



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01/09/2023 period start date To 31/08/2024 period end date

Charity name: **Boston Methodist Circuit**

Charity registration number: **1135515**

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>The Circuit is governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976, the Deed of Union and the Model Trust Deeds of the Methodist Church.</p> <p>The purposes of the Methodist Church are, and shall be deemed to have been since the date of union, the advancement of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) the Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church, andb) any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, District, Circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church, andc) any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution or subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church. <p>The Boston Circuit is a group of local Methodist Churches. Across the UK, Methodist Circuits are grouped into Districts. The British Methodist Connexion, our national body, is made up of all the districts of Scotland, Wales and England, along with the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands and Shetland. Although there is some autonomy, all Methodist organisations in Great Britain are governed by statutes determined by the Methodist Conference and which are published in the Constitution, Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Methodist Church.</p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>Our mission is to be a powerful spiritual influence in the community and a visible expression of God's inclusive love. We live out in a local context the aspirations and principles of the Methodist Church nationally. We are committed to the worship,</p>

services identified in the accounts.		social, and outreach activities that currently exist, and seek fresh ways to extend them to serve the present age.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	In setting our objectives and planning our activities, Circuit Trustees meet monthly, giving careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and, in particular, to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing our objectives as set out above.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	<p>By way of annual or one-off grants, Boston Methodist Circuit supports churches, and other organisations, within the Circuit by contributing to the cost of specific projects, especially for mission, sometimes for as long as five years. The Circuit does not generally support the normal running costs of any church.</p> <p>Before committing to a grant, the Circuit believes that it is prudent to ensure that it has sufficient resources to pay for all instalments of the grant.</p>
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	N/A
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	Volunteers help the charity to achieve its stated activities through a variety of input.
Other		N/A

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>Maintaining the worship, social and outreach activities of all our churches so that they serve the needs of the members in the present age.</p> <p>Using our churches as hospitable and welcoming spaces to promote social inclusion with an emphasis on those who are vulnerable in society.</p> <p>The charity is well regarded across Boston and its surrounding villages and intentionally builds relationships and works with social partners for the common good.</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	<p>The Circuit has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - maintained its links with neighbouring churches across Boston - continues to co-operate with neighbouring circuits in outreach projects including Heckington Show - continued its support for a wide range of outreach projects and generated new opportunities for youth work and community engagement. - Circuit holds regular consultations for planning and outreach.
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	N/A
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	N/A
Other		N/A

Financial Review

<p>Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period</p>	<p>Para 1.21</p>	<p>For the year ended 31st August 2024 the Circuit prepared receipts and payments accounts. They are not a consolidation of the accounts of churches in the Circuit.</p> <p>The Circuit budget is prepared by first anticipating the expenditure for the forthcoming year and then determining how that sum will be raised.</p> <p>About 87% of the unrestricted income for the year 2023-2024 came from the individual churches within the Circuit.</p> <p>Standing Orders require the Circuit to pay the District Assessment before any other commitments and then to pay the stipends and support costs, including the provision of a manse, telephone and travel expenses, for ministers stationed in the Circuit. The Circuit also employs a part-time administrator. The cost of these commitments in the year to 31st August 2024 was £114,847. In addition there were other costs totalling £122,607, including the purchase of a manse.</p> <p>Reserves not tied up in fixed assets were approximately £128k at the year end. At no time during the year was the Circuit insolvent either in terms of its assets or in terms of its ability to pay its debts as they became due. All funds are unrestricted with the exception of the Lees Legacy restricted funds of £504 and endowment fund of £4,863, plus funds held by the Circuit for the Kirton Family Worker. The income from the Lees Legacy fund is administered by the Lees Legacy Committee which is appointed by the Circuit Meeting and serves as a benevolent fund for those in need.</p>
<p>Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held</p>	<p>Para 1.22</p>	<p>The Circuit seeks to use its financial resources wisely and to predict future needs for capital expenditure on churches, manses and projects.</p> <p>Capital Assets</p> <p>The proceeds of sale of the premises of any Methodist Church or manse within the Circuit is generally credited to the Circuit. There is, however, a substantial levy paid to the Connexion (the Methodist Church in Great Britain) so not all the proceeds are received by the Circuit. During the year none have been sold, but one former chapel is expected to be sold in 2025. The Circuit has</p>

		<p>one manse but it will be seeking to purchase another one in the near future.</p> <p>Existing Commitments</p> <p>The Circuit has committed the following grants out of its Reserves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RoadHog Youth Mission: £1,000 as a one off grant payable in May 2024. <p>Annual Costs</p> <p>The Circuit believes that it should ensure that it has reserves sufficient to cover the stipends of its Presbyters for the full ensuing year but not to meet any redundancy pay should this be payable. At 31 August 2024, this sum is estimated at £46,000. A part time Circuit Administrator is employed by the circuit, with an associated annual cost of £17,000.</p> <p>Other costs of the Circuit are estimated at £40,000 for a full year. The Circuit deems it prudent to hold sufficient to cover these costs for six months, i.e. £20,000. The total of these projected costs is £83,000. Current reserves are able to meet this expenditure.</p>
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	Approx £124,000
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	N/A

