

NORTHAMPTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales · Charity number 1135635

Details

Other names	THE METHODIST CHURCH, NORTHAMPTON CIRCUIT
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2010-04-22
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Harpole Methodist Church School Lane Harpole Northampton NN7 4DR
Phone	01604 702178
Email	office@methodist-churches-northampton.org.uk
Website	www.methodist-churches-northampton.org.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: The Northampton Methodist Circuit currently consists of 13 Christian Communities, committed to Worship, Fellowship, Social Action And Evangelism, Mutual Support and Connexional belonging.(There are 10 Methodist and 3 Ecumenical Congregations involving Methodists) We aim, guided by God, to promote active growth and explore New Ways of being church.

Classification

- **How:** Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Northamptonshire

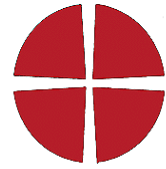
Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£384,974	£470,426	-	-
2024-08-31	£245,864	£352,383	-	-
2023-08-31	£236,548	£265,079	-	-
2022-08-31	£252,832	£251,552	-	-
2021-08-31	£247,886	£405,167	-	-
2020-08-31	£260,265	£295,813	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev David John Speirs	Chair	2021-09-01
Charmaine Wareham-Voyce		2024-03-01
Dr Hellen Oluoko Okello		2022-09-01
Frances Perry		2022-11-01
Hilary Walden		2022-11-01
JENNIFER BROOKS		2018-05-01
MRS M TIMMS		
Pamela Deanne Kirkland		2018-01-01
Patricia Ann Oliver		2022-11-01
Paul James Deakin		2022-11-01
Philip Neil Leeson		2022-09-01
Rev Alan Sharp		2014-03-15
SARAH EASON		2011-12-07
TREVOR JOHN CLARKE		
William Keith BROOKS		

Accounts



The Methodist Church

**Northampton Circuit
23/13**

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

**"The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond
to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out
its discipleship in worship and mission"**

2024 - 2025

Registered Charity No 1135635

Introduction

This is the Sixteenth annual report produced by the Northampton Methodist Circuit since its registration as a separate charity and aims to share a review of the activities of the Circuit during 2024 – 25 while also meeting all the legal requirements.

The Vision Statement

The Northampton Methodist Circuit currently consists of two local ecumenical projects and the multi-site Northampton Methodist Church, seeking to be a discipleship movement shaped for mission.

Over the coming years we are intentional about continuing our Stepping Out programme in order to grow as a mission focused Circuit in serving our community. This means that all the resources we have, such as buildings, finances, people, structure and administration, need to be utilised and developed in such a way that they are outgoing and outward facing.

Mission is our key purpose. It is the sharing of the good news of God's love incarnate, through Jesus Christ, in our witness to the community and the wider world.

We will seek to concentrate our prayers, resources, imagination and commitments on this priority, guided by God, to continue our journey together as a Circuit seeking to promote active growth and prioritising the five marks of mission.

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Superintendent's letter of Greeting

As the Superintendent Minister, it gives me great pleasure to present the 2024-25 annual report and accounts for the Northampton Methodist Circuit.

The Circuit formally consists of three church bodies:

- Northampton Methodist Church: A multi-site church with eight worshipping communities in and around Northampton and the neighbouring villages.
- The Emmanuel Group of Churches: A Local Ecumenical Partnership (Anglican, Methodist, and Baptist) meeting at three sites in and around Weston Favell, including the shopping centre site.
- Kingsthorpe Community Church: A newly formed Methodist-Baptist LEP, formally recognized in March 2025, meeting on the Baptist site.

Our "Stepping Out" programme remains central to our vision of being a discipleship movement shaped for mission. To further this, we recently ran a Holy Habits Course based on *Making More Disciples*, which has helped us focus on nurturing new believers and growing in faith together. This complements our ongoing work, such as the monthly "One Voice" podcast and our stable attendance in circuit Bible study groups.

Our service to the community has been evident through support for local foodbanks and providing space for the Northampton Hope Centre's winter shelter. I am also pleased to share that we are now registered as an Eco-Circuit. We are actively encouraging all our constituent churches to register as Eco-Churches through the A Rocha movement as we strive to help safeguard the integrity of creation.

We are excited to announce that we have secured funding from the Northampton Methodist District for a Circuit Lay Mission Enabler. This role will focus on developing new and existing work with children, young people, and families. Recruitment will occur in the next connexional year.

As we move forward, we continue to manage our resources intentionally, including the successful sale of the Queensgrove building and planned refurbishments at Harpole scheduled for September 2025 and a future redevelopment project at Park Grove's Abington site, within Northampton Methodist Church. We remain committed to our journey together, seeking to encourage growth and prioritise the marks of mission in all we do.

Yours faithfully,

Operational review - A review of our 2024 - 2025 Mission Statement

Our Circuit Mission statement is based on the Methodist Church commitment to Worship, Service, Evangelism, and Learning & caring. The highlighted statements are our overarching intent and the notes below show our activity during the year.

WORSHIP, which seeks to increase awareness of God's presence and celebrates God's love seeking to underpin everything we do in God-centred prayer

Regular worship continued to be resourced and offered at all our worshipping communities with the continued provision of circuit wide services once per quarter. Throughout the year we continued to offer weekly online worship through the Circuit website.

SERVICE seeking to be a good neighbour to people in need and challenge injustice.,

The year has seen the emergence of several targeted activities offering help and support into our local community specifically support of the various foodbanks and providing one of our Church buildings for use by the Northampton Hope Centre to provide storage so that its main site could be effectively used as an overnight shelter during the winter period. We have actively encouraged development of actions to encourage becoming a carbon neutral church through enrolment in the A Rocha eco church movement.

EVANGELISM, which is a call to all people to Christian discipleship, growing in the Christian faith alongside others seeking the same, to talk about God and to serve God in the world

The One Voice Podcast is now being produced in conjunction with the District team each month and has remained a valuable means of sharing the Christian message. There has been a number of activities to encourage youth fellowship whilst the recruitment process commenced to employ a lay worker to support the on going development of work with children and families.

LEARNING and CARING, which is equipping and resourcing people for mission and Christian relationships.

The circuit planned bible study groups have continued and attendance has remained stable. There has also been developments in provision of carers and toddlers groups along with encouraging levels of attendance of the various mid-week groups targeted at those over retirement age.

During the year the long-term working relationship between the Methodist and Baptist congregations in Kingsthorpe was formally recognised with formation of Kingsthorpe Community Church a Methodist Baptist LEP. The first stage in consolidation of Church buildings was completed with the successful sale to another Christian Church of the Queensgrove building.

Review of and financial position of the Circuit

The following summary reflects the financial activities of the Circuit for the year, with the previous 3 years provided for comparison: -

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income				
Assessment contributions from circuit churches	230.3	225.1	228.4	221.0
Other income	5.6	3.8	7.4	148.8
Interest	1.1	6.4	10.1	15.2
Rental income	15.8	1.2	0.0	0.0
Total income	252.8	236.5	245.9	385.0
Expenditure				
Ministerial Stipends	116.1	123.0	123.5	133.0
Lay Workers	19.4	24.5	26.5	28.6
Manse maintenance	11.1	21.0	12.0	5.8
Manse utility costs	19.7	18.3	20.0	15.6
Methodist Church Fund	33.5	24.6	30.9	36.7
District Assessment	6.6	5.6	8.8	9.6
Grants	5.5	2.0	0.0	10.5
Levy	8.9	6.5	101.8	189.2
Wootton running costs	5.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Depreciation	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Other Expenses	24.7	39.2	28.6	41.1
Total expenditure	251.6	265.0	352.4	470.4
Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources	1.2	(28.5)	(106.5)	(85.4)
Increase/ (Reduction) in manse valuation	0.0	217.6	0.0	0.0
Building transfers with NMC	0.0	(209.9)	0.0	350.0
Gain/ (Loss) on Investments	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Increase/ (Decrease) in value of funds	1.2	(20.8)	(106.5)	264.6

Income trends

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment paid by the circuit churches. The 2024-25 contributions requested remained similar to those from the previous year.

Income from rentals has now ceased with the sale of the spare manse and the transfer of the Wootton building to the management of Northampton Methodist Church.

Other income during 2023-24 includes both grant income received from the District towards the production cost of the monthly One Voice podcast and the Circuit Administrators activity as District GDPR advisor along with the surplus generated by the sale of the Queensgrove Church building.

Expenditure trends

All payroll costs have increased each financial year in line with conference approved increases, the drop in both manse maintenance and utility costs reflects the reduction in manses being overseen. The levy in both the last two years includes the connectional levy applied on property sales.

Fund balances

As at 31 August 2025 the net current assets of the Circuit was £585k (2024 £322k), as at the balance sheet date this was primarily being held in the Circuit Model Trust Fund.

A significant proportion of the increase resulted from the sale of Queensgrove Church building.

Plans for 2025/26

Circuit financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that there are remain three full time ordained staff along with usage of our local supernumerary team to provide both preaching and pastoral care support. It is anticipated that a lay worker in a mission enabler role will also be recruited during the year.

It is anticipated that schemes will be developed in line with our mission plans to refurbish a number of the circuit church buildings with work at Harpole scheduled to commence in September 2025. Sale of those identified as not required for future mission purposes while continuing to progress.

Trustee's Annual Report on Finance and Governance

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 2015 as applicable to the Financial Reporting Standard FRS102.

The Charity's report and accounts include all the separately established funds for which the Circuit has primary responsibility.

Full Name of Charity: Northampton Methodist Circuit

Registration Charity Number: 1135635

Date of registration 22 April 2010

The circuit office is located at: Harpole Methodist Church
School Lane
Harpole
Northampton
NN4 4DR

The members of the Northampton Methodist Circuit meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches.

Full membership is shown as Appendix A to this report.

Circuit Ministers and officers

Active Circuit Ministers Rev David Spiers,
Rev Samantha Gillard,
Rev Ian Forsyth

Circuit Stewards Dr Hellen Okello
Ms Charmaine Wareham-Voyce
Miss Pam Kirkland
Mr Phil Leeson

Circuit Treasurer Mr Keith Brooks,

Administrator: Miss Sarah Eason

Mr K Brooks acted as the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the Circuit during the year.

Independent examiner Miss C Haynes (ACA)
4 Delamere Road
Northampton

Investment Banker Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church

Charity objective is to act as a Resource provider within the area around Northampton for the Methodist Church:

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 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 organisation and resourcing of regular public acts of worship open to members of the Church and non members alike.

The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.

The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.

Taking religious assemblies in local schools.

Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services.

Provision of chaplaincy services to the local university and other institutions.

Public Benefit

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

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 of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD).

Day to day management of the Circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team along with the Local Preachers meeting, the Circuit Finance and Property Committee and the Circuit Policy Committee.

Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by 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 Northampton District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The Circuit is a member of Shared Churches Northampton Ltd in relation to support of the Emmanuel Group of Churches.

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Leadership Team with professional advice taken as required.

There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

Income and Expenditure is being monitored in total and is compared with the approved annual budget on a half yearly basis to detect trends as part of the risk management process to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

Safeguarding

It is the Methodist Church's intention to value every human being as part of God's creation and the whole people of God. At the heart of the Methodist community is a deep sense of the place of welcome, hospitality and openness, which demonstrates the nature of God's grace and love for all.

Our church communities are called to be places where the transformational love of God is embodied and life in all its fullness is a gift, which is offered to all people.

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

The Northampton Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the Circuit and in the churches.

The Northampton Circuit commits 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.

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy for the Circuit is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to 4 months' average expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on manses and / or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full Circuit Assessment from churches.

