19,038		19,038	44,673
Sundry Income	-		-	8,536
	137,034	**-**	**137,034**	157,608

11. Grants and donations

During the year the Circuit made grants to Churches and others as follows:

	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Trinity Codsall	-	1,000
	-	**1,000**

12. Staff costs

	2024 £	2023 £
Staff costs paid during the year were:		
Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind	330,009	287,484
Employer's National Insurance costs	21,080	21,581
Pension costs	53,528	51,223
Other non-payroll costs	27,894	22,137
Total staff costs	**432,511**	**382,425**
Average number of full-time equivalent employees in the year were:	**21**	**18**

No employee earned more than £60,000 in the year.

The costs can be summarised between ministry and lay worker support as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Ministry	287,831	283,327
Gross cost of lay support	144,680	99,098
	432,511	**382,425**

Gross lay support costs are part funded through Church lay and donations toward city centre mission contributions as detailed in note 10 above totalling £85,413 (2023 - £65,848). In addition a connexional grant was received in the sum of £15,000 towards the cost of City Centre Mission. The Cost of lay support therefore funded directly by the Circuit was £44,267 (2023 - £33,250).

The presbyters and the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) are also Trustees of the Circuit. Other than presbyters no member of the CLT received any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the Circuit although certain travelling and administration costs were reimbursed relating to specific meetings or projects.

13. Pensions

Most ordained presbyters and deacons are members of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS). This is a defined benefit scheme. The Supreme Court held in 2014 that Methodist ministers (which term includes presbyters and deacons) are not employees of the Church. For simplicity, however, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions and pension contributions, the terms 'employer' and 'employee' are used as they would be in an employing body.

On the other hand, lay employees are contractually employees and have the option of joining a pension scheme. At the year end, there were 2 (2023 - 1) employees who were members of such a scheme, the scheme being provided by NEST which is a defined contribution scheme.

The MMPS is in deficit but a plan for removal of the deficit has been proposed and is being implemented. Details of the deficit on the schemes can be found in the Annual Report and Accounts of The Methodist Church at www.methodist.org.uk.

14. Property costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Property Maintenance	12,340	8,137
Rental of manses	17,397	16,581
Insurance	7,185	13,252
Utilities (principally rates, light and heat at Bilston, Wednesfield, Stowlawn and water rates)	26,934	23,953
	63,856	**61,923**

The above Costs include £1,406 (2023 - £11,265) incurred in respect of the Wednesfield property and this has been charged to the Designated Fund.

The above costs also include £ 12,807 (2023 - £nil) in respect of the Circuit's responsibilities (other than caretaking costs included in laypay) for Bilston Methodist Church after its congregation ceased to meet. The costs also include £ 1,322 (2023 - £3,082) in respect of the Church at Stowlawn which was disposed of during the year

15. Office expenses

	2024	2023
	£	£
Printing, postage and stationery and Use of office and facilities	10,348	7,903
Audit fee	3,222	3,460
Training	-	400
	13,570	**11,763**

16. Other outgoings

	2024 £	2023 £
Pulpit supply	2,275	5,185
Inspections and legal fees	18,150	11,716
Sundry outgoings	128	156
Mission and outreach	1,731	495
TMCP levies (charged to MTF and Restricted Fund)	189,451	179,364
	211,735	**196,916**

The TMCP levy of £189,451 (2023 - £179,364) represents amounts paid on the net sale proceeds realised upon the sale of manses and churches during the year together a small amount of admin charges.

17. Investment management

During the year the Circuit paid £2,765 (2023 - £1,011) to TMCP, the custodians of the District's investments within the MTF.

18. Transfers between funds

A sum of £2,473 (2023 - £6,396) was withdrawn from the Restricted Surplus Funds account to contribute to the mission work of the Circuit and £nil (2023 - £877) to contribute to ongoing Circuits costs. A net sum of £19,469 (2023 -£75,770) was transferred from the Model Trust Fund to the General Fund in respect of monies required to support the work of the City Centre Mission. This represented a £ 152,250 withdrawal from the Methodist Trust Fund for ongoing missional work and £132,781 in respect of the monies realised on the sale of the manse out of the general fund. Those funds have to be placed into the Model Trust Fund.

A sum of £ nil (2023 £9,382) was transferred from the General Fund to the designated fund in order to cover the running costs of the Wednesfield Church

19. Tangible fixed assets

Cost or valuation	Manses £	Fixtures, fittings and Equipment £	Total £
At 1 September 2023	1,562,660	87,410	1,650,070
Additions	-	1,990	1,990
Disposals	(197,088)	-	(197,088)
At 31 August 2024	**1,365,572**	**89,400**	**1,454,972**
Depreciation			
At 1 September 2023	121,721	77,578	199,299
Charge for year	23,062	3,720	26,782
Disposals	(15,110)	-	(15,110)
At 31 August 2024	**129,673**	**81,298**	**210,971**
Net book value			
At 31 August 2023	1,440,939	9,832	1,450,771
At 31 August 2024	**1,235,899**	**8,102**	**1,244,001**

20. Fixed Asset Investments

	2024 £	**2023 £**
Cost brought forward	87,253	90,882
Additions	-	236
Unrealised (losses)/gains on revaluation	6,953	(3,865)
Cost carried forward	**94,206**	**87,253**

21. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade Debtors	-	796
Prepayments and other debtors	25,491	61,484
Short term loans	2,785	2,785
	28,276	65,065

22. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise the following:

	2024 £	2023 £
Investments with TMCP	1,191,501	882,694
Central Finance Board deposits	184,771	111,454
Cash at bank and in hand	5,533	7,445
	1,381,805	**1,001,593**

23. Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

a) The funds that support the Model Trust Fund and the Restricted Fund are held by TMCP in Trustees Interest Funds and in CFB mixed funds. Interest is credited to the Trustee interest funds each month and is regarded as a short term investment in these accounts.

b) The monies held in the CFB Mixed funds are regarded as long term investments and are revalued at mid-market value at each year end.

c) TMCP is the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds. Trust property is held for and on behalf of local Managing Trustees who are responsible for the day to day management of trust property. TMCP ensure that, through providing guidance and acting under their direction, the Managing Trustees comply with charity law and Methodist law and policy as determined by the Methodist Conference.

24. Central Finance Board (CFB) and Cash at Bank

The Circuit has three current accounts at Lloyds Bank plc, Barclays Bank Plc and HSBC Bank Plc all of which are authorised institutions. The sums held on these accounts are immediately available. In addition the Circuit has a deposit account at CFB, a common deposit fund. Interest is earned on that account and credited monthly; the sums deposited can be withdrawn without notice and without loss of interest. These sums are viewed as being liquid.

25. Creditors – amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Accruals	14,343	19,429
Assessments in advance	30,306	30,807
Other Creditors	2,629	3,208
	47,278	**53,444**

It is expected that all sums accrued at 31 August 2024 will be paid during the year to 31 August 2025.

Included within other creditors is an amount of £2,487 (2023 - £3,065) held within the Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit benevolent fund which is used to meet cases of need arising within the Circuit and which is controlled by the Circuit Meeting through the Circuit Leadership Team.

An amount of £- (2023 - £5,000) is held in respect of a grant made to Stratton Street that is due for payment in the coming year.

26. Unrestricted Funds

26.1 General Fund – balance of £1,415,303 at 31 August 2024 (2023 - £1,579,267)

The purpose of the fund is for use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the Circuit and which have not been designated for other purposes. About 90% of this fund is held as freehold properties for the use of Presbyters.

26.2 Other unrestricted Funds – balance of £1,220,415 at 31 August 2024 (2023 - £911,952)

These comprise the following four elements:

Model Trust Fund – balance of £1,213,442 at 31 August 2024 (2023 - £905,251)

These monies are not restricted in purpose but can only be used for projects that pass through the appropriate Circuit and TMCP authorisations.

Included within this fund is £261,158 (2023 £303,179) held for the purposes of supporting the City Centre Mission work within the Circuit

Revaluation Fund – balance of £6,973 at 31 August 2024 (2023 - £4,677)

These are the unrealised gains on the fixed asset investments held with TMCP. Once realised, these monies will be included as part of the Model Trust Fund and will be used in line with the purposes of that fund as outlined above.

26.2 Unrestricted Funds (Continued)

Designated Fund - Monies received on the ceasing to meet of Wednesfield Methodist Church – balance of £618 at 31 August 2024 (2023 - £2,024)

These monies will now be used by the Circuit after the disposal of Wednesfield Church.

27. Restricted Funds

These comprise the following:

a) Surplus Funds £ 4,876 (2023 - £4,166)

The restricted funds are the residual surplus funds left after the merger of the three Circuits some years ago. They can only be used for projects within the enlarged Circuit at the discretion of the Circuit meeting and TMCP. Added this year has been a small account held at TMCP by Bilston Methodist Church.

b) Endowed funds £ 51,491 (2023 - £51,585)

c) Endowed Funds Revaluation Fund £8,925 (2023 - £4,266)

The funds at (b) and (c) above were transferred to the Circuit by the Trustees of Wednesfield Methodist Church when they ceased to meet in the summer of 2017. These monies are currently restricted for use by the Trustees of the Circuit for projects related to the Wednesfield church buildings and surrounding area.

28. Funds

Unrestricted funds – Current year

Unrestricted Fund Name	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
General Fund	1,579,267	517,388	(703,912)	-	22,560	1,415,303
Circuit Model Trust Fund	905,251	526,035	(198,375)	-	(19,469)	1,213,442
Revaluation Fund	4,677	-	-	2,296	-	6,973
Totals	**2,489,195**	**1,043,423**	**(902,287)**	**2,296**	**3,091**	**2,635,718**

Unrestricted funds – Previous year

Unrestricted Fund Name	Opening balance £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
General Fund	1,563,009	523,253	(581,333)	-	74,338	1,579,267
Circuit Model Trust Fund	338,614	837,900	(195,493)		(75,770)	905,251
Revaluation Fund	6,065	-	-	(1,388)	-	4,677
Totals	**1,907,688**	**1,361,153**	**(776,826)**	**(1,388)**	**(1,432)**	**2,489,195**

28. Funds (continued)

The Circuit Model Trust Fund: this consists of income from legacy churches and property sales. They have wide purposes as defined by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) and are categorized as unrestricted. Permission must be sought from TMCP to call on money for specific building projects or to support the mission in general.

Designated funds – Current year

Designated Fund Name	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
Wednesfield Designated Funds	2,024	-	(1,406)	-	(618)	-
	2,024	**-**	**(1,406)**	**-**	**(618)**	**-**

Designated funds – Previous year

Designated Fund Name	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains (Losses) £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
Wednesfield Designated Fund	**3,659**	**249**	**(11,266)**	**-**	**9,382**	**2,024**
	3,659	**249**	**(11,266)**	**-**	**9,382**	**2,024**

Restricted funds – Current year

Restricted Fund Name	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
Surplus Funds Account	4,168	708	-	-	-	4,876
Wednesfield Endowed Funds	51,585	2,538	(159)	-	(2,473)	51,491
Wednesfield Endowed Revaluation Fund	4,266	-	-	4,659	-	8,925
Totals	**60,019**	**3,246**	**(159)**	**4,659**	**(2,473)**	**65,292**

Restricted funds – Previous year

Restricted Fund Name	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
Surplus Funds Account	10,358	-	-		(6,190)	4,168
Wednesfield Endowed Funds	51,585	1,926	(166)		(1,760)	51,585
Wednesfield Endowed Revaluation Fund	6,743	-	-	(2,477)	-	4,266
Totals	**68,686**	**1,926**	**(166)**	**(2,477)**	**(7,950)**	**60,019**

28. Funds (continued)

Surplus Funds Account: represents monies invested with TMCP which arose at the point the three Circuits came together to form the Wolverhampton Circuit some years ago. These monies are available for use to support mission and outreach projects within the Circuit.

29. Analysis of net assets between funds

	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds (Restricted) £	Totals 2024 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible fixed assets	1,244,001				1,244,001
Fixed asset investments		34,034		60,172	94,206
Current Assets					
Debtors	28,276				28,276
TMCP Investments		1,186,381		5,120	1,191,501
Deposit accounts	184,771				184,771
Cash at Bank and in hand	5,533				5,533
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(47,278)				(47,278)
Total	**1,415,303**	**1,220,415**	**-**	**65,292**	**2,701,010**

30. Related Party Transactions

As part of its normal operational structure, The Circuit makes contributions to the District and receives contributions from its member churches (details as per SOFA).

All of the Circuit trustees are members of one or another Church within the Circuit and may be Trustees in their own churches.

Connected organisations include the Methodist Connexion, other Circuits and Churches within the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District, CFB and TMCP. All of these entities have their own trustees or directors and autonomous administration such that the Circuit has no significant influence over any of them, nor they over the Circuit. They are, therefore, not considered related parties.

Transactions with connected parties during the year are as follows:

Names of Connected Organisations	Receipts £	Payments £
Donee: District Advance Fund	17,281	
Donor: Churches within the Circuit in respect of assessments	347,820	-
Donee: Grants to churches within the Circuit	-	

In addition to the above the Circuit paid the District assessment to the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District. This is detailed in the face of the statement of financial activities. There were no other related party transactions.

31. Volunteer contributions

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit, and Church) within the Methodist Church in GB is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. Principally this contribution is by serving on committees of the Circuit that deal with mission, manses, finance, policy, grants, training and development. We are grateful to all of them for their help and commitment.

32. Capital commitments and contingent liabilities

There were no capital commitments or contingent liabilities as at 31 August 2024 (2023 - £nil).

WOLVERHAMPTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1135146

Accounts

Circuit Number 2801

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 August 2023

(Charity Number 1135146)

Muras Baker Jones Limited
Chartered Accountants
Wolverhampton

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

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Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Administrative Information

Registered Charity Number	1135146	
Superintendent Minister:	Revd. Dr Joanne Cox-Darling	
Ministers in the active work:	Revd. Steve Jackson	Revd. Paul Nzacahayo
	Revd. Christopher Parkes	Revd. Teddy Siwila
	Revd. Rosemary Nash	Deacon Linda Gilson
Senior Steward:	David Crook	
Circuit Stewards:	James Peterson	Gabriel Gidi
	Andre Burns	Lesley Cook.
	Alan Eccles	Edward Bridgwood
Circuit Treasurer:	Rob Turton FCA	
Other Trustees:	Revd. Glennys Bamford	Revd. John Barrett
	Revd. Ken Collins	Revd. Margaret Heim
	Revd. Robert Readshaw	Revd. David Wheeler
	Revd. Trevor Pratt	Revd. Ivor Sperring
	Margaret Mottram	Sister Betty Vaughan
	Iris Gamble	Christine Lees
	Judy Brown	Sue Crook
	Richard French	Dorothy Howells
	Brenda Shuttleworth	Liz Macer –Wright
	Nicola Turner	George Tonks
	Sue Readshaw	Phillip Shuttleworth
	Lyn Price	Brian Juggins
	Diana Beaumont	Liz Porteous
	Elaine Jones	Jenny Ridgway
	Gill Silvester	Peter Share
	Eric Robinson	Janet Punfield
	Robert Fellows	Pauline Hurst
	Christine Westwood	Susan Whatmore
	Trevor Starling	Kathryn Ridge
	Marie Lane	Margaret Lowbridge
	Diane Cripps	Liz Green
	Nicola Jones	John Owen
	Gail Cresswell	Jonathan Mtsabiwa
	Beryl Batham	Michael Bateman
	Michael Dickenson	Nicola Field
	Sally Parker	Emma Veiro
	Dennis Doughty	Graham Howell
	Martin Cresswell	Sue Bate
	Nadine Brown	Steve Brown
	Jean Ordidge	Juliet Bangure
	Abigale Day	Ian Priest
	Dennis Doughty	Marilyn Pratt
	Naomi Fearnley	Nicki Hale
	Janet Evans	Melvyn Mottram

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Administrative Information

Registered Office:	Beckminster Methodist Church Birches Barn Road Penn Fields Wolverhampton West Midlands WV3 7BQ
Charity:	1135146
Auditors	Muras Baker Jones Limited Regent House Bath Avenue Wolverhampton West Midlands WV1 4EG
Bankers:	Lloyds Bank Plc Queen Square Wolverhampton West Midlands WV1 1TF Barclays Bank Plc Queen Square Wolverhampton West Midlands HSBC Bank Plc Queen Square Wolverhampton West Midlands Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church 9 Bonhill Street London EC2A 4PE
Investment advisors:	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes(TMCP) Central Buildings Oldham Street Manchester M1 1JQ
Solicitors:	Anthony Collins LLP 134 Edmund Street Birmingham B3 2ES

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Trustees Report

For the year ended 31 August 2023

Objects and Activities of the Circuit

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.

The objectives outlined above are achieved through the strategic direction of the Circuit Leadership team and the Circuit meeting. The Leadership team meet at least 6 times a year and the Circuit meeting at least 3 times a year to review and implement objectives, monitor our discipleship and to receive regulatory information either from the Methodist Church or other means.

Public Benefit

We confirm the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The work which we carry out with our Churches and the Communities in which they are situated is designed for the benefit of all. It not only supports our Church members but also provides the resources required to deliver mission and outreach to the most needy in our Society. This is achieved in various ways through the use of our Church buildings to work with people and organisations, through support of local food bank and homelessness projects and also through other forms of partnership working within our Local Communities.

Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document for the circuit is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976).

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference. These are updated annually.

Day to day management of the circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team, which comprises of the Superintendent Minister, the Ministerial Team and the Circuit Stewards. Together they represent the key management team. They are supported by the Local Preachers meeting, the Circuit Finance and Property Committee and the Circuit Policy Committee.

The Circuit Leadership team is accountable to the Members of the Circuit meeting who are also Trustees of the Circuit.

Trustee Training

A range of guidance is produced by the Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the circuit, specifically the leaflet 'The Role of a Trustee in The Methodist Church' is given to all new Circuit meeting members as induction to their role as trustees.

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Trustees Report

For the year ended 31 August 2023

Related Parties

The Circuit is part of the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District of the Methodist Church and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The following Methodist Churches are members of the circuit:

Beckminster
Bilston
Bradley
Brewood
Codsall
Cranmer
Coven
East Park
Fallings Park
Hurst hill
Lanesfield
Rakegate
Springdale
St Johns
Stratton Street
Upper Ettingshall
Wombourne

As previously reported Darlington Street Methodist Church ceased to meet on 30 September 2019 and the Trustees of the Circuit were responsible for its management and upkeep to the point of the disposal of its Church buildings in October 2021. The net proceeds of sale of the property of £302,918 were held by the District but agreement was reached after the year end for these monies to be placed into the Circuit Model Trust fund with the specific aim of supporting the City Centre Mission work commenced through the appointment of a Deacon on 1 September 2021. This money was received into the Circuit in November 2022.

Further to this the Circuit continues to manage Wednesfield Methodist Church ,whose congregation ceased to meet several years ago, and Stowlawn Methodist Church ,whose congregation ceased to meet in 2021.These properties are currently held for disposal and the Circuit is bearing the costs associated with the Church Buildings until they can be sold.

In addition to the above St Andrews United Reformed/Methodist Church based in Sedgley remains part of the Circuit under a sharing arrangement with the United Reformed Church.

Review of Activities

In designing and monitoring the activities of the Charity, the Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commissions guidance on public benefit as further detailed on page 4. The review of activities in the following sections demonstrates how the Charity has provided benefit directly to the churches which comprise the Circuit and thereby to the local congregations and wider local communities involved with those churches.

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Trustees Report

For the year ended 31 August 2023

General Review

The Circuit continues to be an active and major member of the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District. Locally, and within our own Circuit boundaries, the Circuit has continued to support the congregations and communities that our Churches serve. It has achieved this with the support of 7 ordained Presbyters who received stipends for their roles. The Circuit also employs several key lay support workers who are paid for from Church contributions, donations and Circuit funds.

Additional support continued to be provided by retired ministers who continued to have closer day to day involvement with several of our smaller congregations.

The local churches continue to provide programmes of worship, pastoral care and community involvement under the leadership of Ministers, lay employees and local Church Trustees.

On 31 August 2023 Rev Samantha Haggerman left the Circuit to become the Superintendent Minister of the Cannock Chase Circuit. We thank her for the service that she gave to the Circuit during her time with us.

On 1 September 2023 we welcomed Rev Christopher Parkes to the Circuit on a reduced hour's basis.

Activities and Future Plans

As part of the on-going development of the Mission of the Circuit and of its objectives, the Circuit conducted a structural review several years ago. The Circuit Leadership Team have taken this forward during the year and have developed a circuit vision for the future which has been shared with our Circuit meeting and Churches. The aim being to improve our use of resources, to provide missional leadership to support growth and to ease the current burden on our Presbyters and Leadership Team, all of this whilst acknowledging that our problems are the same as those the Church faces generally in the light of a general lack of people able to carry out the roles that Church Trusteeship requires in the modern world.

The structure finally agreed upon by the Circuit meeting is currently being laid before individual Church Councils with the aim that Churches will report back into the February 2024 Circuit meeting with a final vote on the structure then taken. If agreed the structure from 1 September 2025 will see the formation of 3 hubs of equal size together with the City Centre Mission work which will remain as it is now. As an LEP St Andrews will remain as part of the Circuit but will not be part of a hub.

The hub structures will eventually see each hub registered as a Charity with their own Trustee body who will oversee the running and finances of the Churches in the hub.

In February 2023 the activities and finances of the City Centre Pioneer Ministry, led by Nicola Turner, were transferred to the Circuit having previously been a shared responsibility with the Lichfield Diocise. The transfer will further strengthen our City Centre missional work.

The property at Fordhouses was sold as planned in late 2022. Stowlawn has also been marketed successfully and a sale of this property was completed in November 2023.The property at Wednesfield is currently under offer and it is hoped will proceed to a sale before the end of 2023.The empty manse at Lewis Street, Bilston, is also on the market for disposal and will be auctioned during the current year.

The eventual disposal of the above properties will take a considerable burden away from the Circuit finances and leadership and also reduce the outgoings of the Circuit.

The Ministers, Trustees and senior leadership team continue to believe that the implementation of the Strategic Vision for the Circuit as described above will leave it better placed to react to areas of need in the future across an area where there are significant differences in wealth with many of our Communities located in areas of significant deprivation and diverse beliefs where currently the cost of living crisis is further exacerbating matters.

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

- The care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults;
- The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable;
- The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse;
- We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes;
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation;
- We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care;
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust;
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult;
- In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

Safeguarding continues to be an important area of consideration for the Church and we continue to work with the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District and the wider connection in order to ensure that our policies, training and practices meet all of the statutory and legal requirements in this area.

Major Activities

The year to 31 August 2023 continued to present significant challenges that the Circuit has had to deal with. The effects of some of these, some of which are being caused by the cost of living and energy crisis, have not yet been fully felt within our Communities and we will continue to carry out work to help in these areas.

One of our Churches, Bilston Methodist Church, took the decision during the year to cease to meet and its final service was held on 30 November 2023. The responsibility for the Church will transfer to the Circuit on that date. The potential uses of the Church building are currently under consideration and, as yet, no firm decision has been taken on retention or disposal of the buildings .This will be done in the coming months.

Further to the above there continue to be several other Churches within the Circuit who are struggling to cope financially and the Circuit continues to work with those churches, both through short term support and longer term planning (through our vision work), in order to find sustainable solutions for the future which further the objects that we have as a Methodist Circuit whilst continuing to help our local congregations and communities. As part of this response an asset review involving all churches has been undertaken and has been fed into the planned future Hub structure of the Circuit.