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	<p>The principle source of funds is what the charity asks of its churches, each of which pays a number of shares, currently £250 each to meet annual expenditure.</p> <p>It is expected that this income will cover expenditure for the current and next year.</p>
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	N/A
	Para 1.46	Through its Trustees, risks faced by the Circuit have been considered. Where

A description of the principal risks facing the charity		<p>appropriate, risks have been covered by insurance. Security and safety of our churches is largely for individual churches to determine and to mitigate following advice from Trustees.</p> <p>All churches and manses are the subject of quinquennial building inspections and the reports on each are reviewed by the Circuit as well as the local Trustees. Action is taken to reduce the risks of injury to all who have a legitimate purpose on those premises.</p> <p>We have considered the resilience of churches and the risk that they will not meet their assessments.</p> <p>The Circuit operates within a statutory framework of regulation and seeks to ensure that it follows Methodist standing orders. It relies on the Connexional Office to provide guidance on changes that could affect the Circuit.</p>
Other		N/A

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		N/A
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	The Methodist Church Act 1976, the Deed of Union and the Model Trust Deeds of the Methodist Church
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Circuits are the co-ordinating charities for local groups of churches governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976, the Deed of Union and the Model Trust Deeds of the Methodist Church.
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Church Councils safely recruit Trustees, according to Methodist Church recruitment policies, to serve on the Circuit Meeting.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	A range of guidance is provided by the Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the Circuit and training opportunities are offered at Circuit and District levels eg Safeguarding, GDPR, EDI.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Overall control rests with the Methodist Conference. 2) The Connexional Office implements decisions made by Conference and is also responsible for the stationing of Presbyters in individual Circuits. 3) Connexional decisions are passed to the Chair of the District and the appropriate Officers of the District for regional implementation. 4) The Districts communicate to Circuits for local implementation by the Superintendent Presbyter, Presbyteral Staff and Circuit Stewards who are the Circuit's Managing Trustees. Policy decisions are taken at the Circuit Meeting. 5) The Circuit Meeting communicates to Church Councils for local Church implementation by the Presbyter, the Church Stewards and other officers. Authority is delegated to Church Councils acting as Managing Trustees. 6) The Methodist Connexional year runs from 1 September to 31 August.

		<p>Charity Registration</p> <p>The Boston Methodist Circuit was registered as a charity (registration number 1135515) in April 2010.</p> <p>The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty under the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.</p>
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	N/A
Note on Safeguarding		<p>The Circuit and each individual church have adopted and abide by all Connexional and District safeguarding policies in relation to children and adults who may be vulnerable. These include policies regarding Safer Recruitment, Risk Assessments and Responding Well, when there are concerns. Trained Safeguarding Officers ensure compliance, deliver training, and champion safeguarding in all the circuit and its churches. We follow Connexional guidelines on obtaining DBS checks where these are necessary, and ensure they are renewed every five years. In line with Connexional policy, Safeguarding training at an appropriate level is delivered to church and circuit officers every four years, including advanced training for Presbyters, lay preachers and others in a leadership role.</p>

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Boston Circuit (17/22)
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1135515
Charity's principal address	Centenary Methodist Church Red Lion Street Boston PE21 6NY

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Rev. Dr Val Ogden	Co-Superintendent/Presbyter (to 31/07/2023) Superintendent from 01/08/2023		
2	Rev. Julie Doddrell	Supernumerary Presbyter		
3	Rev. Marie Greenwood	Supernumerary Presbyter		
4	Miss H Darley	Local Church Pastor		
5	Mrs S Lymer	Local Church Pastor		
6	Mr S Cock	Manse Steward		
7	Mrs D Barnden	Circuit Steward		
8	Mr S Birkett	Circuit Steward		
9	Mrs J Burgess	Circuit Steward		
10	Mrs A Burrell	Circuit Steward		
11	Mr G Carter	Circuit Steward		
12	Mr R Champion	Circuit Steward	From 30/01/2024	
13	Mr J Cooper	Circuit Steward		
14	Mrs J Criddle	Circuit Steward		
15	Mr P Criddle	Circuit Steward		
16	Mrs A Forinton	Circuit Steward		
17	Mr J Hewitt	Circuit Steward		
18	Mrs J Jessop	Circuit Steward		
19	Mr M Jessop	Circuit Steward		
20	Mrs J Kent	Circuit Steward		
21	Mr D Laing	Circuit Steward		
22	Mr G Lilley	Circuit Steward	From 30/05/2023 to 30/01/2024	
23	Mr S Maddy	Circuit Steward		

24	Mrs C Meeds	Circuit Steward		
25	Mrs R Peacock	Circuit Steward		
26	Mr G Sharp	Circuit Steward		
27	Mr M Teasdale	Circuit Steward	From 30/01/2024	
28	Mrs L Thorn	Circuit Steward		

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
N/A		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
N/A		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	N/A
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	N/A

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
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Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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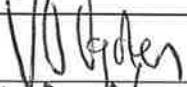
Other optional information

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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		J. Kent
Full name(s)	Rev Dr VALERIE OGDEN	Janet Kent
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	CHAIR	Trustee
Date	27 JUNE 2025	27 June 2025.