Annual Financial Statements

Basis of preparation

As treasurer I confirm that I have prepared the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit Meeting

Signature of
Treasurer

W K Brooks

Date 23 January
2026

Name

W K Brooks ACMA

Address

2a Stanfield Road
Duston
Northampton

Presentation to the Circuit Meeting for approval.

I confirm that the Accounts have been presented to the Circuit Meeting on 23 January 2026 and were approved.

Signature of the
Chair of the meeting

Rev David Speirs

23 January 2026

Name of the Chair of
the meeting

Rev David Speirs

Date

23 January 2026

Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 August 2025

		Unrestricted funds	Model Trust Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024- 25
		£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:						
Donations, legacies & grants		5,151				5,151
Church assessments		220,954				220,954
Lettings		0				-
- Miscellaneous						-
Investments		409	14,761		19	15,189
Other		17	143,663			143,680
Total		226,531	158,424	-	19	384,974
Expenditure on:						
Stipends, salaries, NIC & Pension costs	6	155,117				155,117
District Assessment		9,592				9,592
Methodist Church Fund		36,662				36,662
Telephone & travel		8,550				8,550
Insurance, utilities, etc		15,654				15,654
Maintenance on manses		5,802				5,802
Expenditure on other Circuit property		17,216				17,216
Depreciation	9	250				250
Other Expenditure		20,840	174,497		680	196,018
Grants and Donations		10,500				10,500
Contributions to District Advance Fund			15,066			15,066
Total		280,183	189,563	0	680	470,426
Net income/(expenditure)		(53,652)	(31,139)	0	(661)	(85,452)
Building transfer from NMC		200,000	350,000			550,000
Transfers between funds		48,000	(48,000)			0
		194,348	270,861	0	(661)	464,548
Gains/(Losses) on revaluation of fixed assets						0
Gains/(Losses) on investment assets						0
Net investment in funds		194,348	270,861	0	(661)	464,548
Total funds brought forward		1,371,697	317,548	0	2,124	1,691,369
Total funds carried forward		1,566,045	588,409	0	1,463	2,155,917

Comparative Statement of Financial Activities for previous year ended 31 August 2024

		Unrestricted funds	Model Trust Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023- 24
		£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:						
Donations, legacies & grants		5,202			1,000	6,202
Church assessments		228,365				228,365
Lettings		0				-
- Miscellaneous						-
Investments		1,068	8,971		20	10,059
Other		88	1,150			1,238
Total		234,723	10,121	-	1,020	245,864
Expenditure on:						
Stipends, salaries, NIC & Pension costs	6	149,930				149,930
District Assessment		8,775				8,775
Methodist Church Fund		30,956				30,956
Telephone & travel		7,215				7,215
Insurance, utilities, etc		20,003				20,003
Maintenance on manses		12,013				12,013
Expenditure on other Circuit property		701				701
Depreciation	9	250				250
Other Expenditure		20,248	407		72	20,728
Grants and Donations						0
Contributions to District Advance Fund			101,813			101,813
Total		250,091	102,220	0	72	352,383
Net income/(expenditure)		(15,368)	(92,099)	0	948	(106,519)
Sale of 75 Kentstone Close		(301,773)	301,773			0
Transfers between funds		35,000	(35,000)			0
		(282,140)	174,674	0	948	(106,519)
Gains/(Losses) on revaluation of fixed assets						0
Gains/(Losses) on investment assets						0
Net investment in funds		(282,140)	174,674	0	948	(106,519)
Total funds brought forward		1,653,837	142,875	0	1,176	1,797,888
Total funds carried forward		1,371,697	317,549	0	2,124	1,691,369

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Totals this year £
Tangible Fixed Assets						
Land & Buildings		1,366,657				1,366,657
Equipment		4,008				4,008
Investment properties		200,000				200,000
Investments						
Total fixed assets		1,570,665				1,570,665
Current Assets						
Debtors and Prepayments		10,912				10,912
Other						
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes deposits			588,409			588,409
Central Finance Board Deposits		8,695				8,695
Cash at Bank and in hand		285			1,463	1,748
Total current assets		19,892	588,409		1,463	609,764
Creditors and Accruals (due in under 1 yr)		4,512				4,512
Net current assets (liabilities)		15,380	588,409		1,463	605,252
Total assets less current liabilities		1,586,045	588,409		1,463	2,175,917
Loans and creditors due after 1 year		20,000				20,000
Provisions for liabilities and charges						
Net assets		1,566,045	588,409		1,463	2,155,917
Funds of the Circuit						
Unrestricted funds		(612)				(612)
Property reserve		1,566,657				1,566,657
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			588,409			588,409
Designated funds	12					
Restricted funds	12				1,463	1,463
Total Funds		1,566,045	588,409		1,463	2,155,917

Comparative Balance Sheet for 31 August 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Totals this year £
Tangible Fixed Assets						
Land & Buildings		1,366,657				1,366,657
Equipment		2,416				2,416
Investment properties						
Investments						
Total fixed assets		1,369,073				1,369,073
Current Assets						
Debtors and Prepayments		11,397				11,397
Other						
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes deposits			317,548			317,548
Central Finance Board Deposits		22,456				22,456
Cash at Bank and in hand		7,009			2,124	9,133
Total current assets		40,862	317,548		2,124	360,534
Creditors and Accruals (due in under 1 yr)		18,238				18,238
Net current assets (liabilities)		22,624	317,548		2,124	342,296
Total assets less current liabilities		1,391,697	317,548		2,124	1,711,369
Loans and creditors due after 1 year		20,000				20,000
Provisions for liabilities and charges						
Net assets		1,371,697	317,548		2,124	1,691,369
Funds of the Circuit						
Unrestricted funds		5,040				5,040
Property reserve		1,366,657				1,366,657
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			317,548			317,548
Designated funds	12					
Restricted funds	12				2,124	2,124
Total Funds		1,371,697	317,548		2,124	1,691,369

Notes to the Accounts

1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2015 version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 – the Charities SORP (FRS102) and taking note of the Update Bulletin 2 issued in 2018.

2 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 categorised as unrestricted. Restricted funds which are held for a narrower purpose. There are no Endowment funds. Details of each material fund are disclosed in the final note to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

3 Accounting policies

Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that investments are shown at their market value at the end of the year and land and buildings at deemed current value. Accruals accounting principles have been adopted as far as practical to show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

Incoming Resources

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Circuit becomes entitled to the resources, and the trustees are reasonably certain they will receive the resources; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Resources Expended

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. 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 made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment.

VAT

Since the Circuit is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged with the expenses to which it refers.

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Circuit

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £500.

The freehold property is shown in the accounts at estimated 2023 values, of which the land component is deemed to be £200,000. No depreciation is provided on the buildings because the trustees consider the current residual fair value of the manse buildings (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year-end) to be not less than its current value. Any depreciation would not be material. The properties have been reviewed for impairment.

Investment Properties

Investment properties – In the 2025 accounts Wootton Trinity is deemed to not be required for the long term purposes of the charity and is included as an investment property following its transfer from Northampton Methodist Church at the point of decision to sell.

Investments

Investments are valued in the balance sheet at market value at the year end. Investment income is included in the accounts when receivable and any gains or losses on revaluation at the year end are shown in the SOFA.

Debtors and Prepayments

The prepayment included in the accounts is in respect of ministerial stipends paid in August due on 1st September..

Creditors

Creditors include both sundry expenses and specifically the 1st quarter assessment received in August.

4 Payment to Trustees

There were no payments made to trustees for additional services provided to the Circuit by agreement with the Circuit Meeting, this excludes stipends.

Trustee expenses

	2024/25	2023/24
Number of Trustees	7	7
Total amount	£7,890	£7,667

Expense payments primarily relate to reimbursement for travel and computing costs

5 Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
Independent examiner's or auditors' fees for reporting on the accounts	Nil	Nil
Other fees (eg: advice, accountancy services) paid to the independent examiner or auditor	Nil	Nil

6 Paid employees

Staff Costs paid during the year were:

	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind	121,395	113,825
Employer's National Insurance costs	12,987	10,700
Pension costs	20,089	24,828
Apprenticeship levy	646	577
Total staff costs	155,117	149,930

Average number of employees in the year were:

4	4
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7 Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

At the 31st August 2025 there are capital commitments.

£50,000

£0

No Contingent liabilities were identified at 31st August 2025.

8 For information only Money received and passed on to External Organisations

	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
Balance brought forward from last year		
Offerings/Gifts - received for External Organisations	0	0
Offerings/Gifts - passed to External Organisations	0	0
Balance carried forward	0	0

9 Tangible Fixed Assets

Cost or valuation

	Land £	Manse £	Other buildings £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Payments on account and assets under constructio n £	Total £
Balance brought forward	160,000	1,206,657		5,511		1,372,168
Additions				1,842		1,842
Revaluations (+/-)						
Disposals (-)			(350,000)			(350,000)
Transfers * (+/-)	40000		510000			550,000
Balance carried forward	200,000	1,206,657	160,000	7,353		1,574,010

Accumulated depreciation

Balance brought forward				3,095		3,095
Depreciation charge for year (-)				250		250
Revaluations (+/-)						
Disposals (-)						
Transfers* (+/-)						
Balance carried forward				3,345		3,345

Net book value

Brought forward	200,000	1,206,657		2,416		1,369,073
Carried forward	200,000	1,206,657	160,000	4,008		1,570,665

Sale of Queensgrove Church building

	£	£
Sale proceeds		510,000
Less building valuation		350,000
		160,000
Cost of sale		
Agents fees	12,660	
Legal costs	3,300	
Sundry other costs	377	
		16,337
Profit on sale		143,663

Of the sale proceeds the levy taken for wider Methodist purposes was £173,465 on this transaction, this is refundable on receiving approval for the proposed Park Grove modernisation project.

10 Investment assets

The Circuit has no common investment fund holdings

11 Loans

The Circuit currently has a loan from the District of £20,000 in respect of initial funding related to the redevelopment of the Kingsthorpe Church This has been treated as a long term creditor.

12 Analysis of restricted and designated funds

Restricted Fund Name	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Closing Balance	Purpose of the fund
Restricted fund						
Benevolent Fund	2,124	19	680		1,463	Support for individuals in specific need
2023/24	1,176	1,020	72		2,124	
Designated funds						
Development Fund	0	0	0		0	Available for funding outreach and development work
2023/24	0	0	0		0	
Totals	2,124	19	680		1,463	
2022/23	1,176	1,020	72		2,124	

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Northampton Circuit

This Report is on the Circuit Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2025 and is carried out under Sections 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed. The charity is preparing accrued accounts and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of Institute of Chartered Accountants England & Wales.

It is my responsibility to:

- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act ; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or .
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.
- (3) I have not obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes ("TMCP") or held in other Trusts, Bank balances and Funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church ("CFB"), which are individually in excess of £10,000 at the balance sheet date.

Name	Miss C Haynes ACA
Qualification reference	ACA ICAEW 7945127
Address	4 Delamere Road Northampton NN4 8QG
Date	11 May 2026

CIRCUIT MEETING MEMBERSHIP

MINISTERS

Rev David Speirs
Rev Dr Samantha Gillard
Rev Ian Forsyth

CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATOR

Miss Sarah Eason

CIRCUIT STEWARDS

Miss Pam Kirkland
Dr Hellen Okello
Ms Charmaine Wareham-Voyce
Mr Philip Leeson

CIRCUIT TREASURER

Mr Keith Brooks

Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Mrs Jenny Brooks

CIRCUIT CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES

NORTHAMPTON METHODIST CHURCH

Mrs Pat Oliver
Mrs Kate Stretton
Mr Paul Deakin
Mrs Fran Perry

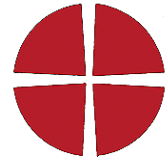
EMMANUEL GROUP

Mrs Maureen Timms

KINGSTHORPE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Mr Trevor Clarke
Mr Duncan Bolton

Accounts



The Methodist Church

Northampton Circuit
23/13

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

"The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond
to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out
its discipleship in worship and mission"

2023 - 2024

Registered Charity No 1135635

Introduction

This is the Fifteenth annual report produced by the Northampton Methodist Circuit since its registration as a separate charity and aims to share a review of the activities of the Circuit during 2023 – 24 while also meeting all the legal requirements.