Our City Centre Mission work led by Deacon Linda Gilson continues to develop and grow and, as mentioned earlier, it has been further strengthened by bringing the work of the Wolverhampton Pioneer Ministry under our control. The ministry will operate as part of the Missional work being undertaken by Deacon Linda Gilson. Funding for this work will come from the Model Trust monies held following the sale of Darlington Street together with the balance of the monies held within WPM at the point of the transfer of responsibility. These amounted to just over £33000.This is an exciting development for the Circuit and its Mission and we are already seeing signs of how this missional work is benefiting the City.

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Leadership Team and Circuit meeting with professional advice taken as required. These centre around, the effects of Covid-19 (where risk assessments and opening protocols for each property have been put in place by local Trustees after approval by the Circuit leadership team) property (Manses and Churches) maintenance costs and finally the need to stay up to date with safeguarding protocols and procedures and with GDPR legislation.

Income and Expenditure continues to be monitored throughout the year both in total and in detail and is compared with the approved annual budget on a half yearly basis to detect trends as part of the risk management process and to avoid unplanned calls upon reserves.

The Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit has committed itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.

It has also committed itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Trustees Report

For the year ended 31 August 2023

Financial Report

The result for the year shows an overall surplus of £571,207 (2022 deficit – £93,856). The result is split across funds as follows:

General fund	£ 16,258	(2022 - £106,651)	Surplus (deficit)
Circuit Model Trust Fund	£565,249	(2022 - £26,969)	Surplus (deficit)
Designated Funds	£(1,635)	(2022 - £3,227)	Deficit for both years
Restricted Funds	£(8,667)	(2022 - £10,947)	Deficit for both years

The principal elements affecting the result for the year are as follows:

A) The General Fund produced a surplus for the year of £16,258 (2022 – deficit £106,651) after transfers from other Funds. Before transfers the fund was in deficit by £58,080 (2022 - £74,389). The pre-transfer result is after depreciation of £27,201 (2022 - £19,080) has been charged.

The actual result before depreciation was a deficit of £30,879 (2022 - £55,309). This is explained by the decision the Circuit took in previous years to fund a deficit budget. This is the case in the current year too.

In total net transfers of £74,338 (2022 - £32,262) were made from other funds. These were largely monies withdrawn from Model Trust Funds to support the ongoing work of the Circuit and the City Centre Mission post.

At the end of the year the General reserves stood at £1,579,267 (2022 - £1,563,009) and principally comprised Fixed assets (being manses and related costs) and net current assets held for working capital purposes.

B) The Circuit Model Trust fund produced an operating surplus before transfers of £565,249 (2022 -£13,729) principally as a result of the receipt of monies through the District in respect of the Darlington Street sale, together with the proceeds from the sale of Ford houses Methodist Church .These amounts were received after deduction of the levy taken on sale proceeds and the annual levy on the value of the funds held at TMCP. The principal transfers during the year were to cover the ongoing expenditure referred to above.

At the year end the Model Trust Fund stood at £909,928 (2022 - £344,678). These monies are held and administered by TMCP within investment and deposit accounts.

C) The designated funds relate to the activities at Wednesfield Methodist Church. Activities at Wednesfield produced a deficit of £1,635 (2022 – £2,351). This arose largely as a result of the loss of income after the decision was taken to market the property for sale. During the year net transfers in were made of £9,382 (2022 - £876) to cover most of the ongoing costs being experienced by the Circuit whilst the property is marketed.

D) The restricted fund produced a deficit (2021 - Surplus) after transfers of £8,667(2022 - £3,387). Income for the year arose largely due to the receipt of interest and dividends on monies held within TMCP and losses arose largely as result of investment losses (2021 - Gains) on endowed Funds and transfers of £7,950 made to other funds. Net investment income of £1,926 (2022 - £876) was transferred to the designated fund for Wednesfield Methodist Church during the year.

Financial Report (Cont.)

The other movements on restricted funds related to the Surplus Funds account. At the year end, restricted funds amounted to £60,019 (£68,686).These monies are held in a mix of TMCP Investment and deposit accounts.

The Circuit Trustees are satisfied with the overall result achieved for the year against the backdrop of the economic constraints which affect us all.

The Budget set for 2023/24 is for a deficit position as Churches continue to struggle to meet the levels of assessment that the Circuit requires. Trustees continue to monitor against this.

Going Concern

The Trustees have prepared detailed forecasts through to 31 August 2025. These have been reviewed, and stress tested, particularly for a fall in income during that period resulting from the inability of Churches to meet assessments fully in the year ended 31 August 2025.

Based upon the forecasts and their review the Trustees believe that the Circuit has adequate financial resources available to enable it to carry on operating as a Going concern for the foreseeable future.

Investment Policy and Performance

To comply with Methodist Standing Orders, monies for short and long term investment are lodged with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP). In addition TMCP acts as custodian trustee for all real estate held by Circuits and for all large (individually over £20k) bequests and for the proceeds of sale of any property formerly owned by the Circuit. These sums are invested in unitised investments or held on deposit. The capital returns are close to tracking the movements in the FTSE100 index. The income mirrors the deposit rates available elsewhere. Both the Central Finance Board (CFB) and TMCP take into consideration social, environmental and ethical considerations, both negatively and positively, in establishing investment policy.

Short term deposits are lodged directly with the CFB and attract good rates of interest.

There are no benchmarks for the expected returns or appreciation on investments at TMCP and CFB. It is the Circuit's policy to manage the cash and investment resources of the Circuit so that a rate of return on investment – both by way of dividend and capital appreciation – is obtained at least as good as market rate considering our low appetite for risk.

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Trustees Report

For the year ended 31 August 2023

Reserves policy

The Circuit has a reserves policy covering its unrestricted funds which is reviewed annually.

Our policy is to ensure that there are sufficient free reserves available to maintain and secure the viability and future of the Circuit whilst ensuring through openness and transparency that its resources are being used for its charitable purposes. The Trustees are of the view that at 31 August 2023 free reserves meet these criteria. The reserves held at the end of the year were as follows:

	£
Unrestricted funds	
General Fund	1,579,267
Model Trust Fund	909,928
	2,489,195
Designated funds	
Wednesfield Methodist Church Funds	2,024
	2,023
Total unrestricted funds	**2,491,219**
Surplus Funds	4,168
Endowed Funds from Wednesfield Methodist Church	55,851
Total restricted funds	**60,019**
Total funds	**2,551,238**
Less: Tied up in freehold property and fixtures	(1,450,771)
Restricted Funds	(60,019)
	(1,510,790)
Total readily available reserves	**1,040,448**

All funds are separately invested either with CFB or TMCP. No money is directly invested in property, securities or other forms of investment.

Reserves policy (continued)

The financial position of the Circuit remains healthy in that its resources are not only sufficient to meet future known liabilities but also sufficient for the Circuit to carry out its plans for the following year.

Purposes of the funds

General Fund: this provides the working capital necessary for the day to day operation of the Circuit.

Model Trust Fund: this money is held in reserve to support capital and revenue projects within the Circuit including the purchase of and major items of maintenance within manse properties. Monies can only be used with the agreement of Trustees of the Circuit through TMCP.

Designated reserves: these reserves are held to support the mission work associated with Wednesfield Methodist Church.

Restricted Funds: are held for use on specific projects related to those funds and they can only be used for these purposes with the approval of Trustees and TMCP.

Statement of Disclosure to Auditors

So far as the Trustees believe there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors have not been made aware.

The Trustees have taken all the steps they ought to have taken as Trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

This report is signed on behalf of the Trustees.



Reverend Dr Joanne Cox-Darling
Superintendent Minister

Date: 16 April 2024

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Statement of Circuit Members' Responsibilities

For the year ended 31 August 2023

The members are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the members to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the members are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The members are responsible for keeping accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Independent Auditors' Report to the members of Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

For the year ended 31 August 2023

Opinion

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

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company 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

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

- the trustees use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least 12 months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Independent Auditors' Report to the members of Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

For the year ended 31 August 2023

Other information

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

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

Responsibilities of Circuit Members

As explained more fully in the Circuit Members' Responsibilities Statement, the members 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 members 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 members 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 directors either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

In planning and designing our audit tests we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement within the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. Our assessment of these risks includes consideration of the nature of the industry and sector, the control environment and the charity performance along with the results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of risks and irregularities. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override. We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charitable company operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Companies Act, Charities Act, UK tax legislation and other laws and regulations identified as risk areas identified from our discussions with management.

We communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members including internal specialists, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

After consideration of the above risks we then carried out audit procedures including the following:

- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of trustees meetings;
- reviewing correspondence with H M Revenue & Customs;
- enquiring of management and reviewing any correspondence with legal advisors concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that the laws and regulations are from financial transactions the less likely it is that we would be aware on non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

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 auditor's report.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Muras Baker Jones Limited
Statutory Auditor
Regent House
Bath Avenue
Wolverhampton
West Midlands
WV1 4EG

Date: 16 April 2024

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA)

For the year ended 31 August 2023

	Note	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Totals 2023 £**	Totals 2022 £
Income							
Donations and legacies	9						1,000.00
Charitable activities:							
Assessment or share	6	362,707				**362,707**	360,378
Grants	8		305,030			**305,030**	1,133
Other income	10	157,359		249		**157,608**	109,607
Investment income:							
Income from monetary investments		3,187	24,879		1,926	**29,992**	4,514
Property disposal	7		507,991			**507,991**	120,943
Total Income		**523,253**	**837,900**	**249**	**1,926**	**1,363,328**	597,575
Expenditure on							
Charitable activities:							
Salaries and associated costs	12	382,425				**382,425**	362,488
District assessment		90,737				**90,737**	90,524
MTF levy			16,294			**16,294**	13,212
Property Costs	14	50,657		11,266		**61,923**	69,074
Office Expenses	15	11,763				**11,763**	12,381
Depreciation		27,200				**27,200**	19,080
Other outgoings	16, 17	17,551	179,199		166	**196,916**	116,686
Grants and donations	11	1,000				**1,000**	1,000
Total Expenditure		**581,333**	**195,493**	**11,266**	**166**	**788,258**	684,445
Net Income/ (expenditure)		**(58,080)**	**642,407**	**(11,017)**	**1,760**	**575,070**	(86,870)
Gains/(deficits) on investments			**(1,388)**		**(2,477)**	**(3,865)**	(6,986)
Transfers between funds	18	**74,338**	**(75,770)**	**9,382**	**(7,950)**	**-**	-
Net movement in funds		**16,258**	**565,249**	**(1,635)**	**(8,667)**	**571,205**	(93,856)
Total funds brought forward		1,563,009	344,679	3,659	68,686	**1,980,033**	2,073,888
Total funds carried forward at end of year		**1,579,267**	**909,928**	**2,024**	**60,019**	**2,551,238**	1,980,032

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Statement of financial position

As at 31 August 2023

	Note	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	**Totals 2023 £**	Totals 2022 £
Fixed Assets							
Tangible fixed assets	19	1,450,771				**1,450,771**	1,477,226
Investments with TMCP	20		31,402		55,851	**87,253**	90,882
Current Assets	21	65,065				**65,065**	31,517
Debtors	22		878,526		4,168	**882,694**	322,482
Investments with TMCP Central Finance Board	22	111,454				**111,454**	98,017
Deposits Cash at Bank and in hand	22	5,421		2,024		**7,445**	17,595
		181,941	878,526	2,024	4,168	**1,066,658**	469,611
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	25	53,444				**53,444**	57,687
Net current assets		128,496	878,526	2,024	4,166	**1,013,214**	411,924
Total assets less current liabilities		1,579,267	909,928	2,024	60,019	**2,551,247**	1,980,032
Net assets		**1,579,267**	**909,928**	**2,024**	**60,019**	**2,551,238**	1,980,032
Funds of the circuit							
General Fund (Unrestricted)	26.1	1,579,267				**1,579,267**	1,563,008
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)	26.2		905,251			**905,251**	338,613
Revaluation Fund (Unrestricted)	26.2		4,677			**4,677**	6,065
Designated Fund (Unrestricted)	26.2			2,024		**2,024**	3,659
Other Funds (Restricted)	27				55,751	**55,751**	61,943
Revaluation Fund (Restricted)	27				4,268	**4,268**	6,743
Total Funds	28	**1,579,267**	**909,928**	**2,024**	**60,019**	**2,551,238**	1,980,032

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 16 Nov 24 and signed on their behalf by:

Mr R Turton - Treasurer

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Cash flow statement

For the year ended 31 August 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Cash from operating activities			
Surplus(Deficit) for the year		575,070	(86,870)
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation		27,200	19,080
Decrease/(increase) in debtors		(33,548)	6,836
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		(4,243)	(6,271)
Surplus on Fixed Asset disposal		(507,991)	(120,943)
		(518,581)	**(101,298)**
Net cash generated by (used in)operating activities		**56,489**	(188,168)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible assets		(745)	(60,050)
Purchase of fixed asset investments		(236)	(167)
Proceeds from Fixed Asset disposal		507,991	287,301
Net cash (used in)/from investing activities		**507,010**	**227,084**
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the period		563,499	38,916
Cash and cash equivalents at start of period		438,094	399,178
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	22	**1,001,593**	**438,094**

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Notes to the accounts

As at 31 August 2023

1. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective from 1 January 2015) – (the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

The Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

2. Accounting policies

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities - Charities SORP (FRS102).

These accounts have been prepared on the accruals basis and on the basis of historical cost except that investments are shown at their market value at the end of the year in order to show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £ Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

Funds

The funds held constitute General Funds held for any purpose of the Circuit which are unrestricted. The Circuit Model Trust Fund has wide purposes defined in standing orders and is categorized as unrestricted. Restricted funds are held for a narrower purpose and include Endowment funds which represent gifts, the capital normally being unavailable for spending and the income from which is either Restricted or Unrestricted. Details of each material fund are disclosed in note 28 to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

Taxation

The charity, is a registered charity and has no taxable activities.

Pension costs

The Circuit is a member of the Connexional pension scheme (MMPS) which covers presbyters and deacons of the Methodist Church. The contribution rates are set each year by the Methodist Conference. The MMPS is a multi-employer scheme and in accordance with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission, the Circuit accounts for these contributions as if it were a defined contribution scheme.

The Circuit also has one lay employee enrolled in a defined contribution pension scheme administered by Nest Pension. Employer contributions are made at a rate of 6% to this scheme on behalf of employees who are members.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

Going concern

Based upon operational budgets and cash flow projections together with the close monitoring of the continuing effect of Covid-19 restrictions upon the income raising ability of Churches, the trustees believe that the Circuit has adequate financial resources available to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Financial Statements therefore continue to be prepared using the going concern basis of accounting.

Consolidation

The Circuit oversees the work of ministers and lay workers in Churches within the Circuit but does not have control over those Churches, Ministers or lay workers except in extreme circumstances, none of which were applicable. For this reason, the financial statements of the Churches within the Circuit are not consolidated into these financial statements.

Income recognition

Income is brought into account when it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will accrue to the Circuit. No attempt is made to measure the value of services donated by volunteers.

Individual amounts categorised as Other Income in the SOFA are shown separately if they are considered to be material.

Donations are recognised in the statement of financial activities when they are receivable.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

The Circuit acts as agent in one matter:

- the collection from churches and payment over of their contributions to various funds administered and controlled by The Methodist Church in England and Wales.

In these circumstances the transactions are not reflected in the SOFA because there is no obligation on the Circuit.

Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings in the statement of financial activities as appropriate.

Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the Circuit to pay out resources.

Grants

Grants are recognised in full when the award is made and once the Circuit accepts that there is an obligation to make the payment and that payment is probable.

VAT

Since the Circuit is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged within the expense headings upon which it was paid.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000. The freehold property, being church manses, is shown in the accounts at its deemed historical cost at 1 September 2015, being the properties insurance reinstatement value as calculated by the Circuit's Insurers, Methodist Insurance Limited, less any subsequent depreciation.

No depreciation is provided on the land element of the manses whilst the building element is depreciated straight line over a useful economic life of 75 years. There is one exception to this where the cost of improvement works to a manse is being written off over a 5 year period to accord with its estimated useful life. All properties have been reviewed for impairment. Depreciation is provided on fixtures and fittings at the rate of 20% per annum from the date that the fixtures are brought into use by the Circuit.

Investments

The investments of the Circuit are held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees. The valuations, at market value, are those provided by TMCP. The unrealised gains and deficits arising on investments at the end of the year are shown in the SOFA.

Receivables and Payables; Bank and Cash

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the Circuit or the amount prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any related discounts, where normal credit terms apply, or the amount advanced to the Circuit. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds comprising of bank balances and deposit account balances are shown at their realisable values.

3. Glossary of terms

CFB: Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church manages a Common Deposit Fund and a series of pooled investment funds for Methodist entities in Great Britain and provides investment advice to those bodies.

Church: a group of members from fewer than 10 to more than 300.

Circuit: a group of Methodist Churches near each other, typically between 10 and 30.

MTF: Circuit Model Trust Fund.

Connexion: The Methodist Church in GB which includes the Head Office at Methodist Church House, all Methodist Districts, Circuits and Churches in Great Britain.

District: a group of contiguous Circuits, usually between 15 and 30.

SOFA: Statement of Financial Activities.

SORP: Statement of Recommended Practice.

TMCP: Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds.

4. Payment to Trustees

None of the Trustees received any remuneration during the year (2022 - £nil).

Trustees were reimbursed expenses during the year, consisting of reimbursement of travel and sundry office costs.

	2023	2022
Number of trustees who were paid expenses	**1**	1

	2023 £	2022 £
Total amount paid	**202**	43

5. Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

	2023 £	2022 £
Included within 'other expenditure' are the following:		
Auditors' fee for reporting on the accounts	**2,460**	3,050

6. Assessments on Churches

The Circuit comprises the Churches referred to within the Trustees report.

Church Assessments are determined annually and approved by the Circuit meeting using a formulaic methodology which takes into account the size of the Church, the ability of the Church to pay, its income and the ministerial input to it.

In addition, St Andrews Methodist/URC church in Sedgley is also part of the Circuit but until 31 August 2021 was under the responsibility of the URC under a sharing Agreement. From 1 September 2021 the Church has been the responsibility of the Methodist Circuit under the same sharing agreement. Under this agreement it paid £39,672 (2022 - £38,000) which is included in the total assessments of £362,707 (2022 - £360,378) included within these accounts.

At the year end, amounts totalling £796 (2022 - £63) were owed to the Circuit in respect of assessments. These amounts are all being collected after the year end.

7. Profit on Sale of Fixed Assets

During the year the Circuit disposed of one empty Church realising a surplus of £ 507,991. TMCP also took a levy on sale proceeds of £179,197. Under Methodist convention the net proceeds of sale were placed into the Circuit Model Trust Fund for future use.

One Manse was disposed of in 2022 realising a surplus of £120,943 over book value. A levy was paid to TMCP on gross sale proceeds of £90,920.

8. Grants

The Circuit was in receipt of grants from District Funds totalling £nil (2022 - £1,133).

During the year the empty Church at Darlington Street was disposed of with the proceeds being paid into a District Fund in accordance with Methodist Protocols. The Circuit applied for the net proceeds to be granted to the Circuit to fund the important work of our City Centre Mission. This application was successful and an amount of £305,030 was received into our Model Trust Fund during the year. This amount is ring-fenced for City Centre mission work as further detailed in Note 26.

9. Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies totalling £nil (2022 - £1,000) were received into the General Fund and £nil (£nil) into the Model Trust Fund during the current year.

10. Other Charitable income

The Circuit was in receipt of the following other income:

	General £	Designated £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Church lay contributions	66,725		66,725	48,123
Rent from empty manses	12,650		12,650	14,736
Use of Wednesfield Church premises	-	-	-	3,707
Shared Costs of Minister shared with Queens College	25,024		25,024	23,942
Sundry Income including donations to the work of the city centre mission of £44,673	52,960	249	53,209	19,099
	157,359	249	157,608	109,607

11. Grants and donations

During the year the Circuit made grants to Churches and others as follows:

	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Trinity Codsall	1,000	1,000
	1,000	**1,000**

12. Staff costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Staff costs paid during the year were:		
Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind	287,484	264,287
Employer's National Insurance costs	21,581	19,250
Pension costs	51,223	49,319
Other non-payroll costs	22,137	29,632
Total staff costs	**382,425**	**362,488**
Average number of full-time equivalent employees in the year were:	**18**	**16**

No employee earned more than £60,000 (2021 - £60,000) in the year.

The costs can be summarised between ministry and lay worker support as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Ministry	283,327	278,441
Gross cost of lay support	99,098	84,047
	382,425	**362,488**

Gross lay support costs are part funded through Church lay contributions as detailed in note 10 above totalling £65,848 (2022 - £48,123). The Cost of lay support therefore funded directly by the Circuit was £33,250 (2021 - £35,924).

The presbyters and the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) are also Trustees of the Circuit. Other than presbyters no member of the CLT received any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the Circuit although certain travelling and administration costs were reimbursed relating to specific meetings or projects.

13. Pensions

Most ordained presbyters and deacons are members of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS). This is a defined benefit scheme. The Supreme Court held in 2014 that Methodist ministers (which term includes presbyters and deacons) are not employees of the Church. For simplicity, however, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions and pension contributions, the terms 'employer' and 'employee' are used as they would be in an employing body.

On the other hand, lay employees are contractually employees and have the option of joining a pension scheme. At the year end, there was 1 (2021 - 1) employee who was a member of such a scheme, the scheme being provided by NEST which is a defined contribution scheme.

13. Pensions (Cont)

The MMPS is in deficit but a plan for removal of the deficit has been proposed and is being implemented. Details of the deficit on the schemes can be found in the Annual Report and Accounts of The Methodist Church at www.methodist.org.uk.

14. Property costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Property Maintenance	8,137	11,085
Rental of manses	16,581	16,978
Insurance	13,252	17,038
Utilities (principally rates, light and heat at Wednesfield, Stowlawn and Fordhouses and water rates)	23,953	23,973
	61,923	**69,074**

The above Costs include £11,265 (2022 - £3,021) incurred in respect of the Wednesfield property and this has been charged to the Designated Fund.

The above costs include £nil (2022 - £4,970) in respect of the Circuit's responsibilities for Darlington Street Methodist Church after its congregation ceased to meet. The costs also include £3082 (2022 - £nil) in respect of the Church at Stowlawn which is now the ongoing responsibility of the Circuit until it is disposed of.

15. Office expenses

	2023	2022
	£	£
Printing, postage and stationery	1,601	561
Use of office and facilities	6,296	4,913
Audit fee	3,460	3,050
Training	400	3,857
	11,763	**12,381**

16. Other outgoings

	2023 £	2022 £
Pulpit supply	5,185	5,618
Inspections and legal fees	11,716	15,996
Sundry outgoings	156	178
Mission and outreach	495	2,884
TMCP levies (charged to MTF and Restricted Fund)	179,364	92,010
	196,916	**116,686**

The TMCP levies include £179,197 (2022 - £90,090) paid on the net sale proceeds realised upon the sale of one church in the year.

17. Investment management

During the year the Circuit paid £1,011 (2022 - £913) to TMCP, the custodians of the District's investments within the MTF.

