

## TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025

### ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

CHARITY NAME: LOWESTOFT AND EAST SUFFOLK METHODIST CIRCUIT

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1135624

PRINCIPAL ADDRESS: 27 MEADOW GARDENS, BECCLES, SUFFOLK, NR34 9PA

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 NOW HAS SEVEN CHURCHES, AND TWO ADDITIONAL CHURCH PREMISES AND IS SERVED BY ONE FULL-TIME MINISTER. 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 ONE OF THE ADDITIONAL PREMISES, WORKING TOWARDS ESTABLISHING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.

CHURCH FINANCES STILL HAVE NOT RECOVERED POST-COVID, SO EFFORTS HAVE CONTINUED TO BE 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.

LOWESTOFT & EAST SUFFOLK METHODIST CIRCUIT				Circuit Meet Sept 2025		
GENERAL ACCOUNT						
YEARS ENDING 31 AUGUST						
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET
	year to	year to	year to	year to	year to	year to
	31/08/2025	31/08/2025	31/08/24	31/08/24	31/08/23	31/08/23
Stipends	34,210.00	33,505.00	59,133.51	60,565.00	57,270.40	56,341.00
National Insurance	4,255.34	3,673.00	6,021.83	6,376.00	5,763.53	5,740.00
Pension Contributions	6,220.00	9,013.00	14,838.56	16,292.00	14,582.04	16,621.00
Additional staff	0.00	25,000.00				
TOTAL STIPEND COST	44,685.34	71,191.00	79,993.90	83,233.00	77,615.97	78,702.00
Ministers' Travel	2,660.00	2,660.00	4,200.00	4,200.00	3,600.00	3,600.00
Net Cost of Lay Employee	5,621.12	6,000.00	5,729.12	6,200.00	5,210.88	6,000.00
Relocation expenses	720.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	423.17	2,500.00
TOTAL STAFF COST	53,686.46	79,851.00	89,923.02	93,633.00	86,850.02	90,802.00
District Assessment	25,827.00	25,827.00	27,338.00	27,338.00	29,396.00	29,396.00
Supernumeries' Preaching Fees	4,686.30	5,000.00	4,147.05	4,000.00	3,981.95	3,800.00
Local Preachers' Travel	113.85	300.00	437.94	250.00	0.00	250.00
Circuit Stewards' Expenses	0.00	200.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	200.00
Telephone and Computing	917.55	2,300.00	1,996.28	1,900.00	1,734.53	1,850.00
Postages & Stationery	3,453.54	1,750.00	1,639.85	1,750.00	1,435.22	1,750.00
Quinquennial Inspections	960.00	750.00	3,540.00	750.00	2,340.00	4,400.00
Net Cost of Manses (See Below)	22,294.47	17,181.00	9,817.92	12,331.00	12,608.48	13,931.00
Loans & Grants to Churches	5,799.50	15,000.00	312.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mission	26,880.94	80,000.00	18,874.81	400.00	2,079.28	400.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	4,412.71	1,000.00	3,218.71	1,000.00	664.15	1,000.00
Connexional Funds	150.00	1,500.00	150.00	1,500.00	150.00	2,000.00
LPs Fund costs	85.50	250.00	0.00	250.00	148.50	250.00
Invitations costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Carlton	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Corton Rd planning	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Southwold (running costs)	13,011.71	12,000.00		0.00	11,584.08	5,000.00
Southwold mission/Foodbank	22,986.66	30,000.00		0.00	656.70	0.00
TOTAL COST	185,266.19	272,909.00	161,395.58	145,302.00	153,628.91	155,029.00
CFB and Bank Interest	-1,707.45	-1,400.00	-2,053.85	-300.00	-1,624.60	-150.00
CMTF Loans and grants	-5,799.50	-15,000.00				0.00
Repaid loans to churches	-1,291.76	-1,000.00	-1,000.00		-780.76	0.00
Donations and Miscellaneous	-390.00	0.00	-345.00		-757.18	0.00
Connexional Funds	-150.00	-150.00	-150.00	-1,500.00	-150.00	-2,000.00
Licence/Rent of Southwold/misc	-9,622.90	-12,000.00			-13,758.34	0.00
Southwold MTF mission trans	-16,527.80	-15,000.00			-656.70	0.00
District grant Southwold	-1,175.00	-3,000.00	0.00	-650.00	-3,140.00	
Transfer of funds Lps/Mission CFB	-85.50	-250.00				
Misc Southwold /F/Bank Mission	-494.50	0.00	0.00		-1,708.72	-650.00
CMTF Manse exp	-16,107.66		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CMTF Withdrawal Mission	-21,105.91	-80,000.00	-18,822.86	0.00	-519.06	0.00
TOTAL NET COST	110,808.21	145,109.00	139,023.87	142,852.00	130,533.55	152,229.00
Total Assessments	115,254.54	122,462.00	119,623.34	122,462.00	116,925.62	114,451.00
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	4,446.33	-22,647.00	-19,400.53	-20,390.00	-13,607.93	-37,778.00
CMTF Withdrawal	5,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	20,000.00	30,000.00	45,000.00
BALANCE B/F 1 SEPT	71,257.86	71,257.86	90,658.39	90,658.39	74,266.32	74,266.32
BALANCE C/F 31 AUG	80,704.19	58,610.86	71,257.86	90,268.39	90,658.39	81,488.32
MANSES ACCOUNT						
Repairs & Renewals :						
Ashburnham Way, Lowestoft	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	885.44	500.00
Corton Road, Lowestoft	1,161.72	5,000.00	338.55	2,500.00	2,668.00	2,500.00
Beccles	16,510.42	5,000.00	1,787.00	2,500.00	2,490.20	3,500.00
	17,672.14	10,000.00	2,125.55	5,000.00	6,043.64	6,500.00
Council Tax	2,182.99	4,400.00	4,163.20	3,850.00	4,933.67	3,500.00
Quinquennial Inspections	0.00	0.00	420.00	700.00	0.00	600.00
Insurance	1,454.90	1,500.00	1,367.86	1,200.00	1,930.49	1,800.00
Water & Sewerage	625.55	1,200.00	1,654.31	1,200.00	623.00	1,400.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	780.11	200.00	206.00	500.00	1.29	250.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS	22,715.69	17,300.00	9,936.92	12,450.00	13,532.09	14,050.00
Deduct : Sub-station Rent	119.00	119.00	119.00	119.00	119.00	119.00
Refunds re above payments	302.22				804.61	
NET COST	22,294.47	17,181.00	9,817.92	12,331.00	12,608.48	13,931.00

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Water & Sewerage	625.55	1,200.00	1,654.31	1,200.00	623.00	1,400.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	780.11	200.00	206.00	500.00	1.29	250.00
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