The Vision Statement

The Northampton Methodist Circuit currently consists of 12 Christian Communities, seeking to be a discipleship movement shaped for mission. We see mission as who we are. It is the sharing of the good news of God's love incarnate, through Jesus Christ, in the witness of the community to the world.

Superintendent's letter of Greeting

As the Superintendent Minister it gives me great pleasure to present the annual report and accounts for the Northampton Methodist Circuit.

The circuit formally consists of two church bodies:

1) Northampton Methodist Church, a multi-site church that consists of ten worshipping communities worshipping around Northampton and the surrounding villages.

2) The Emmanuel Group of Churches, a Local Ecumenical Partnership (Anglican/Methodist/Baptist) that meets at Weston Favell Shopping Centre with other congregations at Boothville and Rectory Farm.

The circuit has been discussing and planning the potential formation of a new Local Ecumenical Partnership Church that would formally join together the Methodist and Baptist congregations currently meeting together at Kingsthorpe Baptist Church. This is likely to result in the circuit having an additional church in the next connexional year.

This year we adopted the 'Stepping Out' report which was a joint document written by the Circuit and Northampton Methodist Church in order to further the mission and property priorities of both organisations. We are hoping to progress the implementation of the reports recommendations across the next few connexional years.

The circuit, in conversation with its constituent churches, has identified developing work amongst children, young people, and families as a high missional priority. As a result we successfully applied for a district grant that will enable us to recruit a lay circuit mission enabler to offer us support in this area.

The Circuit remains committed to responding to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission in Northamptonshire. We are thankful that God continues to equip and enable us for service in Christ's Kingdom.

Yours faithfully, Revd David Speirs

Operational review - A review of our published Mission Statement

Mission is our key purpose. It is the sharing of the good news of God's love incarnate, through Jesus Christ, in our witness to the community and the wider world.

As a circuit we are committed to Worship, Service, Evangelism, and Learning & caring. The highlighted statements are our overarching intent and the notes below show our activity

WORSHIP, which seeks to increase awareness of God's presence and celebrates God's love seeking to underpin everything we do in God-centred prayer

Regular worship continued to be resourced and offered at all our worshipping communities with the continued provision of circuit wide services once per quarter. Throughout the year we continued to offer weekly online worship through the Circuit website.

SERVICE seeking to be a good neighbour to people in need and challenge injustice.,

The year has seen the emergence of several targeted activities offering help and support into our local community specifically support of the various foodbanks and providing one of our Church buildings for use by the Northampton Hope Centre to provide overnight shelter during the winter period for up to 28 people. We have also continued our community litter picking initiatives whilst actively seeking to respond to the challenge to be eco church.

EVANGELISM, which is a call to all people to Christian discipleship, growing in the Christian faith alongside others seeking the same, to talk about God and to serve God in the world

The One Voice Podcast is now being produced in conjunction with the District team each month and has remained a valuable means of sharing the Christian message. There has been a number of activities to encourage youth fellowship whilst proposals have been progressed to recruit a lay worker to support the on going development of work with families.

LEARNING and CARING, which is equipping and resourcing people for mission and Christian relationships.

The circuit planned bible study groups have continued and attendance has remained stable. There has also been developments in provision of carers and toddlers groups along with encouraging levels of attendance of the various mid-week groups targeted at those over retirement age.

The continuing development of Northampton Methodist Church (NMC) as a multi-site church with a single trustee body has seen the Circuit team work with the church leadership group to consolidate its structure and help develop its future vision for mission across Northampton.

Review of and financial position of the Circuit

The following summary reflects the financial activities of the Circuit for the year, with the previous 3 years provided for comparison: -

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income				
Assessment contributions from circuit churches	218.3	230.3	225.1	228.4
Other income	18.3	5.6	3.8	7.4
Interest	0.1	1.1	6.4	10.1
Rental income	11.2	15.8	1.2	0
Total income	247.9	252.8	236.5	245.9
Expenditure				
Ministerial Stipends	141.7	116.1	123.0	123.5
Lay Workers	17.0	19.4	24.5	26.5
Manse maintenance	26.3	11.1	21.0	12.0
Manse utility costs	19.5	19.7	18.3	20.0
Methodist Church Fund	42.6	33.5	24.6	30.9
District Assessment	10.0	6.6	5.6	8.8
Grants	0.0	5.5	2.0	0.0
Levy	118.7	8.9	6.5	101.8
Wootton running costs	12.0	5.8	0.0	0.0
Depreciation	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Other Expenses	17.1	24.7	39.2	28.6
Total expenditure	405.2	251.6	265.0	352.4
Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources	(157.3)	1.2	(28.5)	(106.5)
Increase/ (Reduction) in manse valuation	0.0	0.0	217.6	0.0
Transfer of Wootton to NMC			-209.9	
Gain/ (Loss) on Investments	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Increase/ (Decrease) in value of funds	(157.3)	1.2	(20.8)	(106.5)

Income trends

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment paid by the circuit churches. The 2023-24 contributions requested remained similar to those from the previous year.

Income from rentals has now ceased with the sale of the spare manse and the transfer of the Wootton building to the management of Northampton Methodist Church.

Other income during 2023-24 includes both grant income received from the District towards the production cost of the monthly One Voice podcast and the Circuit Administrators activity as District GDPR advisor along with the surplus generated by the sale of 75 Kentstone Close.

Expenditure trends

Ministerial stipends have increased each financial year in line with conference approved increases, the drop in 2021/22 reflects the reduction of one in the full time ministerial team.

Fund balances

As at 31 August 2024 the net current assets of the Circuit was £322k (2023 £128k), of this £317k was being held in the Circuit Model Trust Fund.

A significant proportion of the increase resulted from the sale of 75 Kentstone Close.

Plans for 2024/25

Circuit financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that there are only three full time ordained staff along with usage of our local supernumerary team to provide both preaching and pastoral care support.

It is anticipated that schemes will be developed in line with our mission plans to refurbish a number of the circuit church buildings while progressing sale of those identified as not required for future mission purposes.

The “Stepping out” project will continue such that further clarity on the circuits longer term physical and financial structure is determined.

Trustee's Annual Report on Finance and Governance

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 2015 as applicable to the Financial Reporting Standard FRS102.

The Charity's report and accounts include all the separately established funds for which the Circuit has primary responsibility.

Full Name of Charity: Northampton Methodist Circuit

Registration Charity Number: 1135635

Date of registration 22 April 2010

The circuit office is located at: Harpole Methodist Church
School Lane
Harpole
Northampton
NN4 4DR

The members of the Northampton Methodist Circuit meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches.

Full membership is shown as Appendix A to this report.

Circuit Ministers and officers

Active Circuit Ministers Rev David Spiers,
Rev Samantha Gillard,
Rev Ian Forsyth

Circuit Stewards Dr Hellen Okello
Ms Charmaine Wareham-Voyce
Miss Pam Kirkland
Mr Phil Leeson

Circuit Treasurer Mr Keith Brooks,

Administrator: Miss Sarah Eason

Mr K Brooks acted as the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the Circuit during the year.

Independent examiner Miss C Haynes (ACA)
4 Delamere Road
Northampton

Investment Banker Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church

Charity objective is to act as a Resource provider within the area around Northampton for the Methodist Church:

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 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 organisation and resourcing of regular public acts of worship open to members of the Church and non members alike.

The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.

The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.

Taking religious assemblies in local schools.

Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services.

Provision of chaplaincy services to the local university and other institutions.

Public Benefit

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

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 of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD).

Day to day management of the Circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team along with the Local Preachers meeting, the Circuit Finance and Property Committee and the Circuit Policy Committee.

Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by 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 Northampton District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The Circuit is a member of Shared Churches Northampton Ltd in relation to support of the Emmanuel Group of Churches.

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Leadership Team with professional advice taken as required.

There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

Income and Expenditure is being monitored in total and is compared with the approved annual budget on a half yearly basis to detect trends as part of the risk management process to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

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

The Northampton Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the Circuit and in the churches.

The Northampton Circuit commits 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.

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy for the Circuit is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to 4 months' average expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on

manes and / or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full Circuit Assessment from churches.

Annual Financial Statements

Basis of preparation

As treasurer I confirm that I have prepared the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit Meeting

Signature of
Treasurer

W K Brooks

Date 23 January
2025

Name

W K Brooks ACMA

Address

2a Stanfield Road
Duston
Northampton

Presentation to the Circuit Meeting for approval.

I confirm that the Accounts have been presented to the Circuit Meeting on 23 January 2025 and were approved.

Signature of the
Chair of the meeting

Rev David Speirs

23 January 2025

Name of the Chair of
the meeting

Rev David Speirs

Date

23 January 2025

Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 August 2024

		Unrestricted funds	Model Trust Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023- 24
		£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:						
Donations, legacies & grants		5,202			1,000	6,202
Church assessments		228,365				228,365
Lettings		0				-
- Miscellaneous						-
Investments		1,068	8,971		20	10,059
Other		88	1,150			1,238
Total		234,723	10,121	-	1,020	245,864
Expenditure on:						
Stipends, salaries, NIC & Pension costs	6	149,930				149,930
District Assessment		8,775				8,775
Methodist Church Fund		30,956				30,956
Telephone & travel		7,215				7,215
Insurance, utilities, etc		20,003				20,003
Maintenance on manses		12,013				12,013
Expenditure on other Circuit property		701				701
Depreciation	9	250				250
Other Expenditure		20,248	407		72	20,728
Grants and Donations						0
Contributions to District Advance Fund			101,813			101,813
Total		250,091	102,220	0	72	352,383
Net income/(expenditure)		(15,368)	(92,099)	0	948	(106,519)
Sale of 75 Kentstone Close		(301,773)	301,773			0
Transfers between funds		35,000	(35,000)			0
		(282,140)	174,674	0	948	(106,519)
Gains/(Losses) on revaluation of fixed assets						0
Gains/(Losses) on investment assets						0
Net investment in funds		(282,140)	174,674	0	948	(106,519)
Total funds brought forward		1,653,837	142,875	0	1,176	1,797,888
Total funds carried forward		1,371,697	317,549	0	2,124	1,691,369

Comparative Statement of Financial Activities for previous year ended 31 August 2023

		Unrestricted funds	Model Trust Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022- 23
		£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:						
Donations, legacies & grants		3,587				3,587
Church assessments		225,075				225,075
Lettings		1,185				1,185
- Miscellaneous						-
Investments		1,294	5,156		11	6,461
Other		40		200		240
Total		231,181	5,156	200	11	236,548
Expenditure on:						
Stipends, salaries, NIC & Pension costs	6	147,623				147,623
District Assessment		5,650				5,650
Methodist Church Fund		24,571				24,571
Telephone & travel		7,386				7,386
Insurance, utilities, etc		18,330				18,330
Maintenance on manses		21,021				21,021
Expenditure on other Circuit property		13,680				13,680
Depreciation	9	250				250
Other Expenditure		17,601	512			18,113
Grants and Donations		1,251		718		1,969
Contributions to District Advance Fund			6,486			6,486
Total		257,363	6,998	718	0	265,079
Net income/(expenditure)		(26,182)	(1,842)	(518)	11	(28,531)
Transfer of Wootton to NMC				(209,901)		(209,901)
Transfers between funds		35,000	(35,000)			0
		8,818	(36,842)	(210,419)	11	(238,432)
Gains/(Losses) on revaluation of fixed assets		217,621				217,621
Gains/(Losses) on investment assets						0
Net investment in funds		226,439	(36,842)	(210,419)	11	(20,811)
Total funds brought forward		1,427,398	179,717	210,419	1,165	1,818,699
Total funds carried forward		1,653,837	142,875	0	1,176	1,797,888