18. Transfers between funds

A sum of £6,396 (2022 - £6,181) was withdrawn from the Restricted Surplus Funds account to contribute to the mission work of the Circuit and £877 (2022 - £1,380) to contribute to ongoing Circuits costs. A net sum of £76,663 (2022 - £40,699) was transferred from the Model Trust Fund to the General Fund in respect of monies required to support the work of the City Centre Mission

A sum of £9,382 was transferred from the General Fund to the designated fund in order to cover the running costs of the Wednesfield Church

19. Tangible fixed assets

Cost or valuation	Manses £	Fixtures, fittings and Equipment £	Total £
At 31 August 2022	1,562,660	86,665	1,649,325
Additions		745	745
Disposals			
At 31 August 2023	**1,562,660**	**87,410**	**1,650,070**
Depreciation			
At 31 August 2022	98,659	73,440	172,098
Charge for year	23,062	4,138	27,200
Disposals			
At 31 August 2023	**121,721**	**77,578**	**199,299**
Net book value			
At 31 August 2022	1,464,001	13,225	1,477,226
At 31 August 2023	**1,440,939**	**9,832**	**1,450,771**

20. Fixed Asset Investments

	2023 £	**2022 £**
Cost brought forward	90,882	97,701
Additions	236	167
Unrealised (losses)/gains on revaluation	(3,865)	(6,986)
Cost carried forward	**87,253**	**90,882**

21. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade Debtors	796	63
Prepayments and other debtors	61,484	28,594
Short term loans	2785	2,860
	65,065	31,517

22. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise the following:

	2023 £	2022 £
Investments with TMCP	882,694	322,482
Central Finance Board deposits	111,454	98,017
Cash at bank and in hand	7,445	17,595
	1,001,593	**438,094**

23. Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

a) The funds that support the Model Trust Fund and the Restricted Fund are held by TMCP in Trustees Interest Funds and in CFB mixed funds. Interest is credited to the Trustee interest funds each month and is regarded as a short term investment in these accounts.

b) The monies held in the CFB Mixed funds are regarded as long term investments and are revalued at mid-market value at each year end.

c) TMCP is the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds. Trust property is held for and on behalf of local Managing Trustees who are responsible for the day to day management of trust property. TMCP ensure that, through providing guidance and acting under their direction, the Managing Trustees comply with charity law and Methodist law and policy as determined by the Methodist Conference.

24. Central Finance Board (CFB) and Cash at Bank

The Circuit has three current accounts at Lloyds Bank plc, Barclays Bank Plc and HSBC Bank Plc all of which are authorised institutions. The sums held on these accounts are immediately available. In addition the Circuit has a deposit account at CFB, a common deposit fund. Interest is earned on that account and credited monthly; the sums deposited can be withdrawn without notice and without loss of interest. These sums are viewed as being liquid.

25. Creditors – amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Accruals	19,429	28,937
Assessments in advance	30,807	26,877
Other Creditors	3,208	1,873
	53,444	**57,687**

It is expected that all sums accrued at 31 August 2023 will be paid during the year to 31 August 2024.

Included within other creditors is an amount of £3,065 (2022 - £1,729) held within the Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit benevolent fund which is used to meet cases of need arising within the Circuit and which is controlled by the Circuit Meeting through the Circuit Leadership Team.

An amount of £5,000 (2022 - £5,000) is held in respect of a grant made to Stratton Street that is due for payment in the coming year.

26. Unrestricted Funds

26.1 General Fund – balance of £1,579,267 at 31 August 2023 (2022 - £1,563,008)

The purpose of the fund is for use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the Circuit and which have not been designated for other purposes. About 90% of this fund is held as freehold properties for the use of Presbyters.

26.2 Other unrestricted Funds – balance of £911,952 at 31 August 2023 (2022 - £348,337)

These comprise the following four elements:

Model Trust Fund – balance of £905,251 at 31 August 2023 (2022 - £309,433)

These monies are not restricted in purpose but can only be used for projects that pass through the appropriate Circuit and TMCP authorisations.

Included within this fund is £ 303,179 (2022£ Nil) held for the purposes of supporting the City Centre Mission work within the Circuit

Revaluation Fund – balance of £4,677 at 31 August 2023 (2022 - £6,065)

These are the unrealised gains on the fixed asset investments held with TMCP. Once realised, these monies will be included as part of the Model Trust Fund and will be used in line with the purposes of that fund as outlined above.

26.2 Unrestricted Funds (Continued)

Designated Fund - Monies received on the ceasing to meet of Wednesfield Methodist Church – balance of £2,024 at 31 August 2023 (2022 - £3,659)

These monies have been ring fenced for the development of a mission based project in the Wednesfield Church buildings.

27. Restricted Funds

These comprise the following:

a) Surplus Funds £4,166 (2022 - £10,358)

The restricted funds are the residual surplus funds left after the merger of the three Circuits some years ago. They can only be used for projects within the enlarged Circuit at the discretion of the Circuit meeting and TMCP.

b) Endowed funds £51,585 (2022 - £51,585)

c) Endowed Funds Revaluation Fund £4,268 (2022 - £6,743)

The funds at (b) and (c) above were transferred to the Circuit by the Trustees of Wednesfield Methodist Church when they ceased to meet in the summer of 2017. These monies are currently restricted for use by the Trustees of the Circuit for projects related to the Wednesfield church buildings and surrounding area.

28. Funds

Unrestricted funds – Current year

Unrestricted Fund Name	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
General Fund	1,563,009	523,253	(581,333)		74,338	1,579,267
Circuit Model Trust Fund	338,614	837,900	(195,493)		(75,770)	905,251
Revaluation Fund	6,065			(1,388)		4,677
Totals	**1,907,688**	**1,361,153**	**(776,826)**	**(1,388)**	**(1,432)**	**2,489,195**

Unrestricted funds – Previous year

Unrestricted Fund Name	Opening balance £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
General Fund	1,669,659	589,696	(664,085)		(32,262)	1,563,009
Circuit Model Trust Fund	309,433	2,607	(14,125)		40,699	338,614
Revaluation Fund	8,276			(2,211)		6,065
Totals	**1,987,368**	**592,303**	**(678,210)**	**(2,211)**	**8,437**	**1,907,688**

28. Funds (continued)

The Circuit Model Trust Fund: this consists of income from legacy churches and property sales. They have wide purposes as defined by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) and are categorized as unrestricted. Permission must be sought from TMCP to call on money for specific building projects or to support the mission in general.

Designated funds – Current year

Designated Fund Name	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
Wednesfield Designated Funds	**3,659**	**249**	**(11,266)**	-	**9,382**	**2,024**
	3,659	**249**	**(11,266)**	-	**9,382**	**2,024**

Designated funds – Previous year

Designated Fund Name	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains (Losses) £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
Wednesfield Designated Fund	**6,886**	**3,707**	**(6,058)**	-	**(876)**	**3,659**
	6,886	**3,707**	**(6,058)**	-	**(876)**	**3,659**

Restricted funds – Current year

Restricted Fund Name	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
Surplus Funds Account	10,358	-	-		(6,190)	4,168
Wednesfield Endowed Funds	51,585	1,926	(166)		(1,760)	51,585
Wednesfield Endowed Revaluation Fund	6,743	-	-	(2,477)	-	4,266
Totals	**68,686**	**1,926**	**(166)**	**(2,477)**	**(7,950)**	**60,019**

Restricted funds – Previous year

Restricted Fund Name	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
Surplus Funds Account	16,531	8			(6,181)	10,358
Wednesfield Endowed Funds	51,585	1,557	(177)		(1,380)	51,585
Wednesfield Endowed Revaluation Fund	11,518			(4,775)		6,743
Totals	**79,634**	**1,565**	**(177)**	**(4,775)**	**(7,561)**	**68,686**

28. Funds (continued)

Surplus Funds Account: represents monies invested with TMCP which arose at the point the three Circuits came together to form the Wolverhampton Circuit five years ago. These monies are available for use to support mission and outreach projects within the Circuit.

29. Analysis of net assets between funds

	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds (Restricted) £	Totals 2023 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible fixed assets	1,450,771				1,450,772
Fixed asset investments		31,402		55,851	87,253
Current Assets					
Debtors	65,065				65,065
TMCP Investments		878,526		4,168	882,694
Deposit accounts	111,454				111,454
Cash at Bank and in hand	5,421		2,024		7,444
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(53,444)				(53,444)
Total	**1,579,267**	**909,928**	**2,023**	**60,019**	**2,551,238**

30. Related Party Transactions

As part of its normal operational structure, The Circuit makes contributions to the District and receives contributions from its member churches (details as per SOFA).

All of the Circuit trustees are members of one or another Church within the Circuit and may be Trustees in their own churches.

Connected organisations include the Methodist Connexion, other Circuits and Churches within the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District, CFB and TMCP. All of these entities have their own trustees or directors and autonomous administration such that the Circuit has no significant influence over any of them, nor they over the Circuit. They are, therefore, not considered related parties.

Transactions with connected parties during the year are as follows:

Names of Connected Organisations	Receipts £	Payments £
Donee: District Advance Fund	-	
Donor: Churches within the Circuit in respect of assessments	362,707	-
Donee: Grants to churches within the Circuit	-	1,000

In addition to the above the Circuit paid the District assessment to the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District. This is detailed in the face of the statement of financial activities.

There were no other related party transactions.

31. Volunteer contributions

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit, and Church) within the Methodist Church in GB is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. Principally this contribution is by serving on committees of the Circuit that deal with mission, manses, finance, policy, grants, training and development. We are grateful to all of them for their help and commitment.

32. Capital commitments and contingent liabilities

There were no capital commitments or contingent liabilities as at 31 August 2023 £nil (2022 - £nil).

WOLVERHAMPTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1135146

Accounts

Circuit Number 2801

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 August 2022

(Charity Number 1135146)

Muras Baker Jones Limited
Chartered Accountants
Wolverhampton

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

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Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Administrative Information

Registered Charity Number	1135146	
Superintendent Minister:	Revd. Dr Joanne Cox-Darling	
Ministers in the active work:	Revd. Steve Jackson	Revd. Paul Nzacahayo
	Revd. Samantha Hagerman	Revd. Teddy Siwila
	Revd. Rosemary Nash	Deacon Linda Gilson
Senior Steward:	Rosie Bryant	
Circuit Stewards:	James Peterson	Gabriel Gidi
	Andre Burns	Lesley Cook
	David Crook	Alan Eccles
	Edward Bridgwood	
Circuit Treasurer:	Rob Turton FCA	
Other Trustees:	Revd. Glennys Bamford	Revd. John Barrett
	Revd. Ken Collins	Revd. Stuart Davis
	Revd. Margaret Heim	Revd. Robert Readshaw
	Revd. Donald Ryan	Revd. Steve Singleton
	Revd. David Wheeler	Revd. Trevor Pratt
	Revd. Rachel Parkinson	Margaret Mottram
	Sister Betty Vaughan	Iris Gamble
	Christine Lees	Judy Brown
	Sue Crook	Richard French
	Wendy Gould	Dorothy Howells
	Jean Ordidge	Brenda Shuttleworth
	Liz Macer -Wright	Nicola Turner
	George Tonks	Sue Readshaw
	Phillip Shuttleworth	Andy Dale
	Brian Juggins	Diana Beaumont
	Liz Porteous	Elaine Jones
	Jenny Ridgway	Gill Silvester
	Janet Fenney	Eric Robinson
	Janet Punfield	Robert Fellows
	Emily Donovan	Frank Moreton
	Paul Levett	Pauline Hurst
	Christine Westwood	Susan Whatmore
	Robert Fownes	Kathryn Ridge
	Marie Lane	Margaret Lowbridge
	Diane Cripps	Liz Green
	Nicola Jones	John Owen
	Janet Anderson	Jonathan Mtsabiwa
	Beryl Batham	Michael Bateman
	Michael Dickenson	Nicola Field
	Sally Parker	Emma Veiro
	Margaret Williams	Graham Howell
	Martin Cresswell	Sue Bate
	Nadine Brown	Steve Brown

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Administrative Information

Other Trustees (Cont.)	Maddy Coope Naomi Fearnley Jane Meddings Peter Share	Janet Evans Nicki Hale Lyn Price
Registered Office:	Beckminster Methodist Church Birches Barn Road Penn Fields Wolverhampton West Midlands WV3 7BQ	
Charity:	1135146	
Auditors	Muras Baker Jones Limited Regent House Bath Avenue Wolverhampton West Midlands WV1 4EG	
Bankers:	Lloyds Bank Plc Queen Square Wolverhampton West Midlands WV1 1TF Barclays Bank Plc Queen Square Wolverhampton West Midlands HSBC Bank Plc Queen Square Wolverhampton West Midlands Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church 9 Bonhill Street London EC2A 4PE	
Solicitors:	Anthony Collins LLP Birmingham	

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Trustees Report

For the year ended 31 August 2022

Objects and Activities of the Circuit

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.

The objectives outlined above are achieved through the strategic direction of the Circuit Leadership team and the Circuit meeting. The Leadership team meet at least 6 times a year and the Circuit meeting at least 3 times a year to review and implement objectives, monitor our discipleship and to receive regulatory information either from the Methodist Church or other means.

Public Benefit

We confirm the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The work which we carry out with our Churches and the Communities in which they are situated is designed for the benefit of all. It not only supports our Church members but also provides the resources required to deliver mission and outreach to the most needy in our Society. This is achieved in various ways through the use of our Church buildings to work with people and organisations, through support of local food bank and homelessness projects and also through other forms of partnership working within our Local Communities.

Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document for the circuit is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976).

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference. These are updated annually.

Day to day management of the circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team, which comprises of the Superintendent Minister, the Ministerial Team and the Circuit Stewards. Together they represent the key management team. They are supported by the Local Preachers meeting, the Circuit Finance and Property Committee and the Circuit Policy Committee.

The Circuit Leadership team is accountable to the Members of the Circuit meeting who are also Trustees of the Circuit.

Trustee Training

A range of guidance is produced by the Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the circuit, specifically the leaflet 'The Role of a Trustee in The Methodist Church' is given to all new Circuit meeting members as induction to their role as trustees.

Related Parties

The Circuit is part of the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District of the Methodist Church and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The following Methodist Churches are members of the circuit:

Beckminster
Bilston
Bradley
Brewood
Codsall
Cranmer
Coven
East Park
Fallings Park
Fordhouses (see below)
Hurst hill
Lanesfield
Rakegate
Springdale
St Johns
Stowlawn (see below)
Stratton Street
Upper Ettingshall
Wombourne

Darlington Street Methodist Church ceased to meet on 30 September 2019 and the Trustees of the Circuit were responsible for its management and upkeep to the point of its disposal in October 2021. The net proceeds of sale of the property of £302,918 are currently held by the District but agreement has been reached after the year end for these monies to be placed into a Circuit Model Trust account with the specific aim of supporting the City Centre Mission work commenced through the appointment of a Deacon on 1 September 2021. Further to this the Circuit continues to manage Wednesfield Methodist Church whose congregation ceased to meet several years ago. In addition the congregations at Fordhouses and Stowlawn ceased to meet during the year and their Church buildings and related ongoing costs are now also the responsibility of the Circuit.

In addition to the above St Andrews United Reformed/Methodist Church based in Sedgley remains part of the Circuit under a sharing arrangement with the United Reformed Church.

Review of Activities

In designing and monitoring the activities of the Charity, the Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commissions guidance on public benefit as further detailed on page 4. The review of activities in the following sections demonstrates how the Charity has provided benefit directly to the churches which comprise the Circuit and thereby to the local congregations and wider local communities involved with those churches.

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Trustees Report

For the year ended 31 August 2022

General Review

The Circuit continues to be an active and major member of the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District. Locally, and within our own Circuit boundaries, the Circuit has continued to support the congregations and communities that our Churches serve. It has achieved this with the support of 8 ordained Ministers who received stipends for their roles. The Circuit also employs several key lay support workers who are paid for from Church contributions and Circuit funds.

Additional support continued to be provided by retired ministers who continued to have closer day to day involvement with three of our smaller congregations.

The local churches continue to provide programmes of worship, pastoral care and community involvement under the leadership of Ministers, lay employees and local Church Trustees.

On 1 September 2021 we welcomed Deacon Linda Gilson into the Circuit with the specific goal of developing and growing a City Centre Ministry in the City of Wolverhampton.

On 31 August 2022 Reverend William Davies moved on from the Circuit to take up a position in the London area. The Circuit are grateful for service and work that he did for our Communities whilst he was working in the Circuit. On 1 September we welcomed Reverend Rosemary Nash to take up a presbytery position in the Circuit.

Reverend Joanne Cox-Darling became our Superintendent Minister on 1 September 2021.

Activities and Future Plans

As part of the on-going development of the Mission of the Circuit and of its objectives the Circuit conducted a structural review several years ago The Circuit Leadership Team are in the middle of a strategic review of Circuit activities, resources and future needs. These are currently being discussed with the Circuit with the aim of being able to produce a Circuit Vision for the future. The aim is to conclude this work and to have an effective plan during 2023.

Our plans for the future will be built on what we have learned as a result of the impacts of Covid-19 and will inevitably mean that there are likely to be structural changes within the Circuit both in terms of worship and in terms of the buildings that we own. The Circuit is actively looking to realise the value in buildings that are considered surplus in terms of the future mission and objectives of the Circuit. In addition to Darlington Street there remain at least 3 other properties that fall into this category.

Both of the properties at Fordhouses and Stowlawn are being actively marketed for sale with a disposal of Fordhouses anticipated before the end of 2022.

The Ministers, Trustees and senior leadership team continue to believe that the implementation of the Strategic Vision for the Circuit will leave it better placed to react to areas of need in the future across an area where there are significant differences in wealth with many of our Communities located in areas of significant deprivation and diverse beliefs where currently the cost of living crisis is further exacerbating matters.

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Safeguarding (continued)

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

- The care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults;
- The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable;
- The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse;
- We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes;
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation;
- We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care;
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust;
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult;
- In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

Safeguarding continues to be an important area of consideration for the Church and we continue to work with the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District and the wider connection in order to ensure that our policies, training and practices meet all of the statutory and legal requirements in this area.

Major Activities

The year to 31 August 2022 presented some significant challenges that the Circuit has had to deal with. The effects of some of these which are being caused by the cost of living and energy crisis have not yet been fully felt within our Communities and we will continue to carry out work to help in these areas.

Further to the above there continue to be several Churches within the Circuit who are struggling to cope financially and the Circuit continues to work with those churches, both through short term support and longer term planning (through our vision work), in order to find sustainable solutions for the future which furthers the objects that we have as a Methodist Circuit whilst continuing to help our local congregations and communities. As part of this response an asset review involving all churches has been undertaken.

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Leadership Team and Circuit meeting with professional advice taken as required. These centre around, the effects of Covid-19 (where risk assessments and opening protocols for each property have been put in place by local Trustees after approval by the Circuit leadership team) property (Manses and Churches) maintenance costs and finally the need to stay up to date with safeguarding protocols and procedures and with GDPR legislation.

Risk Management (continued)

Income and Expenditure continues to be monitored throughout the year both in total and in detail and is compared with the approved annual budget on a half yearly basis to detect trends as part of the risk management process and to avoid unplanned calls upon reserves.

The Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit has committed itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.

It has also committed itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Trustees Report

For the year ended 31 August 2022

Financial Report

The result for the year shows an overall deficit of £93,856 (2021 – £130,600). The result is split across funds as follows:

General Fund	£(106,651)	(2021 - £(62,615)	Deficit for both years
Circuit Model Trust Fund	£26,969	(2021 - £(65,304)	Surplus (deficit)
Designated Funds	£(3,227)	(2021 - £(7,216)	Deficit for both years
Restricted Funds	£(10,947)	(2021 -£(4,534)	Deficit for both years

The principal elements affecting the result for the year are as follows:

A) The General Fund produced a deficit for the year of £106,651 (2021 - £62,615) after transfers from other Funds. Before transfers the fund was in deficit by £74,389 (2021 - £125,221). The pre-transfer result is after depreciation of £19,080 (2021 - £27,130) and a surplus on the sale of one manse (2021 - £nil) has been charged/realised.

The actual result before depreciation was a deficit of £55,309 (2021 - £98,091). This is explained by the decision the Circuit took in the previous to fund a deficit budget. This is case in the current year too.

In total net transfers of £32,262 (2021 - £62,606) were made into other funds. These were largely monies withdrawn from Model Trust Funds to support the ongoing work of the Circuit, the City Centre Mission post and extensive work to bring a Manse into a habitable state for a new Minister.

At the end of the year the General reserves stood at £1,563,009 (2021 - £1,669,659) and principally comprised Fixed assets (being manses and related costs) and net current assets held for working capital purposes.

B) The Circuit Model Trust fund incurred an operating deficit before transfers of £13,729 (2021 - £16,753) principally as a result of the MTF levy taken on the value of the funds held at TMCP. The principal transfers during the year were to cover ongoing expenditure referred to above with monies being received into the fund from the Manse disposal referred to earlier.

At the year end the Model Trust Fund stood at £344,678 (2021 - £317,709). These monies are held and administered by TMCP within investment and deposit accounts.

C) The designated funds relate to the activities at Wednesfield Methodist Church. Activities at Wednesfield produced a deficit of £2,351 (2021 – £4,358). This arose largely as a result of the loss of income after the decision was taken to market the property for sale. During the year net transfers out were made of £876 (2021 - £2,858) to cover some of the ongoing costs being experienced by the Circuit whilst the property was marketed.

D) The restricted fund produced a deficit (2021 - Surplus) before transfers of £3,387 (2021 - £862). Income for the year arose largely due to the receipt of interest and dividends on monies held within TMCP and losses arose largely as result of investment losses (2021 - Gains) on endowed Funds. Net investment income of £876 (2021 - £724) was transferred to the designated fund for Wednesfield Methodist Church during the year.

The other movements on restricted funds related to the Surplus Funds account where monies were was used to provide funding in support of the final year of the Circuit support for the Families and Children's worker. At the year end, restricted funds amounted to £68,686 (2021 - £79,634). These monies are held in a mix of TMCP Investment and deposit accounts.

Financial Report (continued)

The Circuit Trustees are satisfied with the overall result achieved for the year against a backdrop the backdrop of the economic crisis affecting us all.

The Budget set for 2022/23 is for a breakeven position before depreciation is charged. Trustees continue to monitor against this.

Going Concern

The Trustees have prepared detailed forecasts through to 31 August 2024. These have been reviewed, and stress tested, particularly for a fall in income during that period resulting from the inability of Churches to meet assessments fully in the year ended 31 August 2023.

Based upon the forecasts and their review the Trustees believe that the Circuit has adequate financial resources available to enable it to carry on operating as a Going concern for the foreseeable future.

Investment Policy and Performance

To comply with Methodist Standing Orders, monies for short and long term investment are lodged with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP). In addition TMCP acts as custodian trustee for all real estate held by Circuits and for all large (individually over £20k) bequests and for the proceeds of sale of any property formerly owned by the Circuit. These sums are invested in unitised investments or held on deposit. The capital returns are close to tracking the movements in the FTSE100 index. The income mirrors the deposit rates available elsewhere. Both the Central Finance Board (CFB) and TMCP take into consideration social, environmental and ethical considerations, both negatively and positively, in establishing investment policy.

Short term deposits are lodged directly with the CFB and attract good rates of interest.

There are no benchmarks for the expected returns or appreciation on investments at TMCP and CFB. It is the Circuit's policy to manage the cash and investment resources of the Circuit so that a rate of return on investment – both by way of dividend and capital appreciation – is obtained at least as good as market rate considering our low appetite for risk.

