

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Lowestoft and East Suffolk Methodist	Circuit
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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2024**

East Anglia	District	Circuit no	14/07/2024
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1135624

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 Martin Keenan
Deacon Linda Kinchenton

Circuit Stewards:

Rev Robert Soanes

Treasurer:

Rev Robert Soanes

SECTION A		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year	
a1	RECEIPTS	Note	£	£	£	£	
a2	Assessment/Share		120,202		120,202	116,926	
a3	Capital receipts		0		0	442,723	
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		2,088	24,158	7,031	33,277	
a5	Grants				0	0	
a6	Other receipts		11,948	144	12,092	19,361	
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS		134,237	24,303	7,031	165,571 (a8)	594,133

SECTION B							
b1	PAYMENTS						
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs		89,951			89,951	86,850
b3	Manse Costs		9,937			9,937	6,044
b4	Administration etc		3,610			3,610	3,170
b5	District Assessment		27,338			27,338	29,396
b6	Grants & donations		19,187			19,187	2,079
b7						0	
b8	Other payments		25,536	28,244	371	54,151	163,868
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS		175,560	28,244	371	204,174 (b9)	291,407

SECTION C							
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a7-b9)	(41,322)	(3,941)	6,660	(38,604)	302,726
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		90,657	475,192	130,112	695,961 (c6)	393,087
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	49,335	471,251	136,772	657,357	695,813
c4	Transfers and adjustments		19,691	(18,823)	(868)	(0) (c7)	148
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	69,026	452,428	135,904	657,357 (c8)	695,961 (c6)

SECTION D					
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				
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations			150	
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations			150	
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)			0	0

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 Southwold Foodbank	10,575	3,773	6,802		0	6,802
e2			0			0
e3			0			0
e4			0			0
e5			0			0
e6			0			0
e7			0			0
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	10,575	3,773	6,802	0	0 (e11)	6,802 (e12)
e9 Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	165,571 (a8)	204,174 (b9)	(38,604)	(0) (c7)	695,961 (c6)	657,357 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	176,146	207,947	(31,801)	(0)	695,961 (x)	664,160 (y)
	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	30,098	28,120
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	60,559	40,906
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	475,193	452,429
f6 Other funds	130,112	135,904
f7 SUB TOTAL	695,962 (c6)	657,359 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance totals above) (e12)	0 (e11)	6,802 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	695,962 (x)	664,161 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2023	At 31 August 2024
g1 Investments (include Endowments)		
g2 Land and Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	2,066,016	2,130,801
g3 Other Assets		
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end	3,292	2,292
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)

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 R Soanes Date 24-10-24

Name and address of treasurer Rev Robert Soanes

7 Dene Road, Lowestoft, NR32 4QE

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 September 30th 2024 and March 27th 2025
and ratified by emails by April 10th 2025.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting M Keenan

Name of the Chair of the meeting REV M. KEENAN Date 10/4/25

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Lowestoft and East Suffolk Methodist Circuit

Charity Number 1135624

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Lowestoft and East Suffolk Meth 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

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 RICHARD SULLIVAN

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FCA

Name of firm (where appropriate) BARNARD SAMPSON LLP

Address 3a QUAY VIEW ANSWELL PARK BARNARDS WAY

..... LOWESTOFT SUFFOLK Post Code NR32 2HD

Date 26/2/25

* delete or circle as appropriate

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 2023 TO 31 AUGUST 2024

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

CHARITY NAME: LOWESTOFT AND EAST SUFFOLK METHODIST CIRCUIT

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1135624

PRINCIPAL ADDRESS: 8 CORTON ROAD, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK, NR32 4PL

TRUSTEES: THE NAMES OF THE MANAGING TRUSTEES ARE LISTED ON THE CHARITY COMMISSION WEBSITE OR ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE CIRCUIT

TREASURER

AIMS AND ORGANISATION

THE MAIN AIMS OF THE CIRCUIT POLICY ARE:

1. TO COMMISSION AND CHALLENGE OUR CHURCHES TO GROW IN FAITH AND UNDERSTANDING OF GOD AND HIS PURPOSE AND TO MAKE NEW DISCIPLES OF CHRIST.
2. TO EXCEL IN LOCAL AND GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT, AWARENESS AND OUTREACH, AND TO SEE GROWTH ROOTED IN LOCAL CONGREGATIONS.
3. TO CELEBRATE AND DEVELOP ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS.
4. TO ENABLE EVERYONE, STAFF AND MEMBERS ALIKE, TO REALISE, USE AND STRETCH THEIR GOD-GIVEN GRACES AND SKILLS; AND IN PARTICULAR TO DEVELOP A TEAM APPROACH THAT WILL LIBERATE THE MINISTRY TO EXERCISE THEIR GIFTS ACROSS THE CIRCUIT, EVEN THOUGH THEY WILL RETAIN PARTICULAR RESPONSIBILITIES FOR SPECIFIC CHURCHES.
5. TO DRAW OUR CHURCHES CLOSER TOGETHER AS A CIRCUIT FAMILY, SO THAT WE CAN GIVE TRUE SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO EACH OTHER.
6. THE CIRCUIT LEADERSHIP TEAM, MEETING REGULARLY EXISTS TO ADVISE THE CIRCUIT MEETING ON MATTERS OF POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT, AND TO SEE THAT THE DECISIONS OF THE CIRCUIT MEETING ARE IMPLEMENTED.

THE CIRCUIT HAS EIGHT CHURCHES, AND ONE ADDITIONAL CHURCH PREMISES AND WAS SERVED BY ONE FULL-TIME MINISTER AND ONE FULL-TIME DEACON, WORKING ON A SHARED MINISTRY BASIS SUPPLEMENTED BY ACTIVE SUPERNUMERARY MINISTERS AND LAY PREACHERS. THE CIRCUIT ALSO EMPLOYS A LAY WORKER ADMINISTRATOR.

THE CIRCUIT PRODUCES A QUARTERLY PREACHING PLAN TO ENSURE REGULAR ACTS OF WORSHIP TAKE PLACE AT EACH OF THE METHODIST/LEP CHURCHES. THEY ARE OPEN TO ALL PEOPLE WITHOUT CHARGE.

REVIEW OF PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

DISCUSSIONS HAVE CONTINUED ACROSS THE CIRCUIT TO ENSURE THAT ALL CHURCHES ARE NOT UNNECESSARILY BURDENED FINANCIALLY WHILE THE CIRCUIT CONTINUES TO WORK TOWARDS ESTABLISHING A BALANCED BUDGET. THE SUPERINTENDENT MINISTER CONTINUES TO EXPLORE FURTHER MISSION POSSIBILITIES AT THE ADDITIONAL PREMISES, WORKING TOWARDS ESTABLISHING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.

CHURCH FINANCES STILL HAVE NOT RECOVERED POST-COVID, SO EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO PROMOTE MISSION OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS THE CIRCUIT, SUPPORTED BY FUNDS FROM THE PROCEEDS OF THE SALE OF PROPERTIES IN RECENT YEARS, 50% OF WHICH HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED FOR THIS PURPOSE. HOWEVER, WITH AGEING CONGREGATIONS THIS IS A CHALLENGE.

THE CIRCUIT HAS ALSO CONSIDERED FUTURE STAFFING WITH THE UNEXPECTED RETIREMENT OF THE FULL TIME DEACON.