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Totals this year £
Tangible Fixed Assets						
Land & Buildings		1,366,657				1,366,657
Equipment		2,416				2,416
Investment properties						
Investments						
Total fixed assets		1,369,073				1,369,073
Current Assets						
Debtors and Prepayments		11,397				11,397
Other						
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes deposits			317,548			317,548
Central Finance Board Deposits		22,456				22,456
Cash at Bank and in hand		7,009			2,124	9,133
Total current assets		40,862	317,548		2,124	360,534
Creditors and Accruals (due in under 1 yr)		18,238				18,238
Net current assets (liabilities)		22,624	317,548		2,124	342,296
Total assets less current liabilities		1,391,697	317,548		2,124	1,711,369
Loans and creditors due after 1 year		20,000				20,000
Provisions for liabilities and charges						
Net assets		1,371,697	317,548		2,124	1,691,369
Funds of the Circuit						
Unrestricted funds		5,040				5,040
Property reserve		1,366,657				1,366,657
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			317,548			317,548
Designated funds	12					
Restricted funds	12				2,124	2,124
Total Funds		1,371,697	317,548		2,124	1,691,369

Comparative Balance Sheet for 31 August 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Totals this year £
Tangible Fixed Assets						
Land & Buildings		1,668,429				1,668,429
Equipment		2,018				2,018
Investment properties						
Investments						
Total fixed assets		1,670,447				1,670,447
Current Assets						
Debtors and Prepayments		10,176				10,176
Other						
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes deposits			142,875			142,875
Central Finance Board Deposits		22,692				22,692
Cash at Bank and in hand		17,960			1,176	19,136
Total current assets		50,828	142,875		1,176	194,879
Creditors and Accruals (due in under 1 yr)		47,438				47,438
Net current assets (liabilities)		3,390	142,875		1,176	147,441
Total assets less current liabilities		1,673,837	142,875		1,176	1,817,888
Loans and creditors due after 1 year		20,000				20,000
Provisions for liabilities and charges						
Net assets		1,653,837	142,875		1,176	1,797,888
Funds of the Circuit						
Unrestricted funds		(14,592)				-14,592
Property reserve		1,668,429				1,668,429
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			142,875			142,875
Designated funds	12					
Restricted funds	12				1,176	1,176
Total Funds		1,653,837	142,875		1,176	1,797,888

Notes to the Accounts

1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2015 version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 – the Charities SORP (FRS102) and taking note of the Update Bulletin 2 issued in 2018.

2 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 categorised as unrestricted. Restricted funds which are held for a narrower purpose. There are no Endowment funds. Details of each material fund are disclosed in the final note to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

3 Accounting policies

Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that investments are shown at their market value at the end of the year and land and buildings at deemed current value. Accruals accounting principles have been adopted as far as practical to show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

Incoming Resources

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Circuit becomes entitled to the resources, and the trustees are reasonably certain they will receive the resources; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Resources Expended

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. 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 made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment.

VAT

Since the Circuit is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged with the expenses to which it refers.

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Circuit

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £500.

The freehold property is shown in the accounts at estimated 2023 values, of which the land component is deemed to be £160,000. No depreciation is provided on the buildings because the trustees consider the current residual fair value of the manse buildings (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year-end) to be not less than its current value. Any depreciation would not be material. The properties have been reviewed for impairment.

Investment Properties

Investment properties – In the 2023 accounts 75 Kentstone Close is deemed to not be required for the long term purposes of the charity and was reclassified as an investment property and sold during 2024.

Investments

Investments are valued in the balance sheet at market value at the year end. Investment income is included in the accounts when receivable and any gains or losses on revaluation at the year end are shown in the SOFA.

Debtors and Prepayments

The prepayment included in the accounts is in respect of ministerial stipends paid in August due on 1st September..

Creditors

Creditors include both sundry expenses and specifically the 1st quarter assessment received in August.

4 Payment to Trustees

There were no payments made to trustees for additional services provided to the Circuit by agreement with the Circuit Meeting, this excludes stipends.

Trustee expenses

	2023/24	2022/23
Number of Trustees	7	8
Total amount	£7,054	£7,667

Expense payments primarily relate to reimbursement for travel and computing costs

5 Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

	2023/24 £	2022/23 £
Independent examiner's or auditors' fees for reporting on the accounts	Nil	Nil
Other fees (eg: advice, accountancy services) paid to the independent examiner or auditor	Nil	Nil

6 Paid employees

Staff Costs paid during the year were:

	2023/24 £	2022/23 £
Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind	113,825	113,418
Employer's National Insurance costs	10,7006	10,626
Pension costs	24,828	23,021
Apprenticeship levy	577	558
Total staff costs	149,930	147,623

Average number of employees in the year were:

4	4
---	---

7 Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

At the 31st August 2024 there are no capital commitments.
No Contingent liabilities were identified at 31st August 2024.

8 For information only Money received and passed on to External Organisations

	2023/24 £	2022/23 £
Balance brought forward from last year		
Offerings/Gifts - received for External Organisations	0	0
Offerings/Gifts - passed to External Organisations	0	0
Balance carried forward	0	0

9 Tangible Fixed Assets

Cost or valuation

	Land £	Manse £	Other buildings £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Payments on account and assets under constructio n £	Total £
Balance brought forward	200,000	1,468,430		4,863		1,673,293
Additions				648		648
Revaluations (+/-)						
Disposals (-)	(40,000)	(261,773)				(301,773)
Transfers * (+/-)						
Balance carried forward	160,000	1,206,657	0	5,511		1,372,168

Accumulated depreciation

Balance brought forward				2,845		2,845
Depreciation charge for year (-)				250		250
Revaluations (+/-)						
Disposals (-)						
Transfers* (+/-)						
Balance carried forward				3,095		3,095

Net book value

Brought forward	200,000	1,468,430		2,018		1,670,448
Carried forward	160,000	1,206,657	0	2,416		1,369,073

Sale of 75 Kentstone Close

	£	£
Sale proceeds		315,000
Book value of property	301,773	
Remedial work following water leak	9,214	310,987
Gross sales margin		4,013
Cost of sale		
Surveyor fees	315	
Estate agent fees	1,399	
Legal costs	1,149	2,863
Profit on sale		1,150

Of the sale proceeds the levy taken for wider Methodist purposes was £97,169 on this transaction.

10 Investment assets

The Circuit has no common investment fund holdings

11 Loans

The Circuit currently has a loan from the District of £20,000 in respect of initial funding related to the redevelopment of the Kingsthorpe Church This has been treated as a long term creditor.

12 Analysis of restricted and designated funds

Restricted Fund Name	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Closing Balance	Purpose of the fund
Restricted fund						
Benevolent Fund	1,176	1020	72		2,124	Support for individuals in specific need
2022/23	1,165	11	0		1,176	
Designated funds						
Development Fund	0	0	0		0	Available for funding outreach and development work
2022/23	518	200	718		0	
Totals	1,176	1,020	72		2,124	
2022/23	1,683	211	718		1,176	

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Northampton Circuit

This Report is on the Circuit Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2024 and is carried out under Sections 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed. The charity is preparing accrued accounts and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of Institute of Chartered Accountants England & Wales.

It is my responsibility to:

- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act ; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or .
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.
- (3) I have not obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes ("TMCP") or held in other Trusts, Bank balances and Funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church ("CFB"), which are individually in excess of £10,000 at the balance sheet date.

Name	Miss C Haynes ACA
Qualification reference	ACA ICAEW 7945127
Address	4 Delamere Road Northampton NN4 8QG
Date	15 March 2025

CIRCUIT MEETING MEMBERSHIP

MINISTERS

Rev David Speirs
Rev Samantha Gillard
Rev Ian Forsyth

SUPERNUMERARY MINISTERS

Rev Alan Sharp

CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATOR

Miss Sarah Eason

CIRCUIT STEWARDS

Miss Pam Kirkland
Dr Hellen Okello
Ms Charmaine Wareham-Voyce
Mr Phillip Leeson

CIRCUIT TREASURER

Mr Keith Brooks

Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Mrs Jenny Brooks

CIRCUIT CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES

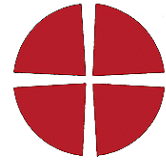
NORTHAMPTON METHODIST CHURCH

Mr Trevor Clarke
Mrs Pat Oliver
Mrs. Hilary MacCallum
Mr Paul Deakin

EMMANUEL GROUP

Mrs Maureen Timms
Mrs Jenny Cole

Accounts



The Methodist Church

Northampton Circuit
23/13

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

"The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission"

2022 - 2023

Registered Charity No 1135635

Introduction

This is the Forteenth annual report produced by the Northampton Methodist Circuit since its registration as a separate charity and aims to share a review of the activities of the Circuit during 2022 – 23 while also meeting all the legal requirements.

The Vision Statement

The Northampton Methodist Circuit currently consists of 13 Christian Communities, seeking to be a discipleship movement shaped for mission. We see mission as who we are. It is the sharing of the good news of God's love incarnate, through Jesus Christ, in the witness of the community to the world.

Superintendent's letter of Greeting

As the Superintendent Minister it gives me great pleasure to present the annual report and accounts for the Northampton Methodist Circuit.

The circuit formally consists of two church bodies:

1) Northampton Methodist Church, a multi-site church that consists of ten worshipping communities worshipping around Northampton and the surrounding villages.

2) The Emmanuel Group of Churches, a Local Ecumenical Partnership (Anglican/Methodist/Baptist) that meets at Weston Favell Shopping Centre with other congregations at Boothville and Rectory Farm.

This year we have continued our Mission and Property review that forms part of the reimagining of the Northampton Methodist Circuit. Recommendations on the way forward will be published in the next connexional year, with a clear pathway and strategic plan that we hope will encourage missional flourishing and help enable church growth.

There is widespread recognition that change is needed across the circuit to ensure the effective and sustainable stewardship of our resources in the long term as well as ensuring a flourishing missional church that seeks to make more disciples of Jesus. These will continue to be priorities for the circuit as we move forward into the next connexional year,

We therefore commit ourselves, as a Circuit, to continue to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission in Northamptonshire.

Yours faithfully, Revd David Speirs

Operational review - A review of our published Mission Statement

Mission is our key purpose. It is the sharing of the good news of God's love incarnate, through Jesus Christ, in our witness to the community and the wider world.

As a circuit we are committed to Worship, Service, Evangelism, and Learning & caring. The highlighted statements are our overarching intent and the notes below show our activity

WORSHIP, which seeks to increase awareness of God's presence and celebrates God's love seeking to underpin everything we do in God-centred prayer

Regular worship continued to be resourced and offered at all our worshipping communities with the continued provision of circuit wide services once per quarter. Throughout the year we continued to offer weekly online worship through the Circuit website. We are also examining how to develop our provision of contemporary worship opportunities. We have supported chaplaincy provision at the University of Northampton.