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Trustees Report

For the year ended 31 August 2022

Reserves policy

The Circuit has a reserves policy covering its unrestricted funds which is reviewed annually.

Our policy is to ensure that there are sufficient free reserves available to maintain and secure the viability and future of the Circuit whilst ensuring through openness and transparency that its resources are being used for its charitable purposes. The Trustees are of the view that at 31 August 2022 free reserves meet these criteria. The reserves held at the end of the year were as follows:

	£
Unrestricted funds	
General Fund	1,563,009
Model Trust Fund	344,678
	1,907,687
Designated funds	
Wednesfield Methodist Church Funds	3,659
	3,659
Total unrestricted funds	**1,911,346**
Surplus Funds	10,358
Endowed Funds from Wednesfield Methodist Church	58,328
Total restricted funds	**68,686**
Total funds	**1,980,032**
Less: Tied up in freehold property and fixtures	(1,464,001)
Restricted Funds	(68,686)
	(1,532,687)
Total readily available reserves	**447,345**

All funds are separately invested either with CFB or TMCP. No money is directly invested in property, securities or other forms of investment.

Reserves policy (continued)

The financial position of the Circuit remains healthy in that its resources are not only sufficient to meet future known liabilities but also sufficient for the Circuit to carry out its plans for the following year.

Purposes of the funds

General Fund: this provides the working capital necessary for the day to day operation of the Circuit.

Model Trust Fund: this money is held in reserve to support capital and revenue projects within the Circuit including the purchase and major items of maintenance of manse properties. Monies can only be used with the agreement of Trustees of the Circuit through TMCP.

Designated reserves: these reserves are held to support the mission work associated with Wednesfield Methodist Church.

Restricted Funds: are held for use on specific projects related to those funds and they can only be used for these purposes with the approval of Trustees and TMCP.

Statement of Disclosure to Auditors

So far as the Trustees believe there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors have not been made aware.

The Trustees have taken all the steps they ought to have taken as Trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

This report is signed on behalf of the Trustees.



Reverend Dr Joanne Cox-Darling
Superintendent Minister

Date: 3/3/23

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Statement of Circuit Members' Responsibilities

For the year ended 31 August 2022

The members are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the members to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the members are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The members are responsible for keeping accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Independent Auditors' Report to the members of Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

For the year ended 31 August 2022

Opinion

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

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company 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

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

- the trustees use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least 12 months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

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

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

Responsibilities of Circuit Members

As explained more fully in the Circuit Members' Responsibilities Statement, the members 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 members 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 members 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 directors either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

In planning and designing our audit tests we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement within the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. Our assessment of these risks includes consideration of the nature of the industry and sector, the control environment and the charity performance along with the results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of risks and irregularities. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override. We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charitable company operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Companies Act, Charities Act, UK tax legislation and other laws and regulations identified as risk areas identified from our discussions with management.

We communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members including internal specialists, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

After consideration of the above risks we then carried out audit procedures including the following:

- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of trustees meetings;
- reviewing correspondence with H M Revenue & Customs;
- enquiring of management and reviewing any correspondence with legal advisors concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that the laws and regulations are from financial transactions the less likely it is that we would be aware on non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

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 auditor's report.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Muras Baker Jones Limited
Statutory Auditor
Regent House
Bath Avenue
Wolverhampton
West Midlands
WV1 4EG

Date: 3 March 2023

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA)

For the year ended 31 August 2022

	Note	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Totals 2022 £**	Totals 2021 £
Income							
Donations and legacies	9	1,000				**1,000**	2,003
Charitable activities:							
Assessment or share	6	360,378				**360,378**	360,825
Grants	8	1,133				**1,133**	8,651
Other income	10	105,900		3,707		**109,607**	101,080
Investment income:							
Income from monetary investments		342	2,607		1,565	**4,514**	3,610
Property disposal	7	120,943				**120,943**	-
Total Income		**589,696**	**2,607**	**3,707**	**1,565**	**597,575**	476,169
Expenditure on							
Charitable activities:							
Salaries and associated costs	12	359,445		3,043		**362,488**	354,587
District assessment		90,524				**90,524**	87,714
MTF levy		-	13,212			**13,212**	18,240
Property Costs	14	66,059		3,015		**69,074**	83,108
Office Expenses	15	12,381				**12,381**	8,7765
Depreciation		19,080				**19,080**	27,130
Other outgoings	16, 17	115,596	913		177	**116,686**	42,084
Grants and donations	11	1,000				**1,000**	-
Total Expenditure		**664,085**	**14,125**	**6,058**	**177**	**684,445**	621,639
Net Income/ (expenditure)		**(74,389)**	**(11,518)**	**(2,351)**	**1,388**	**(86,870)**	(145,470)
Gains/(deficits) on investments			**(2,211)**		**(4,775)**	**(6,986)**	(14,870)
Transfers between funds	18	**(32,262)**	**40,699**	**(876)**	**(7,561)**	**-**	-
Net movement in funds		**(106,651)**	**26,969**	**(3,227)**	**(10,947)**	**(93,856)**	(130,600)
Total funds brought forward		1,669,659	317,709	6,886	79,634	**2,073,888**	2,204,488
Total funds carried forward at end of year		**1,563,009**	**344,678**	**3,659**	**68,686**	**1,980,032**	2,073,888

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Statement of financial position

As at 31 August 2022

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	**Totals 2022 £**	Totals 2021 £
Fixed Assets							
Tangible fixed assets	19	1,477,226				**1,477,226**	1,602,614
Investments with TMCP	20		32,554		58,328	**90,882**	97,701
		1,477,226	32,554		58,328	**1,568,108**	1,700,315
Current Assets							
Debtors	21	31,517				**31,517**	38,353
Investments with TMCP	22		312,124		10,358	**322,482**	299,642
Central Finance Board Deposits	22	98,017				**98,017**	80,690
Cash at Bank and in hand	22	13,936		3,659		**17,595**	18,846
		143,470	312,124	3,659	10,358	**469,611**	437,531
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	25	57,687				**57,687**	63,958
Net current assets		85,783	312,124	3,659	10,358	**411,924**	373,573
Total assets less current liabilities		1,563,009	344,678	3,659	68,686	**1,980,032**	2,073,888
Net assets		**1,563,009**	**344,678**	**3,659**	**68,686**	**1,980,032**	2,073,888
Funds of the circuit							
General Fund (Unrestricted)	26.1	1,563,009				**1,563,008**	1,669,659
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)	26.1		338,613			**338,613**	309,433
Revaluation Fund (Unrestricted)	26.1		6,065			**6,065**	8,276
Designated Fund (Unrestricted)	26.2			3,659		**3,659**	6,886
Other Funds (Restricted)	27				61,943	**61,943**	68,116
Revaluation Fund (Restricted)	27				6,743	**6,743**	11,518
Total Funds	28	**1,563,009**	**344,678**	**3,659**	**68,686**	**1,980,032**	2,073,888

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 3/3/23 and signed on their behalf by:

Mr R Turton
Treasurer

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Cash flow statement

For the year ended 31 August 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Cash from operating activities			
Deficit for the year		(86,870)	(145,470)
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation		19,080	27,130
Decrease/(increase) in debtors		6,836	-
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		(6,271)	(10,651)
Surplus on Fixed Asset disposal		(120,943)	-
		(101,298)	(24,469)
Net cash used in operating activities		**(188,168)**	(132,158)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible assets		(60,050)	(11,586)
Purchase of fixed asset investments		(167)	(849)
Proceeds from Fixed Asset disposal		287,301	-
Net cash (used in)/from investing activities		**227,084**	(12,435)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the period		38,916	(144,593)
Cash and cash equivalents at start of period		399,178	543,771
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	22	**438,094**	399,178

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Notes to the accounts

As at 31 August 2022

1. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective from 1 January 2015) – (the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

The Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

2. Accounting policies

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities - Charities SORP (FRS102).

These accounts have been prepared on the accruals basis and on the basis of historical cost except that investments are shown at their market value at the end of the year in order to show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £ Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

Funds

The funds held constitute General Funds held for any purpose of the Circuit which are unrestricted. The Circuit Model Trust Fund has wide purposes defined in standing orders and is categorized as unrestricted. Restricted funds are held for a narrower purpose and include Endowment funds which represent gifts, the capital normally being unavailable for spending and the income from which is either Restricted or Unrestricted. Details of each material fund are disclosed in note 28 to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

Taxation

The charity, is a registered charity and has no taxable activities.

Pension costs

The Circuit is a member of the Connexional pension scheme (MMPS) which covers presbyters and deacons of the Methodist Church. The contribution rates are set each year by the Methodist Conference. The MMPS is a multi-employer scheme and in accordance with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission, the Circuit accounts for these contributions as if it were a defined contribution scheme.

The Circuit also has one lay employee enrolled in a defined contribution pension scheme administered by Nest Pension. Employer contributions are made at a rate of 6% to this scheme on behalf of employees who are members.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

Going concern

Based upon operational budgets and cash flow projections together with the close monitoring of the continuing effect of Covid-19 restrictions upon the income raising ability of Churches, the trustees believe that the Circuit has adequate financial resources available to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Financial Statements therefore continue to be prepared using the going concern basis of accounting.

Consolidation

The Circuit oversees the work of ministers and lay workers in Churches within the Circuit but does not have control over those Churches, Ministers or lay workers except in extreme circumstances, none of which were applicable. For this reason, the financial statements of the Churches within the Circuit are not consolidated into these financial statements.

Income recognition

Income is brought into account when it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will accrue to the Circuit. No attempt is made to measure the value of services donated by volunteers.

Individual amounts categorised as Other Income in the SOFA are shown separately if they are considered to be material.

Donations are recognised in the statement of financial activities when they are receivable.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

The Circuit acts as agent in one matter:

- the collection from churches and payment over of their contributions to various funds administered and controlled by The Methodist Church in England and Wales.

In these circumstances the transactions are not reflected in the SOFA because there is no obligation on the Circuit.

Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings in the statement of financial activities as appropriate.

Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the Circuit to pay out resources.

Grants

Grants are recognised in full when the award is made and once the Circuit accepts that there is an obligation to make the payment and that payment is probable.

VAT

Since the Circuit is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged within the expense headings upon which it was paid.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000. The freehold property, being church manses, is shown in the accounts at its deemed historical cost at 1 September 2015, being the properties insurance reinstatement value as calculated by the Circuit's Insurers, Methodist Insurance Limited, less any subsequent depreciation.

No depreciation is provided on the land element of the manses whilst the building element is depreciated straight line over a useful economic life of 75 years. There is one exception to this where the cost of improvement works to a manse is being written off over a 5 year period to accord with its estimated useful life. All properties have been reviewed for impairment. Depreciation is provided on fixtures and fittings at the rate of 20% per annum from the date that the fixtures are brought into use by the Circuit.

Investments

The investments of the Circuit are held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees. The valuations, at market value, are those provided by TMCP. The unrealised gains and deficits arising on investments at the end of the year are shown in the SOFA.

Receivables and Payables; Bank and Cash

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the Circuit or the amount prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any related discounts, where normal credit terms apply, or the amount advanced to the Circuit. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds comprising of bank balances and deposit account balances are shown at their realisable values.

3. Glossary of terms

CFB: Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church manages a Common Deposit Fund and a series of pooled investment funds for Methodist entities in Great Britain and provides investment advice to those bodies.

Church: a group of members from fewer than 10 to more than 300.

Circuit: a group of Methodist Churches near each other, typically between 10 and 30.

MTF: Circuit Model Trust Fund.

Connexion: The Methodist Church in GB which includes the Head Office at Methodist Church House, all Methodist Districts, Circuits and Churches in Great Britain.

District: a group of contiguous Circuits, usually between 15 and 30.

SOFA: Statement of Financial Activities.

SORP: Statement of Recommended Practice.

TMCP: Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds.

4. Payment to Trustees

None of the Trustees received any remuneration during the year (2021 - £nil).

Trustees were reimbursed expenses during the year, consisting of reimbursement of travel and sundry office costs.

	2022	2021
Number of trustees who were paid expenses	**1**	1

	2022 £	2021 £
Total amount paid	**43**	95

5. Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

	2022 £	2021 £
Included within 'other expenditure' are the following:		
Auditors' fee for reporting on the accounts	**3,050**	3,140

6. Assessments on Churches

The Circuit comprises the Churches referred to within the Trustees report.

Church Assessments are determined annually and approved by the Circuit meeting using a formulaic methodology which takes into account the size of the Church, the ability of the Church to pay, its income and the ministerial input to it.

In addition, St Andrews Methodist/URC church in Sedgley is also part of the Circuit but until 31 August 2021 is under the responsibility of the URC under a sharing Agreement. From 1 September 2021 the Church has been the responsibility of the Methodist Circuit under the same sharing agreement. Under this agreement it paid £38,000 (2021 - £6,960) which is included in the total assessments of £360,378 (2021 - £360,825) included within these accounts.

At the year end, amounts totalling £63 (2021 - £3,288) were owed to the Circuit in respect of assessments. These amounts are all being collected after the year end.

7. Profit on Sale of Fixed Assets

During the year the Circuit disposed of one manse realising a surplus of £120,943 over the book carrying value of £169,057. TMCP also took a levy on sale proceeds of £90,920. Under Methodist convention the net proceeds of sale were placed into the Circuit Model Trust Fund for future use.

There were no capital disposals in 2021.

8. Grants

The Circuit was in receipt of grants from District Funds totalling £1,133 (2021 - £nil) and from the Government Job Retention Scheme in respect of several lay workers amounting to £nil (2021 - £8,651).

9. Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies comprising 2 legacies of £500 each and totalling £1,000 (2021 - £2,003) were received into the General Fund and £nil (£nil) into the Model Trust Fund during the current year.

10. Other Charitable income

The Circuit was in receipt of the following other income:

	General £	Designated £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Church lay contributions	48,123	-	48,123	47,239
Rent from empty manses	14,736	-	14,736	24,008
Use of Wednesfield Church premises	-	3,707	3,707	4,642
Use of Darlington Street Premises	-	-	-	2,011
Shared Costs of Minister shared with Queens College	23,942	-	23,942	23,012
Sundry Income including recovered costs on sales of Darlington Street of £18,799	19,099	-	19,099	168
	105,900	**3,707**	**109,607**	101,080

11. Grants and donations

During the year the Circuit made grants to Churches and others as follows:

	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Trinity Codsall	1,000	-
	1,000	**-**

12. Staff costs

	2022 £	2021 £
Staff costs paid during the year were:		
Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind	264,287	265,661
Employer's National Insurance costs	19,250	19,481
Pension costs	49,319	49,230
Other non-payroll costs	29,632	20,215
Total staff costs	**362,488**	**354,587**
Average number of full-time equivalent employees in the year were:	**16**	**16**

No employee earned more than £60,000 (2021 - £60,000) in the year.

The costs can be summarised between ministry and lay worker support as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Ministry	278,441	266,213
Gross cost of lay support	84,047	88,374
	362,488	**354,587**

Gross lay support costs are part funded through Church lay contributions as detailed in note 10 above totalling £48,123 (2021 - £47,239). The Cost of lay support therefore funded directly by the Circuit was £35,924 (2021 - £41,135).

During the year ended 31 August 2022 no lay workers were made redundant (In 2021, 3 lay workers were made redundant and the 2021 cost therefore reflects the severance costs involved). However the direct employment of the families and children's worker formerly employed by the Circuit was taken over by two Circuit Churches from April 2022 and therefore the relevant costs and contributions relevant to the Circuit ceased from that date.

The presbyters and the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) are also Trustees of the Circuit. Other than presbyters no member of the CLT received any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the Circuit although certain travelling and administration costs were reimbursed relating to specific meetings or projects.

13. Pensions

Most ordained presbyters and deacons are members of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS). This is a defined benefit scheme. The Supreme Court held in 2014 that Methodist ministers (which term includes presbyters and deacons) are not employees of the Church. For simplicity, however, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions and pension contributions, the terms 'employer' and 'employee' are used as they would be in an employing body.

On the other hand, lay employees are contractually employees and have the option of joining a pension scheme. At the year end, there was 1 (2021 - 1) employee who was a member of such a scheme, the scheme being provided by NEST which is a defined contribution scheme.

The MMPS is in deficit but a plan for removal of the deficit has been proposed and is being implemented. Details of the deficit on the schemes can be found in the Annual Report and Accounts of The Methodist Church at www.methodist.org.uk.

14. Property costs

	2022	2021
	£	£
Property Maintenance	11,085	13,520
Rental of manses	16,978	14,241
Insurance	17,038	35,875
Utilities (principally rates, light and heat at Wednesfield, Stowlawn and Fordhouses and water rates)	23,973	19,472
	69,074	**83,108**

The above Costs include £3,015 (2021 - £5,957) incurred in respect of the Wednesfield property and this has been charged to the Designated Fund.

The above costs include £4,970 (2021 - £31,481) in respect of the Circuit's responsibilities for Darlington Street Methodist Church after its congregation ceased to meet.

15. Office expenses

	2022	2021
	£	£
Printing, postage and stationery	561	862
Use of office and facilities	4,913	4,799
Audit fee	3,050	3,140
Training	3,857	(25)
	12,381	**8,776**

Following 2 years which were impacted significantly by Covid-19 training and strategic learning exercises have recommenced hence this years' level training of expenditure.

16. Other outgoings

	2022 £	2021 £
Pulpit supply	5,618	-
Inspections and legal fees	15,996	38,658
Sundry outgoings	178	291
Mission and outreach	2,884	2,195
TMCP levies (charged to MTF and Restricted Fund)	92,010	940
	116,686	**42,084**

The above costs include £nil (2021 - £28,591) in respect of legal, consultancy advice and marketing costs in respect of Darlington Street Methodist Church.

The TMCP levies include £90,090 (2021 - £nil) paid on the net sale proceeds realised upon the sale of one manse in the year.

17. Investment management

During the year the Circuit paid £913 (2021 - £940) to TMCP, the custodians of the District's investments within the MTF.

18. Transfers between funds

A sum of £6,181 (2021 - £5,980) was withdrawn from the Restricted Surplus Funds account to contribute to the mission work of and the work of a Children and Families worker and £1,380 (2021 - £2,858) to contribute to ongoing Circuits costs. A net sum of £40,699 (2021 - £53,768) was transferred to the Model Trust Fund from the General Fund in respect of monies required to support the work of the City Centre Mission £33,750, monies needed to prepare a manse for occupation by an incoming minister together with major renovation work on 2 other manses and to cover the ongoing costs associated with the closed churches at Fordhouses and Stowlawn. These totalled £121,900. There was also a transfer from the General fund to the Model Trust Fund in respect of £196,349 in respect of the net proceeds (after levy and costs) of the manse sold in the year.

A further sum of £876 (2021 - £nil) was transferred from the designated fund related to the Circuit Costs at Wednesfield to support the costs associated with the University Chaplain leaving the Circuit during the year.

19. Tangible fixed assets

Cost or valuation	Manses £	Fixtures, fittings and Equipment £	Total £
At 31 August 2021	1,683,178	82,285	1,765,463
Additions	55,670	4,380	60,050
Disposals	(176,188)	-	(176,188)
At 31 August 2021	**1,562,660**	**86,665**	**1,649,325**
Depreciation			
At 31 August 2021	93,890	68,959	162,849
Charge for year	14,599	4,481	19,080
Disposals	(9,830)	-	(9,830)
At 31 August 2022	**98,659**	**73,440**	**172,089**
Net book value			
At 31 August 2021	1,589,288	13,326	1,602,614
At 31 August 2022	**1,464,001**	**13,225**	**1,477,226**

20. Fixed Asset Investments

	2022 £	**2021 £**
Cost brought forward	97,701	81,982
Additions	167	849
Unrealised (losses)/gains on revaluation	(6,986)	14,870
Cost carried forward	**90,882**	**97,701**

21. Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade Debtors	63	3,288
Prepayments	28,594	31,781
Short term loans	2,860	3,284
	31,517	38,353

22. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise the following:

	2022 £	2021 £
Investments with TMCP	322,482	299,642
Central Finance Board deposits	98,017	80,690
Cash at bank and in hand	17,595	18,846
	438,094	**399,178**

23. Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

a) The funds that support the Model Trust Fund and the Restricted Fund are held by TMCP in Trustees Interest Funds and in CFB mixed funds. Interest is credited to the Trustee interest funds each month and is regarded as a short term investment in these accounts.

b) The monies held in the CFB Mixed funds are regarded as long term investments and are revalued at mid-market value at each year end.

c) TMCP is the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds. Trust property is held for and on behalf of local Managing Trustees who are responsible for the day to day management of trust property. TMCP ensure that, through providing guidance and acting under their direction, the Managing Trustees comply with charity law and Methodist law and policy as determined by the Methodist Conference.

24. Central Finance Board (CFB) and Cash at Bank

The Circuit has three current accounts at Lloyds Bank plc, Barclays Bank Plc and HSBC Bank Plc all of which are authorised institutions. The sums held on these accounts are immediately available. In addition the Circuit has a deposit account at CFB, a common deposit fund. Interest is earned on that account and credited monthly; the sums deposited can be withdrawn without notice and without loss of interest. These sums are viewed as being liquid.

25. Creditors – amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Accruals	28,9377	30,182
Assessments in advance	26,877	27,654
Other Creditors	1,873	6,122
	57,687	**63,958**

It is expected that all sums accrued at 31 August 2022 will be paid during the year to 31 August 2023.

Included within other creditors is an amount of £1,729 (2021 - £978) held within the Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit benevolent fund which is used to meet cases of need arising within the Circuit and which is controlled by the Circuit Meeting through the Circuit Leadership Team.

An amount of £5,000 (2021 - £5,000) is held in respect of a grant made to Stratton Street that is due for payment in the coming year.

26. Unrestricted Funds

26.1 General Fund – balance of £1,563,009 at 31 August 2022 (2021 - £1,669,659)

The purpose of the fund is for use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the Circuit and which have not been designated for other purposes. About 90% of this fund is held as freehold properties for the use of Presbyters.

26.2 Other unrestricted Funds – balance of £344,678 at 31 August 2022 (2021 - £317,709)

These comprise the following four elements:

Model Trust Fund – balance of £338,613 at 31 August 2022 (2021 - £309,433)

These monies are not restricted in purpose but can only be used for projects that pass through the appropriate Circuit and TMCP authorisations.

Revaluation Fund – balance of £6,065 at 31 August 2022 (2021 - £8,276)

These are the unrealised gains on the fixed asset investments held with TMCP. Once realised, these monies will be included as part of the Model Trust Fund and will be used in line with the purposes of that fund as outlined above.

26. Unrestricted Funds (Continued)

Designated Fund - Monies received on the ceasing to meet of Wednesfield Methodist Church – balance of £3,659 at 31 August 2022 (2021 - £6,886)

These monies have been ring fenced for the development of a mission based project in the Wednesfield Church buildings.

27. Restricted Funds

These comprise the following:

a) Surplus Funds £10,358 (2021 - £16,531)

The restricted funds are the residual surplus funds left after the merger of the three Circuits some years ago. They can only be used for projects within the enlarged Circuit at the discretion of the Circuit meeting and TMCP.

b) Endowed funds £51,585 (2021 - £63,103)

c) Endowed Funds Revaluation Fund £6,743 (2021 - £11,518)

The funds at (b) and (c) above were transferred to the Circuit by the Trustees of Wednesfield Methodist Church when they ceased to meet in the summer of 2017. These monies are currently restricted for use by the Trustees of the Circuit for projects related to the Wednesfield church buildings and surrounding area.