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Boston	Circuit
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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2024**

Lincolnshire	District	Circuit no	17/22
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1135515

If not a registered charity **His Majesty's Revenue and Customs Gift Aid number**

(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Ministers:

Rev Dr V Ogden

Circuit Stewards:

Dorothy Barnden, Stuart Birkett, Jean Burgess, Audrey Burrell, Geoff Carter, Rick Champion,
Stephen Cock, Jonathan Cooper, Joanna Criddle, Peter Criddle, Heather Darley, Rev. Julie Doddrell,
Audrey Forinton, John Hewitt, Jenny Jessop, Mike Jessop, Janet Kent, David Laing,
Sheila Lymer, Stewart Maddy, Carol Meeds, Rev. Dr Val Ogden, Rachel Peacock, Geoff Sharp,
Michael Teasdale, Lynn Thorn

Treasurer:

S Jackson

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 August 2024

Boston

Circuit

SECTION A		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
a1	RECEIPTS	Note	£	£	£	£
a2	Assessment/Share		96,187		96,187	96,625
a3	Capital receipts					
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		2,243	9,223	11,466	7,069
a5	Grants					
a6	Other receipts		12,367	49,443	61,810	960
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS		110,797	58,666	169,463 (a8)	104,654

SECTION B		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs		63,510	15,658	79,168	112,026
b3	Manse Costs		9,817		9,817	5,070
b4	Administration etc		7,823	577	8,400	5,015
b5	District Assessment		25,500	7,620	33,120	35,606
b6	Grants & donations		1,000		1,000	1,000
b7	Pension Reserve Payment fund			(27,000)	(27,000)	
b8	Other payments		2,950	129,999	132,949	11,050
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS		110,600	111,196	237,454 (b9)	169,767

SECTION C		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a7-b9)	197	(52,530)	(15,658)	(67,991)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		(22,368)	202,402	37,319	217,353 (c6)
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	(22,171)	149,872	21,661	149,362
c4	Transfers and adjustments		10,000	(10,000)		146 (c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	(12,171)	139,872	21,661	149,362 (c8)

SECTION D		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
d	FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (these amounts should not be included in total receipts/payments above)					
d1	Balance brought forward from last year				258	868
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations					630
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations					1,240
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)				258	258

SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATION REPORTING TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING**SECTION E** Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Circuit Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross receipts and payments totals of the Circuit. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold of £250,000, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the Circuit and connected Circuit Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1						
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds				(e11)	(e12)
e9	Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)					
	169,463 (a8)	237,454 (b9)	(67,991)	(c7)	217,353 (c6)	149,362 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT				217,353 (x)	149,362 (y)
	169,463	237,454	(67,991)			
	TOTAL RECEIPTS		TOTAL PAYMENTS			

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward

SECTION F
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2024		OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1	Cash in hand		
f2	Bank Current Account	6,035	4,669
f3	Bank Deposit Account		
f4	Central Finance Board	8,164	7,415
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	202,402	139,872
f6	Other funds	752	(2,594)
f7	SUB TOTAL	217,353 (c6)	149,362 (c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance totals above) (e12)	(e11)	(e12)
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	217,353 (x)	149,362 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES		At 1 September 2023	At 31 August 2024
g1	Investments (include Endowments)	4863	4863
g2	Land and Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	240,995	370,994
g3	Other Assets		
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5	Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

f5 Include only CFB Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trust accounts this is inserted in line f5)

Name of Circuit No.....

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2024 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit meeting.

Signature of treasurer S. E. Jackson Date 7-11-24..

Name and address of treasurer S. E. JACKSON..... MAIN STREET ACCOUNTANCY LTD
RIDGE HOUSE ANNEXE, 16 MAIN RIDGE WEST, BOSTON Post Code PE21 6QQ ,

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were/will be*
presented to the Circuit meeting held on 28 January 2025

Signature of the Chair of the meeting V. V. Ogden

Name of the Chair of the meeting REINDE VAL ODEN Date 28/01/25

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Boston Circuit

Charity Number

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Boston
Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages .1. to .3. As the Circuit's trustees, you
are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the
Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Circuit Boston No

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (~~other than that disclosed below*~~) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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

I ~~have~~/have not* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner 

Name of independent examiner KEITH MAY

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ACMA CGMA

Name of firm (where appropriate) KEITH MAY ACCOUNTING SERVICES LTD

Address AURA BUSINESS CENTRES HEATH ROAD

SKEGNESS L10 0LDSH.26 Post Code PE25 3SJ

Date 16/12/2024

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Circuit Boston No

Independent Examiner's Statement

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Signature of independent examiner 

Name of independent examiner KEITH MAY

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ACMA CGMA

Name of firm (where appropriate) KEITH MAY ACCOUNTING SERVICES LTD

Address AURA BUSINESS CENTRES HEATH ROAD

SKEGNESS L10 0LH 2RS Post Code PE25 3SS

Date 16/12/2024

* delete or circle as appropriate