SERVICE seeking to be a good neighbour to people in need and challenge injustice.,

The year has seen the emergence of several targeted activities offering help and support into our local community specifically support of the various foodbanks and commencement of conversations with the Northampton Hope Centre. We have also tried a warm spaces initiative as well as a Soup run and community litter pick.

EVANGELISM, which is a call to all people to Christian discipleship, growing in the Christian faith alongside others seeking the same, to talk about God and to serve God in the world

The One Voice Podcast has continued to be produced each month and has remained a valuable means of sharing the Christian message. We are due to commence a new partnership with the district in relation to the podcast in the next connexional year.

LEARNING and CARING, which is equipping and resourcing people for mission and Christian relationships.

The circuit planned bible study groups have continued and attendance has further grown. There has also been developments in provision of carers and toddlers groups along with the restart of various mid-week groups targeted at those over retirement age.

The year started with the formal launch of Northampton Methodist Church (NMC) as a multi-site church with a single trustee body and the Circuit team has worked with the emerging leadership group to both support its effective formation and develop its future vision for mission across Northampton.

Review of and financial position of the Circuit

The following summary reflects the financial activities of the Circuit for the year, with the previous 3 years provided for comparison: -

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income				
Assessment contributions from circuit churches	242.9	218.3	230.3	225.1
Other income	1.8	18.3	5.6	3.8
Interest	0.4	0.1	1.1	6.4
Rental income	15.2	11.2	15.8	1.2
Total income	260.3	247.9	252.8	236.5
Expenditure				
Ministerial Stipends	155.4	141.7	116.1	123.0
Lay Workers	17.0	17.0	19.4	24.5
Manse maintenance	25.1	26.3	11.1	21.0
Manse utility costs	23.0	19.5	19.7	18.3
Methodist Church Fund	46.2	42.6	33.5	24.6
District Assessment	10.6	10.0	6.6	5.6
Grants	0.0	0.0	5.5	2.0
Levy	0.0	118.7	8.9	6.5
Wootton running costs	6.8	12.0	5.8	0.0
Depreciation	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Other Expenses	11.5	17.1	24.7	39.2
Total expenditure	295.9	405.2	251.6	265.0
Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources	(35.6)	(157.3)	1.2	(28.5)
Increase/ (Reduction) in manse valuation	0.0	0.0	0.0	217.6
Transfer of Wootton to NMC				-209.9
Gain/ (Loss) on Investments	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Increase/ (Decrease) in value of funds	(35.6)	(157.3)	1.2	(20.8)

Income trends

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment paid by the circuit churches. The 2022-23 contributions requested remained similar to those from the previous year.

The rental income reflects receipt of only one month's income for the empty manse and the income related to usage of Wootton was transferred to NMC. Other income during 2022-23 relates to grant income received from the District towards the production cost of the monthly One Voice podcast and the Circuit Administrators activity as District GDPR advisor.

Expenditure trends

Ministerial stipends have increased each financial year in line with conference approved increases, the reduction in 2021/22 reflects the reduction of one in the full time ministerial team.

Fund balances

As at 31 August 2023 the net current assets of the Circuit was £147k, of this £142k was being held in the Circuit Model Trust Fund.

A significant proportion of the reduction from £230K reflecting the investment in refurbishment of the circuit manses.

Plans for 2023/24

Circuit financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that there are only three full time ordained staff along with usage of our local supernumerary team to provide both preaching and pastoral care support. It is anticipated that the current unoccupied manse will be sold during the financial year.

The work of re-imagining the Circuit will continue such that further clarity on the circuits longer term physical and financial structure is determined.

Trustee's Annual Report on Finance and Governance

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 2015 as applicable to the Financial Reporting Standard FRS102.

The Charity's report and accounts include all the separately established funds for which the Circuit has primary responsibility.

Full Name of Charity:	Northampton Methodist Circuit
Registration Charity Number:	1135635
Date of registration	22 April 2010
The circuit office is located at:	Wootton Trinity Christian Centre High Street Wootton Northampton NN4 6LW

The members of the Northampton Methodist Circuit meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches.

Full membership is shown as Appendix A to this report.

Circuit Ministers and officers

<u>Active Circuit Ministers</u>	Rev David Spiers, Rev Francis M Itiiri, (Until August 2023) Rev Ian Forsyth (from September 2022)
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<u>Circuit Stewards</u>	Dr Hellen Okello Mrs E Hale Miss P Kirkland Mr P Leeson
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<u>Circuit Treasurer</u>	Mr Keith Brooks,
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<u>Administrator:</u>	Miss Sarah Eason
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Mr K Brooks acted as the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the Circuit during the year.

Independent examiner	Miss C Haynes (ACA) 4 Delamere Road Northampton
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Investment Banker	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
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Charity objective is to act as a Resource provider within the area around Northampton for the Methodist Church:

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 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 organisation and resourcing of regular public acts of worship open to members of the Church and non members alike.

The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.

The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.

Taking religious assemblies in local schools.

Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services.

Provision of chaplaincy services to the local university and other institutions.

Public Benefit

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

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 of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD).

Day to day management of the Circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team along with the Local Preachers meeting, the Circuit Finance and Property Committee and the Circuit Policy Committee.

Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by 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 Northampton District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The Circuit is a member of Shared Churches Northampton Ltd in relation to support of the Emmanuel Group of Churches.

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Finance and Property Committee with professional advice taken as required.

There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

Income and Expenditure is being monitored in total and is compared with the approved annual budget on a half yearly basis to detect trends as part of the risk management process to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

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

The Northampton Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the Circuit and in the churches.

The Northampton Circuit commits 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.

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy for the Circuit is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to 4 months' average expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on

manes and / or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full Circuit Assessment from churches.

Annual Financial Statements

Basis of preparation

As treasurer I confirm that I have prepared the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit Meeting

Signature of
Treasurer

W K Brooks

Date 25 January
2024

Name

W K Brooks ACMA

Address

2a Stanfield Road
Duston
Northampton

Presentation to the Circuit Meeting for approval.

I confirm that the Accounts have been presented to the Circuit Meeting on 25 January 2024 and were approved.

Signature of the
Chair of the meeting

Rev David Speirs

25 January 2024

Name of the Chair of
the meeting

Rev David Speirs

Date

25 January 2024

Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 August 2023

		Unrestricted funds	Model Trust Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022- 23
		£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:						
Donations, legacies & grants		3,587				3,587
Church assessments		225,075				225,075
Lettings		1,185				1,185
- Miscellaneous						-
Investments		1,294	5,156		11	6,461
Other		40		200		240
Total		231,181	5,156	200	11	236,548
Expenditure on:						
Stipends, salaries, NIC & Pension costs	6	147,623				147,623
District Assessment		5,650				5,650
Methodist Church Fund		24,571				24,571
Telephone & travel		7,386				7,386
Insurance, utilities, etc		18,330				18,330
Maintenance on manses		21,021				21,021
Expenditure on other Circuit property		13,680				13,680
Depreciation	9	250				250
Other Expenditure		17,601	512			18,113
Grants and Donations		1,251		718		1,969
Contributions to District Advance Fund			6,486			6,486
Total		257,363	6,998	718	0	265,079
Net income/(expenditure)		(26,182)	(1,842)	(518)	11	(28,531)
Transfer of Wootton to NMC				(209,901)		(209,901)
Transfers between funds		35,000	(35,000)			0
		8,818	(36,842)	(210,419)	11	(238,432)
Gains/(Losses) on revaluation of fixed assets		217,621				217,621
Gains/(Losses) on investment assets						0
Net investment in funds		226,439	(36,842)	(210,419)	11	(20,811)
Total funds brought forward		1,427,398	179,717	210,419	1,165	1,818,699
Total funds carried forward		1,653,837	142,875	0	1,176	1,797,888

Comparative Statement of Financial Activities for previous year ended 31 August 2022

		Unrestricted funds	Model Trust Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2021-22
		£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:						
Donations, legacies & grants		4,722				4,722
Church assessments		230,281				230,281
Lettings		9,480		6,332		15,812
- Miscellaneous						-
Investments		231	868			1,099
Other		321		107	490	918
Total		245,035	868	6,439	490	252,832
Expenditure on:						
Stipends, salaries, NIC & Pension costs	6	135,535		2,395		137,930
District Assessment		6,610				6,610
Methodist Church Fund		33,486				33,486
Telephone & travel		7,665				7,665
Insurance, utilities, etc		19,664		2,770		22,434
Maintenance on manses		11,145				11,145
Expenditure on other Circuit property		4,800		668		5,468
Depreciation	9	250				250
Other Expenditure		10,992	651		500	12,143
Grants and Donations		5,000		500		5,500
Contributions to District Advance Fund			8,921			8,921
Total		235,147	9,572	6,333	500	251,552
Net income/(expenditure)		9,888	(8,704)	106	(10)	1,280
Transfers between funds		30,000	(40,000)	10,000		0
		39,888	(48,704)	10,106	(10)	1,280
Gains/(Losses) on revaluation of fixed assets						0
Gains/(Losses) on investment assets						0
Net investment in funds		39,888	(48,704)	10,106	(10)	1,280
Total funds brought forward		1,387,511	228,421	200,313	1,174	1,817,419
Total funds carried forward		1,427,399	179,717	210,419	1,164	1,818,699

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Totals this year £
Tangible Fixed Assets						
Land & Buildings		1,668,429				1,668,429
Equipment		2,018				2,018
Investment properties						
Investments						
Total fixed assets		1,670,447				1,670,447
Current Assets						
Debtors and Prepayments		10,176				10,176
Other						
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes deposits			142,875			142,875
Central Finance Board Deposits		22,692				22,692
Cash at Bank and in hand		17,960			1,176	19,136
Total current assets		50,828	142,875		1,176	194,879
Creditors and Accruals (due in under 1 yr)		47,438				47,438
Net current assets (liabilities)		3,390	142,875		1,176	147,441
Total assets less current liabilities		1,673,837	142,875		1,176	1,817,888
Loans and creditors due after 1 year		20,000				20,000
Provisions for liabilities and charges						
Net assets		1,653,837	142,875		1,176	1,797,888
Funds of the Circuit						
Unrestricted funds		(14,592)				-14,592
Property reserve		1,668,429				1,668,429
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			142,875			142,875
Designated funds	12					
Restricted funds	12				1,176	1,176
Total Funds		1,653,837	142,875		1,176	1,797,888

Comparative Balance Sheet for 31 August 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Totals this year £
Tangible Fixed Assets						
Land & Buildings		1,405,808		200,000		1,605,808
Equipment		2,268				2,268
Investment properties						
Investments						
Total fixed assets		1,408,076		200,000		1,608,076
Current Assets						
Debtors and Prepayments		9,548				9,548
Other						
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes deposits			179,717			179,717
Central Finance Board Deposits		63,838		21		63,859
Cash at Bank and in hand		24,691		10,398	1,164	36,253
Total current assets		98,077	179,717	10,419	1,164	289,377
Creditors and Accruals (due in under 1 yr)		58,754				58,754
Net current assets (liabilities)		39,323	179,717	10,419	1,164	230,623
Total assets less current liabilities		1,447,399	179,717	210,419	1,164	1,838,699
Loans and creditors due after 1 year		20,000				20,000
Provisions for liabilities and charges						
Net assets		1,427,399	179,717	210,419	1,164	1,818,699
Funds of the Circuit						
Unrestricted funds		21,591				21,591
Property reserve		1,405,808		200,000		1,605,808
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			179,717			179,717
Designated funds	12			10,419		10,419
Restricted funds	12				1,164	1,164
Total Funds		1,427,399	179,717	210,419	1,164	1,818,699

Notes to the Accounts

1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2015 version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 – the Charities SORP (FRS102) and taking note of the Update Bulletin 2 issued in 2018.