28. Funds

Unrestricted funds – Current year

Unrestricted Fund Name	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
General Fund	1,669,659	589,696	(664,085)	-	(32,262)	1,563,009
Circuit Model Trust Fund	309,433	2,607	(14,125)	-	40,699	338,614
Revaluation Fund	8,276	-	-	(2,211)	-	6,065
Totals	**1,987,368**	**592,303**	**(678,210)**	**(2,211)**	**8,437**	**1,907,688**

Unrestricted funds – Previous year

Unrestricted Fund Name	Opening balance £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
General Fund	1,732,274	468,965	(594,186)	-	62,606	1,669,659
Circuit Model Trust Fund	379,954	1,519	(18,272)	-	(53,768)	309,433
Revaluation Fund	3,059	-	-	5,217	-	8,276
Totals	**2,115,287**	**470,484**	**(612,458)**	**5,217**	**8,838**	**1,987,368**

28. Funds (continued)

The Circuit Model Trust Fund: this consists of income from legacy churches and property sales. They have wide purposes as defined by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) and are categorized as unrestricted. Permission must be sought from TMCP to call on money for specific building projects or to support the mission in general.

Designated funds – Current year

Designated Fund Name	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
Wednesfield Designated Funds	6,886	3,707	(6,058)	-	(876)	3,659
Totals	**6,886**	**3,707**	**(6,058)**	**-**	**(876)**	**3,659**

Designated funds – Previous year

Designated Fund Name	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains (Losses) £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
Wednesfield Designated Fund	14,102	4,642	(9,000)	-	(2,858)	6,886
Totals	**14,102**	**4,642**	**(9,000)**	**-**	**(2,858)**	**6,886**

Restricted funds – Current year

Restricted Fund Name	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
Surplus Funds Account	16,531	8	-		(6,181)	10,358
Wednesfield Endowed Funds	51,585	1,557	(177)		(1,380)	51,585
Wednesfield Endowed Revaluation Fund	11,518	-	-	(4,775)	-	6,743
Totals	**79,634**	**1,565**	**(177)**	**(4,775)**	**(7,561)**	**68,686**

Restricted funds – Previous year

Restricted Fund Name	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
Surplus Funds Account	22,513	73	(75)	-	(5,980)	16,531
Wednesfield Endowed Funds	50,721	970	(106)	-	-	51,585
Wednesfield Endowed Revaluation Fund	1,865	-	-	9,653	-	11,518
Totals	**75,099**	**1,043**	**(181)**	**9,653**	**(5,980)**	**79,634**

28. Funds (continued)

Surplus Funds Account: represents monies invested with TMCP which arose at the point the three Circuits came together to form the Wolverhampton Circuit five years ago. These monies are available for use to support mission and outreach projects within the Circuit.

29. Analysis of net assets between funds

	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds (Restricted) £	Totals 2022 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible fixed assets	1,477,226				1,477,226
Fixed asset investments		32,554		58,328	90,882
Current Assets					
Debtors	31,517				31,517
TMCP Investments		312,124		10,358	322,482
Deposit accounts	98,017				98,017
Cash at Bank and in hand	13,936		3,659		17,595
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(57,687)				(57,687)
Total	**1,563,009**	**344,678**	**3,659**	**68,686**	**1,980,032**

30. Related Party Transactions

As part of its normal operational structure, The Circuit makes contributions to the District and receives contributions from its member churches (details as per SOFA).

All of the Circuit trustees are members of one or another Church within the Circuit and may be Trustees in their own churches.

Connected organisations include the Methodist Connexion, other Circuits and Churches within the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District, CFB and TMCP. All of these entities have their own trustees or directors and autonomous administration such that the Circuit has no significant influence over any of them, nor they over the Circuit. They are, therefore, not considered related parties.

Transactions with connected parties during the year are as follows:

Names of Connected Organisations	Receipts £	Payments £
Donee: District Advance Fund	-	90,526
Donor: Churches within the Circuit in respect of assessments	360,378	-
Donee: Grants to churches within the Circuit	-	1,000

During the year ended 31 August 2022 short term advances totalling £2,860 (2021 - £3,284) were made to Churches. These have been repaid since the year end.

There were no other related party transactions.

31. Volunteer contributions

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit, Church) within the Methodist Church in GB is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. Principally this contribution is by serving on committees of the Circuit that deal with mission, manses, finance, policy, grants, training and development. We are grateful to all of them for their help and commitment.

32. Capital commitments and contingent liabilities

There were no capital commitments or contingent liabilities as at 31 August 2022 (2021 - £nil).

33. Post balance sheet events

Subsequent to the year end two major transactions have occurred which significantly alter the financial position of the Circuit. They are as follows;

- Following the disposal of Darlington Street Methodist Church during the year, the disposal proceeds were placed into an account administered by TMCP and controlled at District level as a result of the inner City nature of the building. The Circuit meeting felt that this money should have come into the Circuit in order to fund the City Centre mission work focused around the work being done by the Reverend Linda Gilson. We put our case to the District and in September the District agreed to transfer the monies into a Model Trust account controlled directly by the Circuit with the funds being used for City Centre missional work. The amount was received in November 2022 and amounted to £258,985.

- In November 2022 the Circuit disposed of its interest in Fordhouses Methodist Church for a sum, net of levies and sale costs, of £330,195. This money is held in our Model Trust Fund and is available for use on general projects and to support the missional work of the Circuit provided the uses meet the criteria set by TMCP.

WOLVERHAMPTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1135146

Accounts

Circuit Number 2801

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 August 2021

(Charity Number 1135146)

Muras Baker Jones Limited
Chartered Accountants
Wolverhampton

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

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Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Administrative Information

Registered Charity Number	1135146	
Superintendent Minister:	Revd. Dr. Joanne Cox-Darling	
Ministers in the active work:	Revd. Steve Jackson	
	Revd. Dr. Joanne Cox-Darling	Revd. Paul Nzacahayo
	Revd. Samantha Hagerman	Revd. Teddy Siwila
	Revd. William Davis	Deacon Linda Gilson
Senior Steward:	Rosie Bryant	
Circuit Stewards:	Rosie Bryant	James Peterson
	Andre Burns	Lesley Cook
	David Crook	
Circuit Treasurer:	Rob Turton FCA.	
Other Trustees:	Revd. Glennys Bamford	Revd. John Barrett
	Revd. Ken Collins	Revd. Stuart Davis
	Revd. Suzanne Newton	Revd. Robert Readshaw
	Revd. Donald Ryan	Revd. Steve Singleton
	Revd. Ivor Sperring	Revd. David Wheeler
	Revd. Margaret Heim	Sister Betty Vaughan
	Christine Lees	Judy Brown
	Lesley Cook	Richard French
	Wendy Gould	Dorothy Howells
	Jean Ordidge	Brenda Shuttleworth
	Liz Macer –Wright	Nicola Turner
	George Tonks	Clunis Chesworth
	Phillip Shuttleworth	Andy Dale
	Harold Dale	Robert Chesworth
	Brian Juggins	Jenny Cornes
	Liz Porteous	Elaine Jones
	Jenny Ridgway	Gill Silvester
	Jean Posnett	Eric Robinson
	Janet Punfield	Alan Eccles
	Andre Burns	Frank Moreton
	Jeff Rayner	Carol Doughty
	Sandra Clows	Ian Jenkins
	Paul Levett	Pauline Hurst
	Christine Westwood	Susan Whatmore
	Pat Arnold	Robert Fownes
	Marie Lane	Margaret Lowbridge
	Diane Cripps	Liz Green
	Nicola Jones	John Owen
	Janet Anderson	Glenda Howard
	Jonathan Mtsambilwa	Ethel Fellows
	Beryl Batham	Michael Bateman
	Michael Dickenson	Nicola Field
	Sally Parker	Ann Jenkins
	Margaret Williams	Graham Howell

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Administrative Information

Other Trustees (continued):	Martin Cresswell	Margaret Mottram
	Janet Fenney	Jim Howard
	Diana Beaumont	Kathryn Ridge
	Emma Verio	Pat Bedall
	Carol Totney	Sue Readshaw
	Iris Gamble	
Registered Office:	Beckminster Methodist Church Birches Barn Road Penn Fields Wolverhampton West Midlands WV3 7BQ	
Charity:	1135146	
Auditors	Muras Baker Jones Limited Regent House Bath Avenue Wolverhampton West Midlands WV1 4EG	
Bankers:	Lloyds Queen Square Wolverhampton West Midlands WV1 1TF	
	Barclays Bank Plc Queen Square Wolverhampton West Midlands	
	HSBC Bank Plc Queen Square Wolverhampton West Midlands	
	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church 9 Bonhill Street London EC2A 4PE	

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Trustees Report

For the year ended 31 August 2021

Objects and Activities of the Circuit

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.

The objectives outlined above are achieved through the strategic direction of the Circuit Leadership team and the Circuit meeting. The Leadership team meet at least 6 times a year and the Circuit meeting at least 3 times a year to review and implement objectives, monitor our discipleship and to receive regulatory information either from the Methodist Church or other means.

Public Benefit

We confirm the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The work which we carry out with our Churches and the Communities in which they are situated is designed for the benefit of all. It not only supports our Church members but also provides the resources required to deliver mission and outreach to the most needy in our Society. This is achieved in various ways through the use of our Church buildings to work with people and organisations, through support of local food bank and homelessness projects and also through other forms of partnership working within our Local Communities.

Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document for the circuit is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976).

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference .These are updated annually.

Day to day management of the circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team, which comprises of the Superintendent Minister, the Ministerial Team and the Circuit Stewards. Together they represent the key management team. They are supported by the Local Preachers meeting, the Circuit Finance and Property Committee and the Circuit Policy Committee.

The Circuit Leadership team is accountable to the Members of the Circuit meeting who are also Trustees of the Circuit.

Trustee Training

A range of guidance is produced by the Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the circuit, specifically the leaflet 'The Role of a Trustee in The Methodist Church' is given to all new Circuit meeting members as induction to their role as trustees.

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Trustees Report

For the year ended 31 August 2021

Related Parties

The Circuit is part of the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District of the Methodist Church and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The following Methodist Churches are members of the circuit:

Beckminster
Bilston
Bradley
Brewood
Codsall
Cranmer
Coven
East Park
Fallings Park
Fordhouses (see below)
Hurst hill
Lanesfield
Rakegate
Springdale
St Johns
Stowlawn (see below)
Stratton Street
Upper Ettingshall
Wombourne

Darlington Street Methodist Church ceased to meet on 30 September 2019 and the Trustees of the Circuit are now responsible for the management and upkeep of that property. Further to this the Circuit continues to manage Wednesfield Methodist Church whose congregation ceased to meet several years ago. In addition the congregations at Fordhouses and Stowlawn ceased to meet during the year and their Church buildings are now also the responsibility of the Circuit.

In addition to the above St Andrews United Reformed /Methodist Church based in Sedgley is part of the Circuit under a sharing arrangement with the United Reformed Church.

Review of Activities

In designing and monitoring the activities of the Charity, the Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commissions guidance on public benefit as further detailed on page 4. The review of activities in the following sections demonstrates how the Charity has provided benefit directly to the churches which comprise the Circuit and thereby to the local congregations and wider local communities involved with those churches.

General Review

The Circuit continues to be an active and major member of the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District. Locally, and within our own Circuit boundaries, the Circuit has continued to support the congregations and communities that our Churches serve. It has achieved this with the support of 8 ordained Ministers who received stipends for their roles. The Circuit also employs several key lay support workers who are paid for from Church contributions and Circuit funds.

Additional support continued to be provided by retired ministers who continued to have closer day to day involvement with three of our smaller congregations.

General Review (continued)

The local churches continue to provide programmes of worship, pastoral care and community involvement under the leadership of Ministers, lay employees and local Church Trustees.

The impact of Covid-19 meant that our Churches buildings had to close during March 2020 and although some have subsequently re opened in limited ways the presence of Covid-19 has placed restrictions on how our Churches are able to operate which is further explained in the sections that follow.

On 31 August 2021 Reverend Christopher Collins moved on from the Circuit to take on a superintendecy in Evesham. He goes with the Circuits thanks and blessings for his years of service. On 1 September 2021 we welcomed Deacon Linda Gilson into the Circuit to lead on our Inner City Missional Work.

Activities and Future Plans

As part of the on-going development of the Mission of the Circuit and of its objectives the Circuit conducted a structural review several years ago The Circuit Leadership Team have now recommenced the structural review of the Circuit which was paused in March 2020 as we grappled with what Covid -19 meant for our communities and our Churches.

Our plans for the future will be built on what we have learned as a result of the impacts of Covid-19 and will inevitably mean that there are likely to be structural changes within the Circuit both in terms of worship and in terms of the buildings that we own. The Circuit is actively looking to realise the value in buildings that are considered surplus in terms of the future mission and objectives of the Circuit. In addition to Darlington Street there are potentially at least 4 other properties that fall into this category.

Subsequent to the year end the sale of Darlington Street was successfully completed following a significant amount of work from the steering group established last year. In addition the manse at the Garlands was also disposed of. Work is now being undertaken to dispose of the Church Buildings at Wednesfield, which is now regarded as surplus to Circuit requirements. In addition the Congregations at Fordhouses and Stowlawn ceased to meet during the year and responsibility for those buildings has passed to the Circuit meeting. Both properties are now being actively marketed for sale with disposals anticipated within the next 12 months.

One of the areas that we have already decided to act upon is to create a City Centre Ministry through a Diaconal appointment from 1 September 2021. This is being funded through our Model Trust monies.

The Ministers, Trustees and senior leadership team continue to believe that the implementation of our ongoing action plans will see the Circuit better placed to react to areas of need in a Circuit where there are significant differences in wealth with many of our Communities located in areas of significant deprivation and diverse beliefs.

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Safeguarding (continued)

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults.
- the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable.
- the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
- We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.
- We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

Safeguarding continues to be an important area of consideration for the Church and we continue to work with the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District and the wider connection in order to ensure that our policies, training and practices meet all of the statutory and legal requirements in this area.

Covid-19

Covid-19 has presented some significant issues for the Circuit to deal with. For the most part the National restrictions that were imposed meant that our congregations had few opportunities to worship together until the spring of 2021 and that our community rooms have largely been closed for longer than they have been open since March 2020.This has impacted negatively upon all Churches in terms of the levels of income that they have been able to generate when compared to previous years. Whilst many individual Church members have continued to give generously it is inevitable that as we enter a new year some churches will continue to feel pressure upon their reserves.

The Circuit has continued to work with Congregations during the year to try to understand where each of them is positioned in terms of sustainability against the challenges that Covid-19 has brought into play. Current indications are that, for the year to 31 August 2022 virtually all churches will continue be able to meet their assessments thus securing the income of the Circuit. Beyond 31 August 2022, however, things continue to look more uncertain in terms of what Churches will be able to afford in terms of assessments and it is now highly likely that the Circuit will have to use some of its reserves to ensure the sustainability of the missional work of the Circuit. The realisation of surplus properties previously referred to will therefore help bolster Circuit Reserves against this call upon monies.

Aside from the financial impact of Covid-19 the pandemic has meant that our Ministerial and Leadership teams have had to continue to be adaptive and creative in their support of our congregations and communities. This has been achieved through the continued use of social media, video links for services, recorded services on Youtube and zoom and, during the summer, outdoor gatherings of members for worship and acts such as communion. The view is that these various platforms have widened the reach of our Churches and it is almost certain that the experiences we have gained will continue to be used in the future and in a post Covid-19 World.

Covid-19 (continued)

When we eventually emerge the other side of the Covid-19 pandemic, the world will inevitably be a different place in which a number of people and communities will face significant challenges. Our strategy will continue to be to meet those challenges to support the vulnerable and those in need whilst staying true to our core Mission.

Major Activities

In addition to Covid -19 the year to 31 August 2021 presented other challenges that the Circuit has had to deal with.

Further to the above there continue to be several Churches within the Circuit who are struggling to cope financially and the Circuit continues to work with those churches, both through short term support and longer term planning, in order to find sustainable solutions for the future which furthers the objects that we have as a Methodist Circuit whilst continuing to help our local congregations and communities. As part of this response an asset review involving all churches is currently underway. Thus is looking at overall sustainability at individual church level.

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Leadership Team and Circuit meeting with professional advice taken as required. These centre around, the effects of Covid-19 (where risk assessments and opening protocols for each property have been put in place by local Trustees after approval by the Circuit leadership team) property (Manses and Churches) maintenance costs and finally the need to stay up to date with safeguarding protocols and procedures and with GDPR legislation.

Income and Expenditure continues to be monitored throughout the year both in total and in detail and is compared with the approved annual budget on a half yearly basis to detect trends as part of the risk management process and to avoid unplanned calls upon reserves.

The Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit has committed itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.

It has also committed itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Trustees Report

For the year ended 31 August 2021

Financial Report

The result for the year shows an overall deficit of £130,600 (2020 – £52,084). The result is split across funds as follows:

General Fund	£ (62,615)	*(2020 - £ (24,401)*	Deficit for both years
Circuit Model Trust Fund	£ (65,304)	*(2020 - £ (10,028)*	Deficit for both years
Designated Funds	£ (7,216)	*(2020 - £ (11,072)*	Deficit for both years
Restricted Funds	£4,534	*(2020 -£ (6,583)*	Surplus / (deficit)

The principal elements affecting the result for the year are as follows:

A) The General Fund produced a deficit for the year of £62,615 *(2020 - £24,401)* after transfers from other Funds. Before transfers the fund was in deficit by £125,221 *(2020 - £40,227)*. The pre-transfer result is after depreciation of £27,130 *(2020 - £ 27,148)* has been charged.

The actual result before depreciation was a deficit of £98,091 *(2020 - £13,079)*. This is explained by the decision the Circuit took in the previous year to partly fund the position of a youth and families worker from Reserves. A small deficit was also planned in the budget setting process.

In total transfers of £62,606 *(2020 - £15,826)* were made from other funds to cover the cost of the families and youth worker (£5,656), already referred to above, the balance relates to the transfer of monies to cover small grants to Churches and expenditure associated with Darlington Street.

At the end of the year the General reserves stood at £1,669,659 *(2020 - £1,732,274)* and principally comprised Fixed assets (being manses and related costs) and net current assets held for working capital purposes.

B) The Circuit Model Trust fund incurred an operating deficit before transfers of £16,753 *(2020 - £9,344)* principally as a result of the MTF levy taken on the value of the funds held at TMCP. The principal transfers during the year were to cover ongoing expenditure associated with the Darlington Street property.

At the year end the Model Trust Fund stood at £317,709 *(2020 - £383,013)*. These monies are held and administered by TMCP within investment and deposit accounts.

C) The designated funds relate to the activities at Wednesfield Methodist Church. Activities at Wednesfield produced a deficit of £4,358 *(2020 - £2,203)*. This arose largely as a result of the loss of income due to covid-19 and one off maintenance costs. During the year net transfers were made of £2,858 *(2020 - £8,869)*. These comprised transfers in from TMCP of net investment income and transfers out to cover costs borne centrally related to the Wednesfield activities principally families work for the last two years and a charge for central resourced management time. At the year end, designated funds amounted to £6,886 *(2020 - £14,102)* and are held solely to cover future costs associated with the Wednesfield Church Building and the activities within it.

Financial Report (continued)

D) The restricted fund produced a Surplus before transfers of £862 (*2020 - £1,140*). Income for the year arose largely due to the receipt of interest and dividends on monies held within TMCP and investment gains on endowed Funds. Net investment income of £724 (*2020 - £1,506*) was transferred to the designated fund for Wednesfield Methodist Church during the year.

The other movements on restricted funds related to the Surplus Funds account where £5,656 was used to provide funding in support of the Families and Children's worker. At the year end, restricted funds amounted to £79,634 (*2019 - £75,099*). These monies are held in a mix of TMCP Investment and deposit accounts.

The Circuit Trustees are satisfied with the overall result achieved for the year against a backdrop the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic and continuing difficult circumstances for the

The Circuit Trustees are satisfied with the overall result achieved for the year against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic and continuing difficult operating circumstances for the Circuit. The Budget set for 2021/22 is for a breakeven position before depreciation is charged. Trustees continue to monitor against this.

Going Concern

The Trustees have prepared detailed forecasts through to 31 August 2023. These have been reviewed, and stress tested, particularly for a fall in income during that period resulting from the inability of Churches to meet assessments fully in the year ended 31 August 2023 following potential impacts on them financially following the Covid-19 pandemic.

Based upon the forecasts and their review the Trustees believe that the Circuit has adequate financial resources available to enable it to carry on operating as a Going concern for the foreseeable future.

Investment Policy and Performance

To comply with Methodist Standing Orders, monies for short and long term investment are lodged with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP). In addition TMCP acts as custodian trustee for all real estate held by Circuits and for all large (individually over £20k) bequests and for the proceeds of sale of any property formerly owned by the Circuit. These sums are invested in unitised investments or held on deposit. The capital returns are close to tracking the movements in the FTSE100 index. The income mirrors the deposit rates available elsewhere. Both the Central Finance Board (CFB) and TMCP take into consideration social, environmental and ethical considerations, both negatively and positively, in establishing investment policy.

Short term deposits are lodged directly with the CFB and attract good rates of interest.

There are no benchmarks for the expected returns or appreciation on investments at TMCP and CFB. It is the Circuit's policy to manage the cash and investment resources of the Circuit so that a rate of return on investment – both by way of dividend and capital appreciation – is obtained at least as good as market rate considering our low appetite for risk.

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Trustees Report

For the year ended 31 August 2021

Reserves policy

The Circuit has a reserves policy covering its unrestricted funds which is reviewed annually.

Our policy is to ensure that there are sufficient free reserves available to maintain and secure the viability and future of the Circuit whilst ensuring through openness and transparency that its resources are being used for its charitable purposes. The Trustees are of the view that at 31 August 2021 free reserves meet these criteria. The reserves held at the end of the year were as follows:

	£
Unrestricted funds	
General Fund	1,669,659
Model Trust Fund	317,709
	1,987,368
Designated funds	
Wednesfield Methodist Church Funds	6,886
	6,886
Total unrestricted funds	**1,994,254**
Surplus Funds	16,531
Endowed Funds from Wednesfield Methodist Church	63,103
Total restricted funds	**79,634**
Total funds	**2,073,888**
Less: Tied up in freehold property and fixtures	(1,602,614)
Restricted Funds	(79,634)
	(1,682,248)
Total readily available reserves	**391,640**

All funds are separately invested either with CFB or TMCP. No money is directly invested in property, securities or other forms of investment.

Reserves policy (continued)

The financial position of the Circuit remains healthy in that its resources are not only sufficient to meet future known liabilities but also sufficient for the Circuit to carry out its plans for the following year.

Purposes of the funds

General Fund: this provides the working capital necessary for the day to day operation of the Circuit

Model Trust Fund: this money is held in reserve to support capital and revenue projects within the Circuit including the purchase and major items of maintenance of manse properties. Monies can only be used with the agreement of Trustees of the Circuit through TMCP.

Designated reserves: these reserves are held to support the mission work associated with Wednesfield Methodist Church;

Restricted Funds: are held for use on specific projects related to those funds and they can only be used for these purposes with the approval of Trustees and TMCP.

Statement of Disclosure to Auditors

So far as the Trustees believe there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors have not been made aware;

The Trustees have taken all the steps they ought to have taken as Trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

This report is signed on behalf of the Trustees

Reverend Dr. Joanne Cox-Darling
Superintendent Minister

Date: 17/2/2022

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Statement of Circuit Members' Responsibilities

For the year ended 31 August 2021

The members are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the members to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the members are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The members are responsible for keeping accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Independent Auditors' Report to the members of Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2021 which comprise of the Statement of Financial Activities, including Income and Expenditure Account, the Statement of Financial Position, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied to their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2021, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company 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

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

- the trustees use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least 12 months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

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

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

Responsibilities of Circuit Members

As explained more fully in the Circuit Members' Responsibilities Statement, the members 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 members 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 members 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 directors either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

In planning and designing our audit tests we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement within the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. Our assessment of these risks includes consideration of the nature of the industry and sector, the control environment and the charity performance along with the results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of risks and irregularities. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override. We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charitable company operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Companies Act, Charities Act, UK tax legislation and other laws and regulations identified as risk areas identified from our discussions with management.

We communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members including internal specialists, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

After consideration of the above risks we then carried out audit procedures including the following:

- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of trustees meetings;
- reviewing correspondence with H M Revenue & Customs;
- enquiring of management and reviewing any correspondence with legal advisors concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that the laws and regulations are from financial transactions the less likely it is that we would be aware on non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

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 auditor's report.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Muras Baker Jones Limited
Statutory Auditor
Regent House
Bath Avenue
Wolverhampton
WV1 4EG

Date: 17/2/22

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA)

For the year ended 31 August 2021

	Note	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Totals 2021 £**	Totals 2020 £
Income							
Donations and legacies	9	2,003				**2,003**	23,519
Charitable activities:							
Assessment or share	6	360,825				**360,825**	369,195
Grants	8	8,651				**8,651**	14,494
Other income	10	96,438		4.642		**101,080**	132,373
Investment income:							
Income from monetary investments		1,048	1,519		1,043	**3,610**	5,818
Total Income		**468,965**	**1,519**	**4,642**	**1,043**	**476,169**	545,399
Expenditure on							
Charitable activities:							
Salaries and associated costs	12	351,544		3,043		**354,587**	358,550
District assessment		87,714				**87,714**	92,567
MTF levy		-	18,240			**18,240**	19,783
Property Costs	14	77,151		5,957		**83,108**	59,102
Office Expenses	15	8,776				**8,776**	12,055
Depreciation		27,130				**27,130**	27,148
Other outgoings	16, 17	41,871	32		181	**42,084**	22,730
Grants and donations	11	-				**-**	4,098
Total Expenditure		**594,186**	**18,272**	**9,000**	**181**	**621,639**	596,033
Net Income/ (expenditure)		**(125,221)**	**(16,753)**	**(4,358)**	**862**	**(145,470)**	(50,634)
Gains /(deficits) on investments			**5,217**		**9,653**	**14,870**	(1,450)
Transfers between Funds	18	**62,606**	**(53,768)**	**(2,858)**	**(5,980)**	**-**	-
Net movement in funds		**(62,615)**	**(65,304)**	**(7,216)**	**4,535**	**(130,600)**	(52,084)
Total funds brought forward		1,732,274	383,013	14,102	75,099	**2,204,488**	2,256,572
Total funds carried forward at end of year		**1,669,659**	**317,709**	**6,886**	**79,634**	**2,073,888**	2,204,488

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Statement of financial position
As at 31 August 2021

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	**Totals 2021 £**	Totals 2020 £
Fixed Assets							
Tangible fixed assets	19	1,602,614				**1,602,614**	1,618,158
Investments with TMCP	20		34,598		63,103	**97,701**	81,982
		1,602,614	34,598		63,103	**1,700,315**	1,700,140
Current Assets							
Debtors	21	38,353				**38,353**	49,004
Investments with TMCP	22		283,111		16,531	**299,642**	381,130
Central Finance Board Deposits	22	80,690				**80,690**	148,539
Cash at Bank and in hand	22	11,960		6,886		**18,846**	14,102
		131,003	283,111	6,886	16,531	**437,531**	592,775
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	25	63,958				**63,958**	88,427
Net current assets		67,045	283,111	6,886	16,531	**373,573**	504,348
Total assets less current liabilities		1,669,659	317,709	6,886	79,634	**2073,888**	2,204,488
Net assets		**1,669,659**	**317,709**	**6,886**	**79,634**	**2073,888**	2,204,488
Funds of the circuit							
General Fund (Unrestricted)	26.1	**1,669,659**				**1,669,659**	1,732,274
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)	26.1		**309,433**			**309,433**	379,954
Revaluation Fund (Unrestricted)	26.1		**8,276**			**8,276**	3,059
Designated Fund (Unrestricted)	26.2			**6,886**		**6,886**	14,102
Other Funds (Restricted)	27				**68,116**	**68,116**	73,234
Revaluation Fund (Restricted)	27				**11,518**	**11,518**	1,865
Total Funds	28	**1,669,659**	**317,709**	**6,886**	**79,634**	**2,073,888**	2,204,488

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 17/2/2022 and signed on their behalf by:

Mr R Turton
Treasurer

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Cash flow statement

For the year ended 31 August 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Cash from operating activities			
Deficit for the year		(145,470)	(50,634)
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation		27,130	27,148
Decrease/(increase) in debtors		10,651	(4,153)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		(24,469)	(13,591)
Net cash used in operating activities		**(132,158)**	(41,230)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible assets		(11,586)	(2,633)
Purchase of fixed asset investments		(849)	(10,627)
Net cash (used in)/from investing activities		**(12,435)**	(13,260)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the period		(144,593)	(54,490)
Cash and cash equivalents at start of period		543,771	598,261
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	22	**399,178**	543,771

Notes to the accounts
As at 31 August 2021

1. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective from 1 January 2015) – (the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

The Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

2. Accounting policies

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities - Charities SORP (FRS102).

These accounts have been prepared on the accruals basis and on the basis of historical cost except that investments are shown at their market value at the end of the year in order to show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

Going Concern

In common with many entities the effects of the Covid -19 Pandemic have had an impact on the activities of the Circuit and its member Churches.

As explained within their report the Trustees have carried out extended financial modelling and forecasting. This confirms that the Circuit has adequate financial resources available to meet its commitments for the foreseeable future. Accordingly the Financial Statements have been prepared using the going concern basis of accounting.

Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £ Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

Funds

The funds held constitute General Funds held for any purpose of the Circuit which are unrestricted. The Circuit Model Trust Fund has wide purposes defined in standing orders and is categorized as unrestricted. Restricted funds are held for a narrower purpose and include Endowment funds which represent gifts, the capital normally being unavailable for spending and the income from which is either Restricted or Unrestricted. Details of each material fund are disclosed in note 28 to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

Taxation

The charity, is a registered charity and has no taxable activities.

Pension costs

The Circuit is a member of the Connexional pension scheme (MMPS) which covers presbyters and deacons of the Methodist Church. The contribution rates are set each year by the Methodist

2. Accounting policies (continued)

Conference. The MMPS is a multi-employer scheme and in accordance with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission, the Circuit accounts for these contributions as if it were a defined contribution scheme.

The Circuit also has one lay employee enrolled in a defined contribution pension scheme administered by Nest Pension. Employer contributions are made at a rate of 6% to this scheme on behalf of employees who are members.

Going concern

Based upon operational budgets and cash flow projections together with the close monitoring of the continuing effect of Covid-19 restrictions upon the income raising ability of Churches, the trustees believe that the Circuit has adequate financial resources available to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Financial Statements therefore continue to be prepared using the going concern basis of accounting.

Consolidation

The Circuit oversees the work of ministers and lay workers in Churches within the Circuit but does not have control over those Churches, Ministers or lay workers except in extreme circumstances, none of which were applicable. For this reason, the financial statements of the Churches within the Circuit are not consolidated into these financial statements.

Income recognition

Income is brought into account when it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will accrue to the Circuit. No attempt is made to measure the value of services donated by volunteers.

Individual amounts categorised as Other Income in the SOFA are shown separately if they are considered to be material.

Donations are recognised in the statement of financial activities when they are receivable.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

The Circuit acts as agent in one matter:

- the collection from churches and payment over of their contributions to various funds administered and controlled by The Methodist Church in England and Wales.

In these circumstances the transactions are not reflected in the SOFA because there is no obligation on the Circuit.

Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings in the statement of financial activities as appropriate.

Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the Circuit to pay out resources.

2 Accounting policies (continued)

Grants

Grants are recognised in full when the award is made and once the Circuit accepts that there is an obligation to make the payment and that payment is probable.

VAT

Since the Circuit is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged within the expense headings upon which it was paid.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000. The freehold property, being church manses, is shown in the accounts at its deemed historical cost at 1 September 2015, being the properties insurance reinstatement value as calculated by the Circuit's Insurers, Methodist Insurance Limited, less any subsequent depreciation.

No depreciation is provided on the land element of the manses whilst the building element is depreciated straight line over a useful economic life of 75 years. All properties have been reviewed for impairment. Depreciation is provided on fixtures and fittings at the rate of 20% per annum from the date that the fixtures are brought into use by the Circuit.

Investments

The investments of the Circuit are held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees. The valuations, at market value, are those provided by TMCP. The unrealised gains and deficits arising on investments at the end of the year are shown in the SOFA.

Receivables and Payables; Bank and Cash

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the Circuit or the amount prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any related discounts, where normal credit terms apply, or the amount advanced to the Circuit. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds comprising of bank balances and deposit account balances are shown at their realisable values.

3. Glossary of terms

CFB: Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church manages a Common Deposit Fund and a series of pooled investment funds for Methodist entities in Great Britain and provides investment advice to those bodies.

Church: a group of members from fewer than 10 to more than 300

Circuit: a group of Methodist Churches near each other, typically between 10 and 30

MTF: Circuit Model Trust Fund

Connexion: The Methodist Church in GB which includes the Head Office at Methodist Church House, all Methodist Districts, Circuits and Churches in Great Britain

District: a group of contiguous Circuits, usually between 15 and 30

3. Glossary of terms (continued)

SOFA: Statement of Financial Activities

SORP: Statement of Recommended Practice

TMCP: Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds

4. Payment to Trustees

None of the Trustees received any remuneration during the year (2020 - £Nil).

Trustees were reimbursed expenses during the year, consisting of reimbursement of travel and sundry office costs.

	2021	2020
Number of trustees who were paid expenses	**1**	1
	£	£
Total amount paid	**95**	250

5. Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

	2021 £	2020 £
Included within 'other expenditure' are the following:		
Auditors' fee for reporting on the accounts	**3,140**	3,124

6. Assessments on Churches

The Circuit comprises the Churches referred to within the Trustees report.

Church Assessments are determined annually and approved by the Circuit meeting using a formulaic methodology which takes into account the size of the Church, the ability of the Church to pay, its income and the ministerial input to it.

In addition, St Andrews Methodist/URC church in Sedgley is also part of the Circuit but until 31 August 2021 is under the responsibility of the URC under a sharing Agreement. From 1 September 2021 the Church will be the responsibility of the Methodist Circuit under the same sharing agreement. Under this agreement it paid £6,960 (2020 - £6,800) which is included in the total assessments of £360,825 (2020 - £369,195) included within these accounts.

At the year end, amounts totalling £3,288 (2020 - £7,509) were owed to the Circuit in respect of assessments. These amounts are all being collected after the year end.

7. Profit on Sale of Fixed Assets

There were no capital disposals during the year (2020 - £nil)

8. Grants

The Circuit was in receipt of grants from District Funds totalling £Nil (2020 - £10,200) and from the Government Job Retention Scheme in respect of several lay workers amounting to £8,651 (2020 - £4,294).

9. Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies of £ 2,003 (2020 - £12,893) were received into the General Fund and £Nil (£10,626) into the Model Trust Fund during the current year. The amounts in the current year arose by transfer to the Circuit when the Congregation of Darlington Street ceased to meet on 30 September 2019. At this point the Darlington Street premises, Church and assets became the responsibility of the Circuit and its Trustees.

10. Other Charitable income

The Circuit was in receipt of the following other income:

	General £	Designated £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Church lay contributions	47,239		47,239	60,635
Rent from empty manses	24,008		24,008	23,350
Use of Wednesfield Church premises		4,642	4,642	5,612
Use of Darlington Street Premises	2,011		2,011	16,183
Shared Costs of Minister shared with Queens College	23,012		23,012	23,012
Sundry Income	168		168	3,581
	96,438	**4,642**	**101,080**	132,373

11. Grants and donations

During the year the Circuit made grants to Churches and others as follows:

	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Trinity Codsall	-	98
Springdale	-	1,000
Other	-	3,000
	-	**4,098**

12. Staff costs

	2021 £	2020 £
Staff costs paid during the year were:		
Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind	265,661	269,684
Employer's National Insurance costs	19,481	19,006
Pension costs	49,230	48,216
Other non-payroll costs	20,215	21,644
Total staff costs	**354,587**	**358,550**
Average number of full-time equivalent employees in the year were:	**16**	**16**

No employee earned more than £60,000 (2020 - none) in the year.

The costs can be summarised between ministry and lay worker support as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Ministry	266,213	260,101
Gross cost of lay support	88,374	98,449
	354,587	**358,550**

Gross lay support costs are part funded through Church lay contributions as detailed in note 10 above totalling £47,239 (2020 - £60,635). The Cost of lay support therefore funded directly by the Circuit was £41,135 (2020 - £37,814).

During the year ended 31 August 2020 3 lay workers were made redundant and their severance costs are included in the cost of lay support for that year.

The presbyters and the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) are also Trustees of the Circuit. Other than presbyters no member of the CLT received any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the Circuit although certain travelling and administration costs were reimbursed relating to specific meetings or projects.

13. Pensions

Most ordained presbyters and deacons are members of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS). This is a defined benefit scheme. The Supreme Court held in 2014 that Methodist ministers (which term includes presbyters and deacons) are not employees of the Church. For simplicity, however, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions and pension contributions, the terms 'employer' and 'employee' are used as they would be in an employing body.

13. Pensions (continued)

On the other hand, lay employees are contractually employees and have the option of joining a pension scheme. At the year end, there was 1 (2020 - 1) employee who was a member of such a scheme, the scheme being provided by NEST which is a defined contribution scheme.

The MMPS is in deficit but a plan for removal of the deficit has been proposed and is being implemented. Details of the deficit on the schemes can be found in the Annual Report and Accounts of The Methodist Church at www.methodist.org.uk.

14. Property costs

	2021	2020
	£	£
Property Maintenance	13,520	12,530
Rental of manses	14,241	14,531
Insurance	35,875	9,221
Utilities (principally rates, light and heat at Darlington Street and water rates)	19,472	22,820
	83,108	**59,102**

The above Costs include £5,957 (2020 - £4,772) incurred in respect of the Wednesfield property and this has been charged to the Designated Fund.

The above costs include £31,481 (2020 - £12,666) in respect of the Circuit's responsibilities for Darlington Street Methodist Church after its congregation ceased to meet.

15. Office expenses

	2021	2020
	£	£
Printing, postage and stationery	862	3,863
Use of office and facilities	4,799	4,893
Audit fee	3,140	3,124
Training	(25)	175
	8,776	**12,055**

The above costs include £Nil (2020 - £3,863) incurred in respect of the office costs at Darlington Street after its congregation ceased to meet.

16. Other outgoings

	2021 £	2020 £
Pulpit supply	-	3,366
Inspections and legal fees	38,658	16,844
Sundry outgoings	291	258
Mission and outreach	2,195	1,273
TMCP charges (charged to MTF and Restricted Fund)	940	990
	42,084	**22,730**

The above costs include £28,591 (2020 £8,700) in respect of legal, consultancy advice and marketing costs in respect of Darlington Street Methodist Church.

17. Investment management

During the year the Circuit paid £940 (2020 - £990) to TMCP, the custodians of the District's investments within the MTF.

18. Transfers between funds

A sum of £5,980 (2020 - £6,778) was withdrawn from the Restricted Surplus Funds account to contribute to the mission work of Stratton Street and the work of a Children and Families worker and £2,858 (2020 - £8,869) to contribute to ongoing Circuits costs of managing the Wednesfield Property(this is in place of an assessment). A further sum of £53,768 (2020 - £179) was transferred from the Model Trust Fund to the General Fund in respect of interest earned on the Darlington Street TMCP investments.

A further sum of £Nil (2020 - £nil) was transferred from the designated fund related to the University Chaplaincy to support the costs associated with the University Chaplain leaving the Circuit during the year.

Notes to the accounts
As at 31 August 2021

19. Tangible fixed assets

Cost or valuation	Manses £	Fixtures, fittings and Equipment £	Total £
At 31 August 2020	1,683,178	70,699	1,753,877
Additions	-	11,586	11,586
At 31 August 2021	**1,683,178**	**82,285**	**1,765,463**
Depreciation			
At 31 August 2020	77,870	57,849	135,719
Charge for year	16,020	11,110	27,130
At 31 August 2021	**93,890**	**68,959**	**162,849**
Net book value			
At 31 August 2020	1,605,308	12,850	1,618,518
At 31 August 2021	**1,589,288**	**13,326**	**1,602,614**

20. Fixed Asset Investments

	2021 £	**2020 £**
Cost brought forward	81,982	72,805
Additions	849	10,627
Unrealised (losses)gains on revaluation	14,870	(1,450)
Cost carried forward	**97,701**	**81,982**

21. Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade Debtors	3,288	7,509
Prepayments	31,781	39,418
Short term loans	3,284	2,077
	38,353	49,004

22. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise the following:

	2021 £	2020 £
Investments with TMCP	299,642	381,130
Central Finance Board deposits	80,690	148,539
Cash at bank and in hand	18,846	14,102
	399,178	**543,771**

23. Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

a) The funds that support the Model Trust Fund and the Restricted Fund are held by TMCP in Trustees Interest Funds and in CFB mixed funds. Interest is credited to the Trustee interest funds each month and is regarded as a short term investment in these accounts.

b) The monies held in the CFB Mixed funds are regarded as long term investments and are revalued at mid-market value at each year end.

c) TMCP is the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds. Trust property is held for and on behalf of local Managing Trustees who are responsible for the day to day management of trust property. TMCP ensure that, through providing guidance and acting under their direction, the Managing Trustees comply with charity law and Methodist law and policy as determined by the Methodist Conference.

24. Central Finance Board (CFB) and Cash at Bank

The Circuit has three current accounts at Lloyds Bank plc, Barclays Bank Plc and HSBC Bank Plc all of which are authorised institutions. The sums held on these accounts are immediately available. In addition the Circuit has a deposit account at CFB, a common deposit fund. Interest is earned on that account and credited monthly; the sums deposited can be withdrawn without notice and without loss of interest. These sums are viewed as being liquid.

25. Creditors – amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Bank Overdrafts	-	7,458
Accruals	30,182	25,034
Assessments in advance	27,654	49,770
Other Creditors	6,122	6,165
	63,958	**88,427**

It is expected that all sums accrued at 31 August 2021 will be paid during the year to 31 August 2022.

Included within other creditors is an amount of £ 978 (2020 - £1,021) held within the Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit benevolent fund which is used to meet cases of need arising within the Circuit and which is controlled by the Circuit Meeting through the Circuit Leadership Team.

An amount of £5000 (2020 - £5,000) is held in respect of a grant made to Stratton Street that is due for payment in the year ended 31 August 2022.

The bank overdraft relates to the bank account taken over on 30 September 2020 when Darlington Street ceased to meet. The amount has been repaid subsequent to the year end.

26. Unrestricted Funds

26.1 General Fund – balance of £1,669,659 at 31 August 2021 (2020 - £1,732,274)

The purpose of the fund is for use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the Circuit and which have not been designated for other purposes. About 90% of this fund is held as freehold properties for the use of Presbyters.

26.2 Other unrestricted Funds – balance of £317,709 at 31 August 2021 (2020 - £383,013)

These comprise the following four elements:

Model Trust Fund – balance of £309,433 at 31 August 2021 (2020 - £379,954)

These monies are not restricted in purpose but can only be used for projects that pass through the appropriate Circuit and TMCP authorisations.

Revaluation Fund – balance of £8,276 at 31 August 2021 (2020 - £3,059)

These are the unrealised gains on the fixed asset investments held with TMCP. Once realised, these monies will be included as part of the Model Trust Fund and will be used in line with the purposes of that fund as outlined above.

26. Unrestricted Funds (Continued)

Designated Fund - Monies received on the ceasing to meet of Wednesfield Methodist Church – balance of £6,886 at 31 August 2021 (2020 - £14,102)

These monies have been ring fenced for the development of a mission based project in the Wednesfield Church buildings.

27. Restricted Funds

These comprise the following:

a) Surplus Funds £16,531 (2020 - £22,514)

The restricted funds are the residual surplus funds left after the merger of the three Circuits some years ago. They can only be used for projects within the enlarged Circuit at the discretion of the Circuit meeting and TMCP.

b) Endowed funds £63,103 (2020 - £50,720)

c) Endowed Funds Revaluation Fund £11,518 (2020 - £1,865)

The funds at (b) and (c) above were transferred to the Circuit by the Trustees of Wednesfield Methodist Church when they ceased to meet in the summer of 2017. These monies are currently restricted for use by the Trustees of the Circuit for projects related to the Wednesfield church buildings and surrounding area.

28. Funds

Unrestricted funds – Current year

Unrestricted Fund Name	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
General Fund	1,732,274	468,965	(594,186)	-	62,606	1,669,659
Circuit Model Trust Fund	379,954	1,519	(18,272)	-	(53,768)	309,433
Revaluation Fund	3,059	-	-	5,217	-	8,276
Totals	**2,115,287**	**470,484**	**(612,458)**	**5,217**	**8,838**	**1,987,368**

Unrestricted funds – Previous year

Unrestricted Fund Name	Opening balance £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
General Fund	1,756,675	524,218	(564,445)	-	15,826	1,732,274
Circuit Model Trust Fund	389,477	14,246	(23,590)	-	(179)	379,954
Revaluation Fund	3,564	-	-	(505)	-	3,059
Totals	**2,149,716**	**538,464**	**(588,035)**	**(505)**	**15,647**	**2,115,287**

28. Funds (continued)

The Circuit Model Trust Fund: this consists of income from legacy churches and property sales. They have wide purposes as defined by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) and are categorized as unrestricted. Permission must be sought from TMCP to call on money for specific building projects or to support the mission in general.

Designated funds – Current year

Designated Fund Name	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
Wednesfield Designated Funds	14,102	4,642	(9000)	-	(2,858)	6,886
Totals	**14,102**	**4,642**	**(9,000)**	**-**	**(2,858)**	**6,886**

Designated funds – Previous year

Designated Fund Name	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains (Losses) £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
Wednesfield Designated Fund	25,174	5,612	(7,815)	-	(8,869)	14,102
Totals	**25,174**	**5,612**	**(7,815)**	**-**	**(8,869)**	**14,102**

Restricted funds – Current year

Restricted Fund Name	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
Surplus Funds Account	22,513	73	(75)		(5,980)	16,531
Wednesfield Endowed Funds	50,721	970	(106)			51,585
Wednesfield Endowed Revaluation Fund	1,865	-	-	9,653	-	11,518
Totals	**75,099**	**1,043**	**(181)**	**9,653**	**(5,980)**	**79,634**

28. Funds (continued)

Restricted funds – Previous year

Restricted Fund Name	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
Surplus Funds Account	28,152	265	(76)	-	(5,828)	22,513
Wednesfield Endowed Funds	50,719	1,059	(107)	-	(950)	50,721
Wednesfield Endowed Revaluation Fund	2,810	-	-	(945)	-	1,865
Totals	**81,681**	**1,324**	**(183)**	**(945)**	**(6,778)**	**75,099**

Surplus Funds Account: represents monies invested with TMCP which arose at the point the three Circuits came together to form the Wolverhampton Circuit five years ago. These monies are available for use to support mission and outreach projects within the Circuit.