2 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 categorised as unrestricted. Restricted funds which are held for a narrower purpose. There are no Endowment funds. Details of each material fund are disclosed in the final note to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

3 Accounting policies

Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that investments are shown at their market value at the end of the year and land and buildings at deemed current value. Accruals accounting principles have been adopted as far as practical to show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

Incoming Resources

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Circuit becomes entitled to the resources, and the trustees are reasonably certain they will receive the resources; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Resources Expended

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. 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 made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment.

VAT

Since the Circuit is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged with the expenses to which it refers.

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Circuit

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £500.

The freehold property is shown in the accounts at estimated 2023 values, of which the land component is deemed to be £200,000. No depreciation is provided on the buildings because the trustees consider the current residual fair value of the manse buildings (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year-end) to be not less than its current value. Any depreciation would not be material. The properties have been reviewed for impairment.

Investment Properties

Investment properties – In the 2023 accounts 75 Kentstone Close is deemed to not be required for the long term purposes of the charity and was reclassified as an investment property.

Investments

Investments are valued in the balance sheet at market value at the year end. Investment income is included in the accounts when receivable and any gains or losses on revaluation at the year end are shown in the SOFA.

Debtors and Prepayments

The prepayment included in the accounts is in respect of ministerial stipends paid in August due on 1st September..

Creditors

Creditors include both sundry expenses and specifically the 1st quarter assessment received in August.

4 Payment to Trustees

There were no payments made to trustees for additional services provided to the Circuit by agreement with the Circuit Meeting, this excludes stipends.

Trustee expenses

	2022/23	2021/22
Number of Trustees	8	8
Total amount	£7,667	£7,749

Expense payments primarily relate to reimbursement for travel and computing costs

5 Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Independent examiner's or auditors' fees for reporting on the accounts	Nil	Nil
Other fees (eg: advice, accountancy services) paid to the independent examiner or auditor	Nil	Nil

6 Paid employees

Staff Costs paid during the year were:

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind	113,418	105,848
Employer's National Insurance costs	10,626	9,761
Pension costs	23,021	21,838
Apprenticeship levy	558	483
Total staff costs	147,623	137,930

Average number of employees in the year were:

4	5
---	---

7 Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

At the 31st August 2023 there are no capital commitments.
No Contingent liabilities were identified at 31st August 2023.

8 For information only Money received and passed on to External Organisations

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Balance brought forward from last year		
Offerings/Gifts - received for External Organisations	0	0
Offerings/Gifts - passed to External Organisations	0	0
Balance carried forward	0	0

9 Tangible Fixed Assets

Cost or valuation

	Land £	Manses £	Other buildings £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Payments on account and assets under constructio n £	Total £
Balance brought forward	152,000	1,263,808	190,000	4,863		1,610,671
Additions		45,000				45,000
Revaluations (+/-)	58,000	159,621				
Disposals (-)						
Transfers * (+/-)	(10,000)		(190,000)			(200,000)
Balance carried forward	200,000	1,468,429	0	4,863		1,610,671

Accumulated depreciation

Balance brought forward				2,595		2,595
Depreciation charge for year (-)				250		250
Revaluations (+/-)						
Disposals (-)						
Transfers* (+/-)						
Balance carried forward				2,845		2,845

Net book value

Brought forward	152,000	1,263,808	190,000	2,518		1,608,326
Carried forward	200,000	1,468,429	0	2,018		1,670,447

10 Investment assets

The Circuit has no common investment fund holdings

11 Loans

The Circuit currently has a loan from the District of £20,000 in respect of initial funding related to the redevelopment of the Kingsthorpe Church. This has been treated as a long term creditor.

12 Analysis of restricted and designated funds

Restricted Fund Name	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Closing Balance	Purpose of the fund
Restricted fund						
Benevolent Fund	1,165	11	0		1,176	Support for individuals in specific need
2021/22	1,174	491	500		1,165	
Designated funds						
Development Fund	518	200	718		0	Available for funding outreach and development work
2021/22	912	106	500		518	
Wootton Trinity Fund	9,901	0	0	(9901)	0	Fund transferred to Northampton Methodist Church.
2021/22	(598)	6,332	5,833	10,000	9901	
Totals	314	6,438	6,333	10,000	10,419	
2020/21	7,461	4,899	12,046		314	

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Northampton Circuit

This Report is on the Circuit Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2023 and is carried out under Sections 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed. The charity is preparing accrued accounts and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of Institute of Chartered Accountants England & Wales.

It is my responsibility to:

- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act ; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or .
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.
- (3) I have not obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes ("TMCP") or held in other Trusts, Bank balances and Funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church ("CFB"), which are individually in excess of £10,000 at the balance sheet date.

Name	Miss C Haynes ACA
Qualification reference	ACA ICAEW 7945127
Address	4 Delamere Road Northampton NN4 8QG
Date	30 th May 2024

CIRCUIT MEETING MEMBERSHIP

MINISTERS

Rev David Spiers
Rev Francis M Itiiri
Rev Ian Forsyth

SUPERNUMERARY MINISTERS

Rev Alan Sharp

CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATOR

Miss Sarah Eason

CIRCUIT STEWARDS

Miss Pam Kirkland
Dr Hellen Okello
Mrs Elizabeth Hale
Mr Phillip Leeson

CIRCUIT TREASURER

Mr Keith Brooks

Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Mrs Jenny Brooks

CIRCUIT CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES

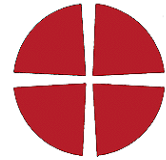
NORTHAMPTON METHODIST CHURCH

Mr Trevor Clarke
Mrs Pat Oliver
Mrs. Hilary MacCallum
Mr Paul Deakin

EMMANUEL GROUP

Mrs Maureen Timms
Mrs Jenny Cole

Accounts



The Methodist Church

Northampton Circuit
23/13

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

"The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond
to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out
its discipleship in worship and mission"

2021 - 2022

Registered Charity No 1135635

Introduction

This is the thirteenth annual report produced by the Northampton Methodist Circuit since its registration as a separate charity and aims to share a review of the activities of the Circuit during 2021 – 22 while also meeting all the legal requirements.

The Vision Statement

The Northampton Methodist Circuit currently consists of 13 Christian Communities, seeking to be a discipleship movement shaped for mission. We see mission as who we are. It is the sharing of the good news of God's love incarnate, through Jesus Christ, in the witness of the community to the world.

Superintendent's letter of Greeting

As the Acting Superintendent Minister it gives me great pleasure to present the annual report and accounts for the Northampton Methodist Circuit for 2021/22.

Significant changes in the oversight and trusteeship arrangements in our circuit have led to the creation of a new multi-site church known as Northampton Methodist Church that brings ten worshipping communities under a single Church Council. These arrangements enable a more effective sharing of resources within the church and an opportunity to develop and strategically further our mission priorities in Northampton and the surrounding villages. At the same time, the Northampton Circuit continues to support the Emmanuel Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) and its work in the Weston Favell area of Northampton.

Although these accounts demonstrate, at present, a reasonable level of financial stability in the Northampton Methodist Circuit we must remain aware of the significant challenges and financial risks that lie ahead of us. With our church buildings in various conditions and states of repair and with a downward decline in membership numbers, it seems clear that the circuit, and Northampton Methodist Church, will need to make bold and courageous decisions in the near future in order to continue the furtherance our aims and objectives in the medium to long term and make more disciples of Jesus. The 'reimagining of the circuit', which has already commenced, will therefore become an even more urgent task over the next 12 months.

At the time of writing Northampton Methodist Church and Northampton Methodist Circuit are conducting a joint Mission and Property Review, the outcomes of which will form the basis for decision making in both the church and circuit. We are also piloting the Connexion's discipleship resources as well as seeking to develop our worship so that it becomes more engaging and relevant in the twenty-first century.

Most importantly, we continue to place our trust in God and the vision that he supplies us with, as we endeavour to follow Jesus as his disciples and depend on the power of the Holy Spirit.

The final words of John Wesley were "The best of all is, God is with us." Just as those early Methodists did, we rely on God's presence amongst us as we continue in our calling to worship, learn & care, serve, and evangelise in Northampton.

Yours faithfully, Revd David Speirs

Operational review - A review of our published Mission Statement

Mission is our key purpose. It is the sharing of the good news of God's love incarnate, through Jesus Christ, in our witness to the community and the wider world.

As a circuit we are committed to Worship, Service, Evangelism, and Learning & caring. The highlighted statements are our overarching intent and the notes below show our activity

WORSHIP, which seeks to increase awareness of God's presence and celebrates God's love seeking to underpin everything we do in God-centred prayer

Regular worship was resumed in all our buildings with some revision to scheduled service times. Throughout the year we continued to offer weekly online worship through the Circuit website.

The year also saw the full accreditation of three new local preachers following their successful completion of the training programme.

SERVICE seeking to be a good neighbour to people in need and challenge injustice.,

The year has seen the emergence of several targeted activities offering help and support into our local community. We have continued to provide an active input into the work of the UON chaplaincy. Planning had commenced at the end of the year to support the warmer places initiative.

EVANGELISM, which is a call to all people to Christian discipleship, growing in the Christian faith alongside others seeking the same, to talk about God and to serve God in the world

The One Voice Podcast has continued to be produced each month and has remained a valuable means of sharing the Christian message.

LEARNING and CARING, which is equipping and resourcing people for mission and Christian relationships.

It has been a positive encouragement to witness growth within a number of our Boys and Girls Brigade groups across the Circuit, the continued support for the circuit planned bible study groups has also been encouraging.

We remain intentional about 'Re-imagining' the work and organisation of the Circuit in order to grow as a mission focused Christian organisation seeking to serve our community. This means that our resources need to be utilised and developed in such a way that they are outgoing and outward facing. In 2019 the circuit produced a Property and Resources audit, which has begun to see implementation during this 2021-22 year. The most significant change has been the formation of Northampton Methodist Church as a single trustee body, with multiple worshipping communities across the town.

Review of and financial position of the Circuit

The following summary reflects the financial activities of the Circuit for the year, with the previous 3 years provided for comparison: -

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income				
Assessment contributions from circuit churches	276.2	242.9	218.3	230.3
Other income	1.7	1.8	18.3	5.6
Interest	0.5	0.4	0.1	1.1
Rental income	15.9	15.2	11.2	15.8
Total income	294.3	260.3	247.9	252.8
Expenditure				
Ministerial Stipends	148.0	155.4	141.7	116.1
Lay Workers	16.9	17.0	17.0	19.4
Manse maintenance	23.0	25.1	26.3	11.1
Manse utility costs	21.2	23.0	19.5	19.7
Methodist Church Fund	50.0	46.2	42.6	33.5
District Assessment	9.9	10.6	10.0	6.6
Grants	3.0	0.0	0.0	5.5
Levy	0.6	0.0	118.7	8.9
Wootton running costs	5.8	6.8	12.0	5.8
Depreciation	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Other Expenses	25.8	11.5	17.1	24.7
Total expenditure	304.5	295.9	405.2	251.6
Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources	(10.2)	(35.6)	(157.3)	1.2
Increase/ (Reduction) in manse valuation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Gain/ (Loss) on Investments	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Increase/ (Decrease) in value of funds	(10.2)	(35.6)	(157.3)	1.2

Income trends

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment paid by the circuit churches. The 2021-22 contributions requested were reduced from those prior to the pandemic reflecting the lower overall funding requirement consequent on a reduction in full time ministerial staffing.

The rental income relates to the rental of a manse to the Vineyard Church, along with letting income generated from Wootton Trinity.

Other income during 2021-22 relates to grant income received from the District towards the production cost of the monthly One Voice podcast.