29. Analysis of net assets between funds

	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds (Restricted) £	Totals 2021 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible fixed assets	1,602,614				1,602,614
Fixed asset investments		34,598		63,103	97,701
Current Assets					
Debtors	38,353				38,353
TMCP Investments		283,111		16,531	299,642
Deposit accounts	80,690				80,690
Cash at Bank and in hand	11,960		6,886		11,960
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(63,958)				(63,958)
Total	**1,669,659**	**317,709**	**6,886**	**79,634**	**2,073,888**

30. Related Party Transactions

As part of its normal operational structure, The Circuit makes contributions to the District and receives contributions from its member churches (details as per SOFA).

All of the Circuit trustees are members of one or another Church within the Circuit and may be Trustees in their own churches.

Connected organisations include the Methodist Connexion, other Circuits and Churches within the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District, CFB and TMCP. All of these entities have their own trustees or directors and autonomous administration such that the Circuit has no significant influence over any of them, nor they over the Circuit. They are, therefore, not considered related parties.

Transactions with connected parties during the year are as follows:

Names of Connected Organisations	Receipts £	Payments £
Donee: District Advance Fund	-	87,714
Donor: Churches within the Circuit in respect of assessments	360,825	-
Donee: Grants to churches within the Circuit	-	-

During the year ended 31 August 2021 short term advances totalling £3,284 (2020 - £2,077) were made to Churches. These have been repaid since the year end.

There were no other related party transactions.

31. Volunteer contributions

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit, Church) within the Methodist Church in GB is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. Principally this contribution is by serving on committees of the Circuit that deal with mission, manses, finance, policy, grants, training and development. We are grateful to all of them for their help and commitment.

32. Capital commitments and contingent liabilities

There were no capital commitments or contingent liabilities as at 31 August 2021 (2020 - £nil).

WOLVERHAMPTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1135146

Accounts

Circuit Number 2801

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 August 2020

(Charity Number 1135146)

Muras Baker Jones Limited
Chartered Accountants
Wolverhampton

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

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Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Administrative Information

Registered Charity Number	1135146	
Superintendent Minister:	Revd. Christopher Collins	
Ministers in the active work:	Revd. Steve Jackson	
	Revd. Dr. Joanne Cox-Darling	Revd. Paul Nzacahayo
	Revd. Samantha Hagerman	Revd. Teddy Siwila
	Revd. William Davis	Revd. Barry Welch
Senior Steward:	Pete Prescott	
Circuit Stewards:	Rosie Bryant	James Peterson
	Peter Share	Ann Latham
Circuit Treasurer:	Rob Turton FCA.	
Other Trustees:	Revd. Glennys Bamford	Revd. John Barrett
	Revd. Ken Collins	Revd. Stuart Davis
	Revd. Suzanne Newton	Revd. Robert Readshaw
	Revd. Donald Ryan	Revd. Steve Singleton
	Revd. Ivor Sperring	Revd. David Wheeler
	Revd. Margaret Heim	Sister Betty Vaughan
	Christine Lees	Judy Brown
	Lesley Cook	Richard French
	Wendy Gould	Dorothy Howells
	Jean Ordidge	Brenda Shuttleworth
	Liz Macer –Wright	Nicola Turner
	George Tonks	Clunis Chesworth
	Phillip Shuttleworth	Andy Dale
	Harold Dale	Robert Chesworth
	Brian Juggins	Jenny Cornes
	Liz Porteous	Elaine Jones
	Jenny Ridgway	Gill Silvester
	Jean Posnett	Eric Robinson
	Janet Punfield	Alan Eccles
	Andre Burns	Frank Moreton
	Jeff Rayner	Carol Doughty
	Sandra Clows	Ian Jenkins
	Paul Levett	Pauline Hurst
	Christine Westwood	Susan Whatmore
	Pat Arnold	Robert Fownes
	Marie Lane	Margaret Lowbridge
	Diane Cripps	Liz Green
	Nicola Jones	John Owen
	Janet Anderson	Glenda Howard
	Jonathan Mtsambilwa	Ethel Fellows
	Beryl Batham	Michael Bateman
	Michael Dickenson	Nicola Field
	Sally Parker	Ann Jenkins
	Margaret Williams	Graham Howell

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Administrative Information

Other Trustees (continued):	Martin Cresswell	Margaret Mottram
	Janet Fenney	Jim Howard
	Diana Beaumont	Kathryn Ridge
	Emma Verio	Pat Bedall
	Carol Totney	Sue Readshaw
	Iris Gamble	
Registered Office:	Beckminster Methodist Church Birches Barn Road Penn Fields Wolverhampton WV3 7BQ	
Charity:	1135146	
Auditors	Muras Baker Jones Limited Regent House Bath Avenue Wolverhampton West Midlands WV1 4EG	
Bankers:	Lloyds Queen Square Wolverhampton West Midlands WV1 1TF	
	Barclays Bank Plc Queen Square Wolverhampton West Midlands	
	HSBC Bank PLc Queen Square Wolverhampton West Midlands	
	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church 9 Bonhill Street London EC2A 4PE	

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Trustees Report

For the year ended 31 August 2020

Objects and Activities of the Circuit

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.

The objectives outlined above are achieved through the strategic direction of the Circuit Leadership team and the Circuit meeting. The Leadership team meet at least 6 times a year and the Circuit meeting at least 3 times a year to review and implement objectives, monitor our discipleship and to receive regulatory information either from the Methodist Church or other means.

Public Benefit

We confirm the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The work which we carry out with our Churches and the Communities in which they are situated is designed for the benefit of all. It not only supports our Church members but also provides the resources required to deliver mission and outreach to the most needy in our Society. This is achieved in various ways through the use of our Church buildings to work with people and organisations, through support of local food bank and homelessness projects and also through other forms of partnership working within our Local Communities.

Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document for the circuit is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976).

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline(CPD) of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference .These are updated annually.

Day to day management of the circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team, which comprises of the Superintendent Minister, the Ministerial Team and the Circuit Stewards. Together they represent the key management team. They are supported by the Local Preachers meeting, the Circuit Finance and Property Committee and the Circuit Policy Committee.

The Circuit Leadership team is accountable to the Members of the Circuit meeting who are also Trustees of the Circuit.

Trustee Training

A range of guidance is produced by the Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the circuit, specifically the leaflet 'The Role of a Trustee in The Methodist Church' is given to all new Circuit meeting members as induction to their role as trustees.

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Trustees Report

For the year ended 31 August 2020

Related Parties

The Circuit is part of the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District of the Methodist Church and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The following Methodist Churches are members of the circuit:

Beckminster
Bilston
Bradley
Brewood
Codsall
Cranmer
Coven
East Park
Fallings Park
Fordhouses
Hurst hill
Lanesfield
Rakegate
Springdale
St Johns
Stowlawn
Stratton Street
Upper Ettingshall
Wombourne

Darlington Street Methodist Church ceased to meet on 30 September 2019 and the Trustees of the Circuit are now responsible for the management and upkeep of that property. Further to this the Circuit continues to manage Wednesfield Methodist Church whose congregation ceased to meet several years ago.

In addition to the above St Andrews United Reformed /Methodist Church based in Sedgley is part of the Circuit under a sharing arrangement with the United Reformed Church.

Review of Activities

In designing and monitoring the charities activities, the Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commissions guidance on public benefit as further detailed on page 4. The review of activities in the following sections demonstrates how the Charity has provided benefit directly to the churches which comprise the Circuit and thereby to the local congregations and wider local communities involved with those churches.

General Review

The Circuit continues to be an active and major member of the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District. Locally, and within our own Circuit boundaries, the Circuit has continued to support the congregations and communities that our Churches serve. It has achieved this with the support of 8 ordained Ministers who received stipends for their roles. The Circuit also employs several key lay support workers who are paid for from Church contributions and Circuit funds.

Additional support continued to be provided by retired ministers who continued to have closer day to day involvement with three of our smaller congregations.

General Review (continued)

The local churches continue to provide programmes of worship, pastoral care and community involvement under the leadership of Ministers, lay employees and local Church Trustees.

The impact of Covid-19 meant that our Churches buildings had to close during March 2020 and although some have subsequently re opened in limited ways the presence of Covid-19 has placed restrictions on how our Churches are able to operate which is further explained in the sections that follow.

Activities and Future Plans

As part of the on-going development of the Mission of the Circuit and of its objectives the Circuit conducted a structural review several years ago .This has been revisited during the year with further thought being given to the effectiveness of the current structure of the Circuit in meeting the needs of those we seek to serve. The review was paused in March 2020 as we grappled with what Covid -19 meant for our communities and our Churches immediate day to day operations but the intention is that the review will continue as we emerge from the National restrictions imposed as a result of Covid-19.

Our plans for the future will build on what we have learned as a result of the impacts of Covid-19 and will inevitably mean that there are likely to be structural changes within the Circuit both in terms of worship and in terms of the buildings that we own. The Circuit will actively look to realise the value in buildings that are considered surplus in terms of the future mission and objectives of the Circuit. In addition to Darlington Street there are potentially at least other 3 properties that fall into this category.

In addition to the above the Circuit will continue to look at ways of disposing of the Darlington Street property which is a Heritage building. To this end we have formed a steering Group involving Circuit Trustees, The Methodist Connexion, Wolverhampton City Council and Heritage England. This Group is actively seeking solutions to the problems that owning a Heritage property brings and is being assisted in doing this by appropriately experienced professional advisors including a valuer and Estate Agent, specialist solicitors and a specialist Quantity Surveyor.

It is hoped that by the end of 2021 we will have come to a satisfactory resolution for all concerned. There are currently several third parties showing interest in the property.

One of the areas that we have already decided to act upon is to create a City Centre Ministry through a Diaconal appointment from 1 September 2021. This is being funded through our Model Trust monies.

The Ministers, Trustees and senior leadership team continue to believe that the implementation of our ongoing action plans will see the Circuit better placed to react to areas of need in a Circuit where there are significant differences in wealth with many of our Communities located in areas of significant deprivation and diverse beliefs.

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Safeguarding (continued)

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults
- the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
- We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.
- We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

Safeguarding continues to be an important area of consideration for the Church and we continue to work with the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District and the wider connection in order to ensure that our policies, training and practices meet all of the statutory and legal requirements in this area.

Covid-19

Covid-19 has presented some significant issues for the Circuit to deal with. For the most part the National restrictions that have been imposed have meant that our congregations have had few opportunities to worship together and that our community rooms have largely been closed for longer than they have been open since March 2020.This has impacted negatively upon all Churches in terms of the levels of income that they have been able to generate when compared to previous years. Whilst many individual Church members have continued to give generously it is inevitable that as we enter a new year some churches will start to feel pressure upon their reserves.

The Circuit has worked with Churches during the year to try to understand where each of them sits financially against the challenges that Covid-19 has brought into play and to provide assistance where needed. Current indications are that, for the year to 31 August 2021 virtually all churches will be able to meet their assessments thus securing the income of the Circuit. Beyond 31 August 2021, however, things look far more uncertain in terms of what Churches will be able to afford in terms of assessments and it may well be that the Circuit has to use some of its resources to bridge any shortfall for a time. The realisation of surplus properties previously referred to will therefore help bolster Circuit Reserves against this call upon monies.

Aside from the financial impact of Covid-19 the pandemic has meant that our Ministerial and Leadership teams have had to be adaptive and creative in their support of our congregations and communities. This has been achieved through the use of social media, video links for services, recorded services on Youtube and zoom and ,during the summer, outdoor gatherings of members for worship and acts such as communion. The view is that these various platforms have widened the reach of our Churches and it is almost certain that the experiences we have gained will continue to be used in the future and in a post Covid-19 World.

Covid-19 (continued)

When we eventually emerge the other side of the Covid-19 pandemic the world will inevitably be a different place in which a number of people and communities will face significant challenges. Our strategy will continue to be to meet those challenges to support the vulnerable and those in need whilst staying true to our core Mission.

Major Activities

In addition to Covid -19 the year to 31 August 2020 presented other challenges that the Circuit has had to deal with.

As recorded earlier Darlington Street Methodist Church ceased to meet as a congregation at the end of September 2019. This decision was taken by its membership over a lengthy period and with the full support of the Circuit, its Leadership Team, the District and the Connexion. The working Group referred to earlier has met regularly to plan for the eventual disposal of Darlington Street and to put strategies in place in order to safeguard the building. This comes at a cost, both financially and in terms time commitment. This is likely to continue until a disposal is eventually achieved.

Further to the above there continue to be several Churches within the Circuit who are struggling to cope financially and the Circuit continues to work with those churches, both through short term support and longer term planning, in order to find sustainable solutions for the future which furthers the objects that we have as a Methodist Circuit whilst continuing to help our local congregations and communities.

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Leadership Team and Circuit meeting with professional advice taken as required. These centre around, the effects of Covid-19 (where risk assessments and opening protocols for each property have been put in place by local Trustees after approval by the Circuit leadership team) property (Manses and Churches) maintenance costs and condition with Darlington Street high on this area of risk and finally the need to stay up to date with safeguarding protocols and procedures and with GDPR legislation.

Income and Expenditure continues to be monitored throughout the year both in total and in detail and is compared with the approved annual budget on a half yearly basis to detect trends as part of the risk management process and to avoid unplanned calls upon reserves.

In addition this year, as a result of Covid-19, more regular dialogue has been established with individual Churches over their own financial positions in order to detect trends or concerns that might affect Circuit Finances and Individual Churches in the future.

The Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit has committed itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.

It has also committed itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Trustees Report

For the year ended 31 August 2020

Financial Report

The result for the year shows an overall deficit of £52,084 (2019 – £69,700). The result is split across funds as follows:

General Fund	£(24,401)	*(2019 £ (27,939)*	Deficit for both years
Circuit Model Trust Fund	£(10,028)	*(2019:£ (17,983)*	Deficit for both years
Designated Funds	£(11,072)	*(2019:£ (4,048)*	Deficit for both years
Restricted Funds	£(6,583)	*(2019:£ (19,730)*	Deficit for both years

The principal elements affecting the result for the year are as follows:

A) The General Fund produced a deficit for the year of £24,401 *(2019:£27,939)* after transfers from other Funds. Before transfers the fund was in deficit by £40,227 *(2019:£ 42,079)*. The pre-transfer result is after depreciation of £27,148 *(2019: £ 23,868)* has been charged.

The actual result before depreciation was a deficit of £13,079 *(2019:£18,211)*This is explained by the decision the Circuit took in the previous year to partly fund the position of a youth and families worker from Reserves. A small deficit was also planned in the budget setting process.

In total transfers of £15,826 (*2019: £14,140*)were made from other funds to cover the cost of church related projects at Stratton Street (£5,000), to the families and youth worker (£5,656) ,already referred to above ,the balance relates to the transfer of monies to cover small grants to Churches and expenditure associated with Darlington Street.

At the end of the year the General reserves stood at £1,732,274 *(2019 - £1,756,675)* and principally comprised Fixed assets (being manses and related costs) and net current assets held for working capital purposes.

B) The Circuit Model Trust fund incurred an operating deficit before transfers of £9,344 *(2019: £17,983)* principally as a result of the MTF levy taken on the value of the funds held at TMCP and a grant of £3000 to Springdale Methodist Church to assist with capital works. No significant transfers were made from the fund during the year.

At the year end the Model Trust Fund stood at £383,013 *(2019:£393,041)*. These monies are held and administered by TMCP within investment and deposit accounts.

C) The designated funds relate to the activities at Wednesfield Methodist Church. Activities at Wednesfield produced a deficit of £2,203 *(2019: £1,821)*. This arose largely as a result of the loss of income due to covid-19 and one off maintenance costs. During the year net transfers were made of £ 8,869 *(2019: £1,997)* .These comprised transfers in from TMCP of net investment income and transfers out to cover costs borne centrally related to the Wednesfield activities principally families work for the last two years and a charge for central resourced management time. At the year end, designated funds amounted to £14,102 *(2019: £25,174)* and are held solely to cover future costs associated with the Wednesfield Church Building and the activities within it.

Financial Report (continued)

D) The restricted fund produced a Surplus (*2019: deficit*)before transfer of £ 1,140 (*2019: Deficit £8,242*). Income for the year arose largely due to the receipt of interest and dividends on monies held within TMCP and investment gains on endowed Funds. Net investment income of £1,506 (*2019:£1,487*) was transferred to the designated fund for Wednesfield Methodist Church during the year.

The other movements on restricted funds related to the Surplus Funds account where £5,656 was used to provide funding in support of the Families and Children's worker. At the year end, restricted funds amounted to £75,099 (*2019:*81,682). These monies are held in a mix of TMCP Investment and deposit accounts.

The Circuit Trustees are satisfied with the overall result achieved for the year against a backdrop the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic and continuing difficult circumstances for the

The Circuit Trustees are satisfied with the overall result achieved for the year against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic and continuing difficult operating circumstances for the Circuit. The Budget set for 2020/21 is for a breakeven position before depreciation is charged. Trustees will continue to monitor against this.

Going Concern

The Trustees have prepared detailed forecasts through to 31 August 2022. These have been reviewed, and stress tested, particularly for a fall in income during that period resulting from the inability of Churches to meet assessments fully in the year ended 31 August 2022 following potential impacts on them financially following the Covid-19 pandemic.

Based upon the forecasts and their review the Trustees believe that the Circuit has adequate financial resources available to enable it to carry on operating as a Going concern for the foreseeable future.

Investment Policy and Performance

To comply with Methodist Standing Orders, monies for short and long term investment are lodged with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP). In addition TMCP acts as custodian trustee for all real estate held by Circuits and for all large (individually over £20k) bequests and for the proceeds of sale of any property formerly owned by the Circuit. These sums are invested in unitised investments or held on deposit. The capital returns are close to tracking the movements in the FTSE100 index. The income mirrors the deposit rates available elsewhere. Both the Central Finance Board (CFB) and TMCP take into consideration social, environmental and ethical considerations, both negatively and positively, in establishing investment policy.

Short term deposits are lodged directly with the CFB and attract good rates of interest.

There are no benchmarks for the expected returns or appreciation on investments at TMCP and CFB. It is the Circuit's policy to manage the cash and investment resources of the Circuit so that a rate of return on investment – both by way of dividend and capital appreciation – is obtained at least as good as market rate considering our low appetite for risk.

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Trustees Report

For the year ended 31 August 2020

Reserves policy

The Circuit has a reserves policy covering its unrestricted funds which is reviewed annually.

Our policy is to ensure that there are sufficient free reserves available to maintain and secure the Circuits viability and future whilst ensuring through openness and transparency that its resources are being used for its charitable purposes. The Trustees are of the view that at 31 August 2020 free reserves meet these criteria. The reserves held at the end of the year were as follows:

	£
Unrestricted funds	
General Fund	1,732,274
Model Trust Fund	383,013
	2,115,287
Designated funds	
Wednesfield Methodist Church Funds	14,102
	14,102
Total unrestricted funds	**2,129,389**
Surplus Funds	22,513
Endowed Funds from Wednesfield Methodist Church	52,586
Total restricted funds	**75,099**
Total funds	**2,204,488**
Less: Tied up in freehold property and fixtures	(1,618,158)
Restricted Funds	(75,099)
	(1,693,257)
Total readily available reserves	**511,231**

All funds are separately invested either with CFB or TMCP. No money is directly invested in property, securities or other forms of investment.

Reserves policy (continued)

The financial position of the Circuit remains healthy in that its resources are not only sufficient to meet future known liabilities but also sufficient for the Circuit to carry out its plans for the following year.

Purposes of the funds

General Fund: this provides the working capital necessary for the day to day operation of the Circuit

Model Trust Fund: this money is held in reserve to support capital and revenue projects within the Circuit including the purchase and major items of maintenance of manse properties. Monies can only be used with the agreement of Trustees of the Circuit through TMCP.

Designated reserves: these reserves are held to support the mission work associated with Wednesfield Methodist Church;

Restricted Funds: are held for use on specific projects related to those funds and they can only be used for these purposes with the approval of Trustees and TMCP.

Statement of Disclosure to Auditors

So far as the Trustees believe there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors have not been made aware;

The Trustees have taken all the steps they ought to have taken as Trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

This report is signed on behalf of the Trustees

Reverend Christopher Collins
Superintendent Minister

Date: 19 April 2021

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Statement of Circuit Members' Responsibilities

For the year ended 31 August 2020

The members are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the members to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the members are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The members are responsible for keeping accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Independent Auditors' Report to the members of Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Opinion

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

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2019, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company 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

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

- the trustees use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least 12 months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

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

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

Responsibilities of Circuit Members

As explained more fully in the Circuit Members' Responsibilities Statement, the members 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 members 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 members 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 directors either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Muras Baker Jones Limited
Statutory Auditor
Regent House
Bath Avenue
Wolverhampton WV1 4EG

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

	Note	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Totals 2020 £**	Totals 2019 £
Income							
Donations and legacies	9	12,893	10,626	-	-	**23,519**	1,720
Charitable activities:							
Assessment or share	6	369,195	-	-	-	**369,195**	390,034
Grants	8	14,494	-	-	-	**14,494**	200
Other income	10	126,761	-	5,612	-	**132,373**	114,385
Investment income:							
Income from monetary investments		875	3,620	-	1,323	**5,818**	6,654
Total Income		**524,218**	**14,246**	**5,612**	**1,323**	**545,399**	512,993
Expenditure on							
Charitable activities:							
Salaries and associated costs	12	355,507	-	3,043	-	**358,550**	355,132
District assessment		92,567	-	-	-	**92,567**	92,118
MTF levy		-	19,783	-	-	**19,783**	21,138
Property Costs	14	54,330	-	4,772	-	**59,102**	45,821
Office Expenses	15	12,055	-	-	-	**12,055**	8,427
Depreciation		27,148	-	-	-	**27,148**	23,868
Other outgoings	16, 17	21,740	807	-	183	**22,730**	17,598
Grants and donations	11	1,098	3,000	-	-	**4,098**	19,482
Total Expenditure		**564,445**	**23,590**	**7,815**	**183**	**596,033**	583,584
Net Income/ (expenditure)		**(40,227)**	**(9,344)**	**(2,203)**	**1,140**	**(50,634)**	(70,591)
Gains (deficits)on							
Transfers between Funds	18	15,826	(179)	(8,869)	(6,778)	**-**	-
Investment assets		-	(505)	-	(945)	**(1,450)**	891
Net movement in funds		**(24,401)**	**(10,028)**	**(11,072)**	**(6,583)**	**(52,084)**	(69,700)
Total funds brought forward		1,756,675	393,041	25,174	81,682	**2,256,572**	2,326,272
Total funds carried forward at end of year		**1,732,274**	**383,013**	**14,102**	**75,099**	**2,204,488**	2,256,572

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Statement of financial position
As at 31 August 2020

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	**Totals 2020 £**	Totals 2019 £
Fixed Assets							
Tangible fixed assets	19	1,618,158	-	-	-	**1,618,158**	1,642,673
Investments with TMCP	20	-	29,397	-	52,585	**81,982**	72,805
		1,618,158	**29,397**	**-**	**52,585**	**1,700,140**	1,715,478
Current Assets							
Debtors	21	49,004	-	-	-	**49,004**	44,851
Investments with TMCP	22	-	353,616	-	27,514	**381,130**	411,918
Central Finance Board Deposits	22	148,539	-	-	-	**148,539**	161,426
Cash at Bank and in hand	22	-	-	14,102	-	**14,102**	24,918
		197,543	353,616	14,102	27,514	**592,775**	643,113
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	25	83,427	-	-	5,000	**88,427**	97,018
Net current assets		**114,116**	**353,616**	**14,102**	**22,514**	**504,348**	546,095
Total assets less current liabilities		**1,732,274**	**383,013**	**14,102**	**75,099**	**2,204,488**	2,261,772
Grants payable in over 1 year	25	-	-	-	-	-	5,000
Net assets		**1,732,274**	**383,013**	**14,102**	**75,099**	**2,204,488**	2,256,572
Funds of the circuit							
General Fund (Unrestricted)	26.1	**1,732,274**	-	-	-	**1,732,274**	1,756,675
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)	26.1	-	**379,954**	-	-	**379,954**	389,477
Revaluation Fund (Unrestricted)	26.1	-	**3,059**	-	-	**3,059**	3,564
Designated Fund (Unrestricted)	26.2	-	-	**14,102**	-	**14,102**	25,174
Other Funds (Restricted)	27	-	-	-	**73,234**	**73,234**	78,873
Revaluation Fund (Restricted)	27	-	-	-	**1,865**	**1,865**	2,810
Total Funds	28	**1,732,274**	**383,013**	**14,102**	**75,099**	**2,204,488**	2,256,572

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 19/4/21 and signed on their behalf by:

Mr R Turton
Treasurer

Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit

Cash flow statement

For the year ended 31 August 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
Cash from operating activities			
Deficit for the year		(50,634)	(70,591)
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation		27,148	23,868
Decrease/(increase) in debtors		(4,153)	(3,087)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		(13,591)	(25,522)
Net cash used in operating activities		**(41,230)**	**(75,332)**
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible assets		(2,633)	(14,212)
Purchase of fixed asset investments		(10,627)	-
Net cash (used in) / from investing activities		**(13,260)**	**(14,212)**
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the period		(54,490)	(89,544)
Cash and cash equivalents at start of period		598,261	687,805
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	22	**543,771**	**598,261**

Notes to the accounts
As at 31 August 2020

1. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective from 1 January 2015) – (the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

The Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

2. Accounting policies

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities - Charities SORP (FRS102).