Expenditure trends

Ministerial stipends have increased each financial year in line with conference approved increases, the reduction in 2021/22 reflects the reduction of one in the full time ministerial team.

During the year the lay administrators hours of work were increased to full time to support the changes to the governance framework of the local worshipping communities.

Fund balances

As at 31 August 2022 the net current assets of the Circuit was £230k, of this £180k was being held in the Circuit Model Trust Fund. To replenish the Circuit General Fund a transfer of £40k was actioned during the financial year to ensure adequate funds were available for operational purposes.

Plans for 2022/23

Circuit financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that there are only three full time ordained staff along with usage of our local supernumerary team to provide both preaching and pastoral care support.

It is anticipated that the work of re-imagining the Circuit will continue over the coming year to provide further clarity on the circuits longer term physical and financial structure.

Trustee's Annual Report on Finance and Governance

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 2015 as applicable to the Financial Reporting Standard FRS102.

The Charity's report and accounts include all the separately established funds for which the Circuit has primary responsibility.

Full Name of Charity:	Northampton Methodist Circuit
Registration Charity Number:	1135635
Date of registration	22 April 2010
The circuit office is located at:	Wootton Trinity Christian Centre High Street Wootton Northampton NN4 6LW

The members of the Northampton Methodist Circuit meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches.

Full membership is shown as Appendix A to this report.

Circuit Ministers and officers

<u>Active Circuit Ministers</u>	Rev Romeo Pedro, (Until August 2022) Rev David Spiers, Rev Francis M Itiiri, Rev Ian Forsyth (from September 2022)
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<u>Circuit Stewards</u>	Dr Hellen Okello Mrs E Hale Miss P Kirkland Mr P Leeson
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<u>Circuit Treasurer</u>	Mr Keith Brooks,
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<u>Administrator:</u>	Miss Sarah Eason
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Mr K Brooks acted as the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the Circuit during the year.

Independent examiner	Miss C Haynes (ACA) 4 Delamere Road Northampton
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Investment Banker	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
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Charity objective is to act as a Resource provider within the area around Northampton for the Methodist Church:

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 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 organisation and resourcing of regular public acts of worship open to members of the Church and non members alike.

The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.

The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.

Taking religious assemblies in local schools.

Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services.

Provision of chaplaincy services to the local university and other institutions.

Public Benefit

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

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 of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD).

Day to day management of the Circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team along with the Local Preachers meeting, the Circuit Finance and Property Committee and the Circuit Policy Committee.

Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by 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 Northampton District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The Circuit is a member of Shared Churches Northampton Ltd in relation to support of the Emmanuel Group of Churches.

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Finance and Property Committee with professional advice taken as required.

There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

Income and Expenditure is being monitored in total and is compared with the approved annual budget on a half yearly basis to detect trends as part of the risk management process to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

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

The Northampton Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the Circuit and in the churches.

The Northampton Circuit commits 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.

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy for the Circuit is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to 4 months' average expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on manses and / or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full Circuit Assessment from churches.

Annual Financial Statements

Basis of preparation

As treasurer I confirm that I have prepared the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit Meeting

Signature of
Treasurer

W K Brooks

Date 23 November
2022

Name

W K Brooks ACMA

Address

2a Stanfield Road
Duston
Northampton

Presentation to the Circuit Meeting for approval.

I confirm that the Accounts have been presented to the Circuit Meeting on 23 November 2022 and were approved.

Signature of the
Chair of the meeting

Rev David Speirs

23 November 2022

Name of the Chair of
the meeting

Rev David Speirs

Date

23 November 2022

Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 August 2022

		Unrestricted funds	Model Trust Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2021- 22
		£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:						
Donations, legacies & grants		4,722				4,722
Church assessments		230,281				230,281
Lettings		9,480		6,332		15,812
- Miscellaneous						-
Investments		231	868			1,099
Other		321		107	490	918
Total		245,035	868	6,439	490	252,832
Expenditure on:						
Stipends, salaries, NIC & Pension costs	6	135,535		2,395		137,930
District Assessment		6,610				6,610
Methodist Church Fund		33,486				33,486
Telephone & travel		7,665				7,665
Insurance, utilities, etc		19,664		2,770		22,434
Maintenance on manses		11,145				11,145
Expenditure on other Circuit property		4,800		668		5,468
Depreciation	9	250				250
Other Expenditure		10,992	651		500	12,143
Grants and Donations		5,000		500		5,500
Contributions to District Advance Fund			8,921			8,921
Total		235,147	9,572	6,333	500	251,552
Net income/(expenditure)		9,888	(8,704)	106	(10)	1,280
Transfers between funds		30,000	(40,000)	10,000		0
		39,888	(48,704)	10,106	(10)	1,280
Gains/(Losses) on revaluation of fixed assets						0
Gains/(Losses) on investment assets						0
Net investment in funds		39,888	(48,704)	10,106	(10)	1,280
Total funds brought forward		1,387,511	228,421	200,313	1,174	1,817,419
Total funds carried forward		1,427,399	179,717	210,419	1,164	1,818,699

Comparative Statement of Financial Activities for previous year ended 31 August 2021

		Unrestricted funds	Model Trust Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2020- 21
		£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:						
Donations, legacies & grants		5,600		3,132		8,732
Church assessments		218,253				218,253
Lettings		9,480		1,765		11,245
- Miscellaneous						-
Investments		66	24	1		91
Other		58	8,907		600	9,565
Total		233,457	8,931	4,898	600	247,886
Expenditure on:						
Stipends, salaries, NIC & Pension costs	6	153,669		2,340		156,009
District Assessment		9,994				9,994
Methodist Church Fund		42,580				42,580
Telephone & travel		6,023				6,023
Insurance, utilities, etc		19,485		8,207		27,692
Maintenance on manses		26,288				26,288
Expenditure on other Circuit property		1,200		1,499		2,699
Depreciation	9	250				250
Other Expenditure		14,299			605	14,904
Grants and Donations						0
Contributions to District Advance Fund			118,728			118,728
Total		273,788	118,728	12,046	605	405,167
Net income/(expenditure)		(40,331)	(109,797)	(7,148)	(5)	(157,281)
Transfers between funds		(337,892)	337,892			0
		(378,223)	228,095	(7,148)	(5)	(157,281)
Gains/(Losses) on revaluation of fixed assets						0
Gains/(Losses) on investment assets						0
Net investment in funds		(378,223)	228,095	(7,148)	(5)	(157,281)
Total funds brought forward		1,765,734	326	207,461	1,179	1,974,700
Total funds carried forward		1,387,511	228,421	200,313	1,174	1,817,419

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Totals this year £
Tangible Fixed Assets						
Land & Buildings		1,405,808		200,000		1,605,808
Equipment		2,268				2,268
Investment properties						
Investments						
Total fixed assets		1,408,076		200,000		1,608,076
Current Assets						
Debtors and Prepayments		9,548				9,548
Other						
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes deposits			179,717			179,717
Central Finance Board Deposits		63,838		21		63,859
Cash at Bank and in hand		24,691		10,398	1,164	36,253
Total current assets		98,077	179,717	10,419	1,164	289,377
Creditors and Accruals (due in under 1 yr)		58,754				58,754
Net current assets (liabilities)		39,323	179,717	10,419	1,164	230,623
Total assets less current liabilities		1,447,399	179,717	210,419	1,164	1,838,699
Loans and creditors due after 1 year		20,000				20,000
Provisions for liabilities and charges						
Net assets		1,427,399	179,717	210,419	1,164	1,818,699
Funds of the Circuit						
Unrestricted funds		21,591				21,591
Property reserve		1,405,808		200,000		1,605,808
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			179,717			179,717
Designated funds	12			10,419		10,419
Restricted funds	12				1,164	1,164
Total Funds		1,427,399	179,717	210,419	1,164	1,818,699

Comparative Balance Sheet for 31 August 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Totals this year £
Tangible Fixed Assets						
Land & Buildings		1,405,808		200,000		1,605,808
Equipment		2,518				2,518
Investment properties						
Investments						
Total fixed assets		1,408,326		200,000		1,608,326
Current Assets						
Debtors and Prepayments		9,093				9,093
Other						
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes deposits			228,421			228,421
Central Finance Board Deposits		31,870		21		31,891
Cash at Bank and in hand		7,563		292	1,174	9,029
Total current assets		48,526	228,421	313	1,174	278,434
Creditors and Accruals (due in under 1 yr)		49,341				49,341
Net current assets (liabilities)		(815)	228,421	313	1,174	229,093
Total assets less current liabilities		1,407,511	228,421	200,313	1,174	1,837,419
Loans and creditors due after 1 year		20,000				20,000
Provisions for liabilities and charges						
Net assets		1,387,511	228,421	200,313	1,174	1,817,419
Funds of the Circuit						
Unrestricted funds		(18,297)				-18,297
Property reserve		1,405,808		200,000		1,605,808
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			228,421			228,421
Designated funds	12			313		313
Restricted funds	12				1,174	1,174
Total Funds		1,387,511	228,421	200,313	1,174	1,817,419

Notes to the Accounts

1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2015 version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 – the Charities SORP (FRS102) and taking note of the Update Bulletin 2 issued in 2018.

2 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 categorised as unrestricted. Restricted funds which are held for a narrower purpose. There are no Endowment funds. Details of each material fund are disclosed in the final note to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

3 Accounting policies

Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that investments are shown at their market value at the end of the year and land and buildings at deemed current value. Accruals accounting principles have been adopted as far as practical to show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

Incoming Resources

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Circuit becomes entitled to the resources, and the trustees are reasonably certain they will receive the resources; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Resources Expended

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. 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 made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment.

VAT

Since the Circuit is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged with the expenses to which it refers.

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Circuit

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £500.

The freehold property is shown in the accounts at 2015 deemed values, of which the land component is deemed to be £350,000. No depreciation is provided on the buildings because the trustees consider the current residual fair value of the manse buildings (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year-end) to be not less than its current value. Any depreciation would not be material. The properties have been reviewed for impairment.

Investment Properties

Investment properties – In 2020 accounts 16 Booth Lane was deemed to not be required for the long term purposes of the charity and was reclassified as an investment property, details of the sale transaction during 2021 are included within Note 9.

Investments

Investments are valued in the balance sheet at market value at the year end. Investment income is included in the accounts when receivable and any gains or losses on revaluation at the year end are shown in the SOFA.

Debtors and Prepayments

The prepayment included in the accounts is in respect of ministerial stipends paid in August due on 1st September..

Creditors

Creditors include both sundry expenses and specifically the 1st quarter assessment received in August.

4 Payment to Trustees

There were no payments made to trustees for additional services provided to the Circuit by agreement with the Circuit Meeting, this excludes stipends.

Trustee expenses

	2021/22	2020/21
Number of Trustees	8	6
Total amount	£7,749	£5,779

Expense payments primarily relate to reimbursement for travel and computing costs

5 Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

	2021/22 £	2020/21 £
Independent examiner's or auditors' fees for reporting on the accounts	Nil	Nil
Other fees (eg: advice, accountancy services) paid to the independent examiner or auditor	Nil	Nil

6 Paid employees

Staff Costs paid during the year were:

	2021/22 £	2020/21 £
Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind	105,848	117,945
Employer's National Insurance costs	9,761	10,551
Pension costs	21,838	26,839
Apprenticeship levy	483	673
Total staff costs	137,930	156,008

Average number of employees in the year were:

5	6
---	---

7 Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

At the 31st August 2022 there are no capital commitments.
No Contingent liabilities were identified at 31st August 2022.