These accounts have been prepared on the accruals basis and on the basis of historical cost except that investments are shown at their market value at the end of the year in order to show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

Going Concern

In common with many entities the effects of the Covid -19 Pandemic have had an impact on the activities of the Circuit and its member Churches.

As explained within their report the Trustees have carried out extended financial modelling and forecasting. This confirms that the Circuit has adequate financial resources available to meet its commitments for the foreseeable future. Accordingly the Financial Statements have been prepared using the going concern basis of accounting.

Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £ Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

Funds

The funds held constitute General Funds held for any purpose of the Circuit which are unrestricted. The Circuit Model Trust Fund has wide purposes defined in standing orders and is categorized as unrestricted. Restricted funds are held for a narrower purpose and include Endowment funds which represent gifts, the capital normally being unavailable for spending and the income from which is either Restricted or Unrestricted. Details of each material fund are disclosed in the final note of to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

Taxation

The charity, being a registered charity, is exempt from taxation.

Pension costs

The Circuit is a member of the Connexional pension scheme (MMPS) which covers presbyters and deacons of the Methodist Church. The contribution rates are set each year by the Methodist

2. Accounting policies (continued)

Conference. The MMPS is a multi-employer scheme and in accordance with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission, the Circuit accounts for these contributions as if it were a defined contribution scheme.

The Circuit also has two lay employees enrolled in a defined contribution pension scheme administered by Nest Pension. Employer contributions are made at a rate of 6% to this scheme on behalf of employees who are members.

Going concern

Based upon operational budgets and cash flow projections together with the close monitoring of the effect of Covid-19 restrictions upon the income raising ability of Churches , the trustees believe that the Circuit has adequate financial resources available to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Financial Statements therefore continue to be prepared using the going concern basis of accounting.

Consolidation

The Circuit oversees the work of ministers and lay workers in Churches within the Circuit but does not have control over those Churches, Ministers or lay workers except in extreme circumstances, none of which were applicable. For this reason, the financial statements of the Churches within the Circuit are not consolidated into these financial statements.

Income recognition

Income is brought into account when it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will accrue to the Circuit. No attempt is made to measure the value of services donated by volunteers.

Individual amounts categorised as Other Income in the SOFA are shown separately if they are considered to be material.

Donations are recognised in the statement of financial activities when they are receivable.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

The Circuit acts as agent in one matter:

- the collection from churches and payment over of their contributions to various funds administered and controlled by The Methodist Church in England and Wales.

In these circumstances the transactions are not reflected in the SOFA because there is no obligation on the Circuit.

Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings in the statement of financial activities as appropriate.

Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the Circuit to pay out resources.

2 Accounting policies (continued)

Grants

Grants are recognised in full when the award is made and once the Circuit accepts that there is an obligation to make the payment and that payment is probable.

VAT

Since the Circuit is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged within the expense headings upon which it was paid.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000. The freehold property, being church manses, is shown in the accounts at its deemed historical cost at 1 September 2015, being the properties insurance reinstatement value as calculated by the Circuit's Insurers, Methodist Insurance Limited, less any subsequent depreciation.

No depreciation is provided on the land element of the manses whilst the building element is depreciated straight line over a useful economic life of 75 years. All properties have been reviewed for impairment. Depreciation is provided on fixtures and fittings at the rate of 20% per annum from the date that the fixtures are brought into use by the Circuit.

Investments

The investments of the Circuit are held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees. The valuations, at market value, are those provided by TMCP. The unrealised gains and deficits arising on investments at the end of the year are shown in the SOFA.

Receivables and Payables; Bank and Cash

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the Circuit or the amount prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any related discounts, where normal credit terms apply, or the amount advanced to the Circuit. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds comprising of bank balances and deposit account balances are shown at their realisable values.

3. Glossary of terms

CFB: Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church manages a Common Deposit Fund and a series of pooled investment funds for Methodist entities in Great Britain and provides investment advice to those bodies.

Church: a group of members from fewer than 10 to more than 300

Circuit: a group of Methodist Churches near each other, typically between 10 and 30

MTF: Circuit Model Trust Fund

Connexion: The Methodist Church in GB which includes the Head Office at Methodist Church House, all Methodist Districts, Circuits and Churches in Great Britain

District: a group of contiguous Circuits, usually between 15 and 30

3. Glossary of terms (continued)

SOFA: Statement of Financial Activities

SORP: Statement of Recommended Practice

TMCP: Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds

4. Payment to Trustees

None of the Trustees received any remuneration during the year (2019 - £Nil).

Trustees were reimbursed expenses during the year, consisting of reimbursement of travel and sundry office costs.

	2020	2019
Number of trustees who were paid expenses	1	1
	£	£
Total amount paid	250	117

5. Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

	2020 £	2019 £
Included within 'other expenditure' are the following:		
Auditors' fee for reporting on the accounts	3124	3,020

6. Assessments on Churches

The Circuit comprises the Churches referred to within the Trustees report.

Church Assessments are determined annually and approved by the Circuit meeting using a formulaic methodology which takes into account the size of the Church, a churches ability to pay, its income and the ministerial input to it.

In addition, St Andrews Methodist/URC church in Sedgley is also part of the Circuit but currently under the responsibility of the URC under a sharing Agreement. Under this agreement it paid £6,800 (2019 - £6,720) which is included in the total assessments of £369,195 (2019 - £390,034) included within these accounts.

At the year end, amounts totalling £7,509 (2019 - £5,053) were owed to the Circuit in respect of assessments. These amounts are all being collected after the year end.

7. Profit on Sale of Fixed Assets

There were no capital disposals during the year (2019 £nil)

8. Grants

The Circuit was in receipt of grants from District Funds totalling £10,200 (2019 - £200) and from the Government Job Retention Scheme in respect of several lay workers amounting to £4,294 (2019: £Nil).

9. Donations and legacies

Donations of £12,893 (2019 - £1,720) were received into the General Fund and £10,626 (£nil) into the Model Trust Fund during the current year. The amounts in the current year arose by transfer to the Circuit when the Congregation of Darlington Street ceased to meet on 30 September 2019.At this point the Darlington Street premises, Church and assets became the responsibility of the Circuit and its Trustees.

10. Other Charitable income

The Circuit was in receipt of the following other income:

	General £	Designated £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Church lay contributions	60,635	-	60,635	67,083
Rent from empty manses	23,350	-	23,350	10,942
Use of Wednesfield Church premises	-	5,612	5,612	8,110
Use of Darlington Street Premises	16,183	-	16,183	-
Shared Costs of Minister shared with Queens College	23,012	-	23,012	22,414
University chaplaincy recharges	-	-	-	5,836
Sundry Income	3581	-	3,581	-
	126,761	**5,612**	**132,373**	**114,385**

11. Grants and donations

During the year the Circuit made grants to Churches and others as follows:

	General Fund £	Restricted Fund £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Wombourne	-	-	-	-
Stratton Street	-	-	-	15,000
Trinity Codsall	98	-	98	-
Darlington Street	-	-	-	2,150
Bilston	-	-	-	2,150
Springdale	1,000	-	1,000	-
Other	-	3,000	3,000	2,332
	1,098	**3,000**	**4,098**	**19,482**

12. Staff costs

	2020 £	2019 £
Staff costs paid during the year were:		
Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind	269,684	265,991
Employer's National Insurance costs	19,006	17,599
Pension costs	48,216	48,482
Other non-payroll costs	21,644	23,060
Total staff costs	**358,550**	**355,132**
Average number of full-time equivalent employees in the year were:	**16**	**20**

No employee earned more than £60,000 (2019 - none) in the year.

The costs can be summarised between ministry and lay worker support as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
Ministry	260,101	256,396
Gross cost of lay support	98,449	98,736
	358,550	**355,132**

Gross lay support costs are part funded through Church lay contributions as detailed in note 10 above totalling £60,635 (2019 - £67,083). The Cost of lay support therefore funded directly by the Circuit was £37,814(2019 - £31,653).

During the year 3 lay workers were made redundant and their severance costs are included in the cost of lay support above.

The presbyters and the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) are also Trustees of the Circuit. Other than presbyters no member of the CLT received any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the Circuit although certain travelling and administration costs were reimbursed relating to specific meetings or projects.

13. Pensions

Most ordained presbyters and deacons are members of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS). This is a defined benefit scheme. The Supreme Court held in 2014 that Methodist ministers (which term includes presbyters and deacons) are not employees of the Church. For simplicity, however, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions and pension contributions, the terms 'employer' and 'employee' are used as they would be in an employing body.

13. Pensions (continued)

On the other hand, lay employees are contractually employees and have the option of joining a pension scheme. At the year end, there was 1 (2019: 2) employee who was a member of such a scheme, the scheme being provided by NEST which is a defined contribution scheme.

The MMPS is in deficit but a plan for removal of the deficit has been proposed and is being implemented. Details of the deficit on the schemes can be found in the Annual Report and Accounts of The Methodist Church at www.methodist.org.uk.

14. Property costs

	2020	2019
	£	£
Property Maintenance	12,530	7,840
Rental of manses	14,531	13,883
Insurance	9,221	4,729
Utilities (principally rates, light and heat at Darlington Street and water rates)	22,820	19,369
	59,102	**45,821**

The above Costs include £4,772 (2019 - £3,596) incurred in respect of the Wednesfield property and this has been charged to the Designated Fund.

The above costs include £12,666 (2019: £nil) in respect of the Circuits responsibilities for Darlington Street Methodist Church after its congregation ceased to meet.

15. Office expenses

	2020	2019
	£	£
Printing, postage and stationery	3,863	1,231
Use of office and facilities	4,893	4,000
Audit fee	3,124	3,020
Training	175	176
	12,055	**8,427**

The above costs include £3,863 (2019 - £nil) incurred in respect of the office costs at Darlington Street after its congregation ceased to meet.

Notes to the accounts
As at 31 August 2020

16. Other outgoings

	2020 £	2019 £
Pulpit supply	3,366	6,197
Inspections and legal fees	16,844	3,769
Sundry outgoings	258	2,513
Mission and outreach	1,273	4,094
TMCP charges (charged to MTF and Restricted Fund)	990	1,025
	22,730	**17,598**

The above costs include £8,700 in respect of legal and consultancy advice received in respect of Darlington Street Methodist Church.

17. Investment management

During the year the Circuit paid £990 (2019 - £1,025) to TMCP, the custodians of the District's investments within the MTF.

18. Transfers between funds

A sum of £6,778 (2019 - £12,143) was withdrawn from the Restricted Surplus Funds account to contribute to the mission work of Stratton Street and the work of a Children and Families worker and £8,869 (2019 - £1,487) to contribute to ongoing Circuits costs of managing the Wednesfield Property(this is in place of an assessment).A further sum of £ 179(2019:£nil) was transferred from the Model Trust Fund to the General Fund in respect of interest earned on the Darlington Street TMCP investments.

A further sum of £nil (2019 - £3,484) was transferred from the designated fund related to the University Chaplaincy to support the costs associated with the University Chaplain leaving the Circuit during the year.

19. Tangible fixed assets

Cost or valuation	Manses £	Fixtures, fittings and Equipment £	Total £
At 31 August 2019	1,683,178	68,066	1,751,244
Additions	-	2,633	2,633
At 31 August 2020	**1,683,178**	**70,699**	**1,753,877**
Depreciation			
At 31 August 2019	61,850	46,721	108,571
Charge for year	16,020	11,128	27,148
At 31 August 2020	**77,870**	**57,849**	**135,719**
Net book value			
At 31 August 2019	1,621,328	21,345	1,642,673
At 31 August 2020	**1,605,308**	**12,850**	**1,618,518**

20. Fixed Asset Investments

	2020 £	**2019 £**
Cost brought forward	72,805	71,914
Additions	10,627	-
Unrealised (losses)gains on revaluation	(1,450)	891
Cost carried forward	**81,982**	**72,805**

The additions relate to funds transferred to the Circuit when Darlington Street ceased to meet.

21. Debtors

	2020 £	2019 £
Trade Debtors	7,509	5,053
Prepayments	39,418	38,064
Short term loans	2,077	1,734
	49,004	**44,851**

22. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise the following:

	2020 £	2019 £
Investments with TMCP	381,130	411,918
Central Finance Board deposits	148,539	161,426
Cash at bank and in hand	14,102	24,917
	543,771	**598,261**

23. Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

a) The funds that support the Model Trust Fund and the Restricted Fund are held by TMCP in Trustees Interest Funds and in CFB mixed funds. Interest is credited to the Trustee interest funds each month and is regarded as a short term investment in these accounts.

b) The monies held in the CFB Mixed funds are regarded as long term investments and are revalued at mid-market value at each year end.

c) TMCP is the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds. Trust property is held for and on behalf of local Managing Trustees who are responsible for the day to day management of trust property. TMCP ensure that, through providing guidance and acting under their direction, the Managing Trustees comply with charity law and Methodist law and policy as determined by the Methodist Conference.

24. Central Finance Board (CFB) and Cash at Bank

The Circuit has three current accounts at Lloyds Bank plc, Barclays Bank Plc and HSBC Bank Plc all of which are authorised institutions. The sums held on these account are immediately available. In addition the Circuit has a deposit account at CFB, a common deposit fund. Interest is earned on that account and credited monthly; the sums deposited can be withdrawn without notice and without loss of interest. These sums are viewed as being liquid.

25. Creditors – amounts falling due within one year

	2020 £	2019 £
Bank Overdrafts	7,458	-
Accruals	25,034	24,086
Assessments in advance	49,770	60,833
Grant payable to Stratton Street	5,000	10,000
Other Creditors	1,165	2,099
	88,427	**97,018**

It is expected that all sums accrued at 31 August 2020 will be paid during the year to 31 August 2021.

Included within other creditors is an amount of £1,021 (2019 - £1,956) held within the Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit benevolent fund which is used to meet cases of need arising within the Circuit and which is controlled by the Circuit Meeting through the Circuit Leadership Team.

An amount of £nil (2019 - £5,000) is payable in respect of a grant made to Stratton Street is due for payment in the year ended 31 August 2021. This amount is included in Creditors due within one year. (2020: over one year).

The bank overdraft relates to the bank account taken over on 30 September 2019 when Darlington Street ceased to meet. The amount has been repaid subsequent to the year end.

26. Unrestricted Funds

26.1 General Fund – balance of £1,732,274 at 31 August 2020 (2019 - £1,756,675)

The purpose of the fund is for use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the Circuit and which have not been designated for other purposes. About 90% of this fund is held as freehold properties for the use of Presbyters.

26.2 Other unrestricted Funds – balance of £383,013 at 31 August 2020 (2019 - £418,215)

These comprise the following four elements:

Model Trust Fund – balance of £379,954 at 31 August 2020 (2019 - £389,477)

These monies are not restricted in purpose but can only be used for projects that pass through the appropriate Circuit and TMCP authorisations.

Revaluation Fund – balance of £3,059 at 31August 2020 (2019 - £3,564)

These are the unrealised gains on the fixed asset investments held with TMCP. Once realised, these monies will be included as part of the Model Trust Fund and will be used in line with the purposes of that fund as outlined above.

26. Unrestricted Funds (Continued)

Designated Fund - Monies received on the ceasing to meet of Wednesfield Methodist Church – balance of £14,102 at 31 August 2020 (2019 - £25,174)

These monies have been ring fenced for the development of a mission based project in the Wednesfield Church buildings.

27. Restricted Funds

These comprise the following:

a) Surplus Funds £22,514 (2019 - £28,152)

The restricted funds are the residual surplus funds left after the merger of the three Circuits some years ago. They can only be used for projects within the enlarged Circuit at the discretion of the Circuit meeting and TMCP.

b) Endowed funds £50,720 (2019 - £50,720)

c) Endowed Funds Revaluation Fund £1,865 (2019 - £2,810)

The funds at (b) and (c) above were transferred to the Circuit by the Trustees of Wednesfield Methodist Church when they ceased to meet in the summer of 2017. These monies are currently restricted for use by the Trustees of the Circuit for projects related to the Wednesfield church buildings and surrounding area.

28. Funds

Unrestricted funds – Current year

Unrestricted Fund Name	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
General Fund	1,756,675	524,218	(564,445)	-	15,826	1,732,274
Circuit Model Trust Fund	389,477	14,246	(23,590)	-	(179)	379,954
Revaluation Fund	3,564	-	-	(505)	-	3,059
Totals	**2,149,716**	**538,464**	**(588,035)**	**(505)**	**15,647**	**2,115,287**

Unrestricted funds – Previous year

Unrestricted Fund Name	Opening balance £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
General Fund	1,784,614	493,345	(535,424)	-	14,140	1,756,675
Circuit Model Trust Fund	407,696	3,741	(21,960)	-	-	389,477
Revaluation Fund	3,328	-	-	236	-	3,564
Totals	**2,195,638**	**497,086**	**(557,384)**	**236**	**14,140**	**2,149,716**

28. Funds (continued)

The Circuit Model Trust Fund: this consists of income from legacy churches and property sales. They have wide purposes as defined by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) and are categorized as unrestricted. Permission must be sought from TMCP to call on money for specific building projects or to support the mission in general.

Designated funds – Current year

Designated Fund Name	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
Wednesfield Designated Funds	25,174	5,612	(7,815)	-	(8,869)	14,102
Totals	**25,174**	**5,612**	**(7,815)**	**-**	**(8,869)**	**14,102**

Designated funds – Previous year

Designated Fund Name	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains (Losses) £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
University Chaplaincy	3,714	5,836	(6,066)	-	(3,484)	-
Wednesfield Designated Fund	25,508	8,110	(9,931)	-	1,487	25,174
Totals	**29,222**	**13,946**	**15,997**	**-**	**(1,997)**	**25,174**

Restricted funds – Current year

University Chaplaincy Fund (Restricted): represents specific funding for the provision of a minister to the University of Wolverhampton.

Restricted Fund Name	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
Surplus Funds Account	28,152	265	(76)	-	(5,828)	22,513
Wednesfield Endowed Funds	50,719	1,059	(107)	-	(950)	50,721
Wednesfield Endowed Revaluation Fund	2,810	-	-	(945)	-	1,865
Totals	**81,682**	**1,324**	**(183)**	**(945)**	**(6,778)**	**75,099**

28. Funds (continued)

Restricted funds – Previous year

Restricted Fund Name	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
Surplus Funds Account	48,538	368	(10,097)		(10,656)	28,153
Wednesfield Endowed Funds	50,719	1,594	(106)		(1,487)	50,719
Wednesfield Endowed Revaluation Fund	2,155	-	-	655	-	2,810
Totals	**101,412**	**1,961**	**(10,203)**	**655**	**(12,143)**	**81,682**

Surplus Funds Account: represents monies invested with TMCP which arose at the point the three Circuits came together to form the Wolverhampton Circuit five years ago. These monies are available for use to support mission and outreach projects within the Circuit.

29. Analysis of net assets between funds

	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds (Restricted) £	Totals 2020 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible fixed assets	1,618,158	-	-	-	1,618,518
Fixed asset investments	-	29,397	-	52,585	81,982
Current Assets					
Debtors	49,004		-	-	49,004
TMCP Investments	-	353,616	-	27,514	381,130
Deposit accounts	148,539	-	-	-	148,539
Cash at Bank and in hand	-	-	14,102	-	14,102
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(83,427)	-	-	(5,000)	(88,427)
Amounts falling due in over one year					
Total	**1,732,274**	**383,013**	**14,102**	**75,099**	**2,204,488**

30. Related Party Transactions

As part of its normal operational structure, The Circuit makes contributions to the District and receives contributions from its member churches (details as per SOFA).

All of the Circuit trustees are members of one or another Church within the Circuit and may be Trustees in their own churches.

Connected organisations include the Methodist Connexion, other Circuits and Churches within the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District, CFB and TMCP. All of these entities have their own trustees or directors and autonomous administration such that the Circuit has no significant influence over any of them, nor they over the Circuit. They are, therefore, not considered related parties.

Transactions with connected parties during the year are as follows:

Names of Connected Organisations	Receipts £	Payments £
Donor: District Advance Fund	10,200	(92,567)
Donor: Churches within the Circuit in respect of assessments	369,195	-
Donee: Grants to churches within the Circuit	-	(4,098)

During the year ended 31 August 2020 short term advances totalling £2,077 (2019: £nil) were made to Churches. These have been repaid since the year end.

There were no other related party transactions.

31. Volunteer contributions

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit, Church) within the Methodist Church in GB is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. Principally this contribution is by serving on committees of the Circuit that deal with mission, manses, finance, policy, grants, training and development. We are grateful to all of them for their help and commitment.

32. Capital commitments and contingent liabilities

There were no capital commitments or contingent liabilities as at 31 August 2020 (2019 - £nil).