8 For information only Money received and passed on to External Organisations

	2021/22 £	2020/21 £
Balance brought forward from last year		
Offerings/Gifts - received for External Organisations	0	0
Offerings/Gifts - passed to External Organisations	0	0
Balance carried forward	0	0

9 Tangible Fixed Assets

Cost or valuation

	Land £	Manse £	Other buildings £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Payments on account and assets under constructio n £	Total £
Balance brought forward	152,000	1,263,808	190,000	4,863		1,610,671
Additions						
Revaluations (+/-)						
Disposals (-)						
Transfers * (+/-)						
Balance carried forward	152,000	1,263,808	190,000	4,863		1,610,671

Accumulated depreciation

Balance brought forward				2,345		2,345
Depreciation charge for year (-)				250		250
Revaluations (+/-)						
Disposals (-)						
Transfers* (+/-)						
Balance carried forward				2,595		2,595

Net book value

Brought forward	152,000	1,263,808	190,000	2,518		1,608,326
Carried forward	152,000	1,263,808	190,000	2,268		1,608,076

10 Investment assets

The Circuit has no common investment fund holdings

11 Loans

The Circuit currently has a loan from the District of £20,000 in respect of initial funding related to the redevelopment of the Kingsthorpe Church. This has been treated as a long term creditor.

12 Analysis of restricted and designated funds

Restricted Fund Name	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Closing Balance	Purpose of the fund
Restricted fund						
Benevolent Fund	1,174	490	500		1,164	Support for individuals in specific need
2020/21	1,179	600	605		1,174	
Designated funds						
Development Fund	912	106	500		518	Available for funding outreach and development work
2020/21	912	0	0		912	
Wootton Trinity Fund	(598)	6,332	5,833	10,000	9901	Fund designated for the operation & maintenance of the centre.
2020/21	6,549	4,899	12,046		(598)	
Totals	314	6,438	6,333	10,000	10,419	
2020/21	7,461	4,899	12,046		314	

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Northampton Circuit

This Report is on the Circuit Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2022 and is carried out under Sections 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed. The charity is preparing accrued accounts and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of Institute of Chartered Accountants England & Wales.

It is my responsibility to:

- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act ; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or .
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.
- (3) I have not obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes ("TMCP") or held in other Trusts, Bank balances and Funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church ("CFB"), which are individually in excess of £10,000 at the balance sheet date.

Name	Miss C Haynes ACA
Qualification reference	ACA ICAEW 7945127
Address	4 Delamere Road Northampton NN4 8QG
Date	30 th April 2023

CIRCUIT MEETING MEMBERSHIP

MINISTERS

Rev David Spiers
Rev Francis M Itiiri
Rev Ian Forsyth

SUPERNUMERARY MINISTERS

Rev Alan Sharp

CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATOR

Miss Sarah Eason

CIRCUIT STEWARDS

Miss Pam Kirkland
Dr Hellen Okello
Mrs Elizabeth Hale
Mr Phillip Leeson

CIRCUIT TREASURER

Mr Keith Brooks

Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Mrs Jenny Brooks

CIRCUIT CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES

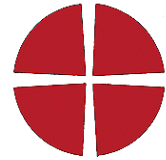
NORTHAMPTON METHODIST CHURCH

Mr Trevor Clarke
Mrs Pat Oliver
Mrs. Hilary MacCallum
Mr Paul Deakin

EMMANUEL GROUP

Mrs Maureen Timms
Mrs Jenny Cole

Accounts



The Methodist Church

Northampton Circuit
23/13

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

**“The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond
to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out
its discipleship in worship and mission”**

2020 - 2021

Registered Charity No 1135635

Introduction

This is the twelfth annual report produced by the Northampton Methodist Circuit since its registration as a separate charity and aims to share a review of the activities of the circuit during 2020 – 21 while also meeting all the legal requirements.

The Vision Statement

The Northampton Methodist Circuit currently consists of 13 Christian Communities, seeking to be a discipleship movement shaped for mission. We see mission as who we are. It is the sharing of the good news of God's love incarnate, through Jesus Christ, in the witness of the community to the world.

Superintendent's letter of Greeting

Dear friends

As I write this letter, we draw to the end of 2021 and we have entered the Advent season, which is the beginning of the Christian calendar. We are in between times- the old and the new, a time of expectancy and hope, a time in which by faith, we prepare to receive and celebrate the birth of God-With-Us, Emmanuel!

2020 has been a profoundly disruptive, disorienting and exhausting year for all! Due to the Covid 19 virus- nothing has remained the same. We have experienced radical change of life as we know it; living with anxiety, fear, illness, isolation, loneliness, death, loss of loved ones, loss of employment, etc. All these affect us and cause physical and mental fatigue.

The church is part of society and has therefore not been immune to these challenges. Even before the pandemic we were seriously considering what the future of the Methodist Church in the circuit might look like.. The Pandemic has made this an even more urgent question to consider. You can read more about this in the Review below

I think that it is important for me to remind you that the Advent season for Christians, is importantly about hope. The hope of advent reminds us that we are a people of hope. Hope is the energy that sustains us beyond every real obstacle, difficulty or challenge we face. In the words of Luther E. Smith, "Hope is a force of God that enlivens us to life and saves us from a false sense of aliveness". (Weavings: The Work of Hope) Advent hope therefore enables us to look beyond our present realities and see God who did and continues to offer intervention in human history!

I've seen this hope reflected in the way we quickly found ways to adapt to this new way of being. One of our Local Preachers started a book club and a coffee morning on Facebook. Someone else started "Coffee and Chat", sharing weekly church family news. Others started WhatsApp groups to keep regular contact. One homegroup started "Sofa Church" on Zoom. And so many of you started writing cards, letters and making phone calls to keep in touch. Many stewards started writing weekly updates to keep everyone informed. I am deeply indebted to the pastoral secretaries and friends for the invaluable work done during this period. The creative energy that I've seen released during this time is something I wish we would continue to embrace as we get closer to some sense of normality.

All these changes that we face, dear friends, cannot and will not change or dilute the message of Christmas! Out of unimaginable love- the transcendent God chose to be vulnerable and take on human nature – in Jesus Christ. This loving and gracious God is always with us! We will never be outside the reach of God's presence and love in this life or the next! This is the unchanging good news of Christmas!

I therefore pray that whatever our realities are this Christmas- we will celebrate with joy this truth that "We are loved unconditionally by God". In the words of the prophet Isaiah: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given... of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end". (Isaiah 9:6, 7).

Lastly, my deepest gratitude goes to the Rev'd Brian Kennard, who, during a time of great need in our circuit, helped us to be a better team. Brian's time with us came to an end in August. Also, the rest of the ministerial team: you've been brilliant. A word of gratitude to our Circuit Leadership Team that had to meet more than usual, to navigate us during this time. A special word of appreciation to our Circuit Administrator, Sarah Eason. She is the person holding everything together and making sure that we are as effective as we can be. There is a saying in my mother tongue: "When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion". Together we are stronger.

Keep hope alive!

Your brother in Christ

The Rev'd Romeo Regardo Pedro
(Superintendent Minister)

Mission Statement

Mission is our key purpose. It is the sharing of the good news of God's love incarnate, through Jesus Christ, in our witness to the community and the wider world.

As a circuit we are committed to Worship, Service, Evangelism, and Learning & caring,

WORSHIP, which seeks to increase awareness of God's presence and celebrates God's love seeking to underpin everything we do in God-centred prayer

SERVICE seeking to be a good neighbour to people in need and challenge injustice.,

EVANGELISM, which is a call to all people to Christian discipleship, growing in the Christian faith alongside others seeking the same, to talk about God and to serve God in the world

LEARNING and CARING, which is equipping and resourcing people for mission and Christian relationships.

We are intentional about 'Re-imagining' the work and organisation of the circuit in order to grow as a mission focused Christian organisation seeking to serve our community. This means that our resources need to be utilised and developed in such a way that they are outgoing and outward facing. We accept that following the findings of the Property and Resources Audit report from 2019 there will be changes to how we do this which will affect our church communities.

A review of the 2020 – 21, a year where the Covid pandemic continued to impact on all our activities..

WORSHIP

Throughout the year the Circuit continued to offer weekly online worship through the Circuit website along with dial in facilities which were well utilised.

As permitted by government guidance, socially distanced services were held in the majority of circuit churches, with return to permitted singing towards the end of the year joyfully welcomed.

Two of the individuals involved in training to become fully accredited local preachers were near to successful completion of their training by the end of the church year.

SERVICE

The year has seen the emergence of several targeted activities offering help and support into our local community. We have continued to provide an active input into the work of the UON chaplaincy. There remains a need for further revisioning of options for service across the town going forward.

LEARNING and CARING

The continued impact of the pandemic has meant caution in respect of social contact whilst the needs have been great. It has been a positive encouragement to witness both the early reopening of our Boys and Girls Brigade groups across the circuit, following relaxation of restrictions and the level of involvement in the planned bible study groups organised during the year.

EVANGELISM

The One Voice Podcast has continued to be produced each month and has remained a valuable means of sharing the Christian message.

SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

Consultation meetings seeking discernment regarding the way forward in response to the PRAG report continued during the year with representatives of all circuit churches. These consultations have been hampered by the difficulty in meeting in larger groups but are beginning to provide options for moving forward.

Review of and financial position of the circuit

The following summary reflects the financial activities of the Circuit for the year, with the previous 3 years provided for comparison: -

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income				
Assessment contributions from circuit churches	285.5	276.2	242.9	218.3
Other income	4.1	1.7	1.8	18.3
Interest	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.1
Rental income	15.7	15.9	15.2	11.2
Total income	305.7	294.3	260.3	247.9
Expenditure				
Ministerial Stipends	176.2	148.0	155.4	141.7
Lay Workers	17.5	16.9	17.0	17.0
Manse maintenance	11.0	23.0	25.1	26.3
Manse utility costs	19.4	21.2	23.0	19.5
Methodist Church Fund	48.0	50.0	46.2	42.6
District Assessment	8.1	9.9	10.6	10.0
Grants	7.6	3.0	0.0	0.0
Levy	0.0	0.6	0.0	118.7
Wootton running costs	12.4	5.8	6.8	12.0
Depreciation	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Other Expenses	15.5	25.8	11.5	17.1
Total expenditure	316.0	304.5	295.9	405.2
Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources	(10.3)	(10.2)	(35.6)	(157.3)
Increase/ (Reduction) in manse valuation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Gain/ (Loss) on Investments	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Increase/ (Decrease) in value of funds	(10.3)	(10.2)	(35.6)	(157.3)

Income trends

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment paid by the circuit churches. During 2020-21 two circuit churches made significantly reduced assessment payments as a continued consequence of their restricted income.

The rental income relates to the rental of a manse to the Vineyard Church, during 2020-21 the rental income generated from Wootton Trinity was significantly reduced.

Other income includes grants received from the District, other donations, insurance claims and circuit promoted activities and events.

Expenditure trends

Ministerial stipends have increased each financial year in line with conference approved increases, the reduction in 2020/21 reflected the reduced usage of supernumerary ministerial time.

The Wootton running costs in 2021 were impacted by the need to replace the main water boiler after it had developed a serious water leak.

The manse sale resulted in release of cash for the use of the circuit but in line with Methodist policy £118.7k of the proceeds was paid as a levy to Central Methodism and is treated as an outgoing expenditure item.

Fund balances

As at 31 August 2021 the net current assets of the Circuit was £229k, this primarily being held in the Circuit Model Trust Fund. To replenish the Circuit General Fund a transfer of £40k is proposed for the early part of the new financial year aimed to ensure adequate free reserves are available.

Plans for 2021/22

Circuit financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that there are only three full time ordained staff along with no significant usage of supernumerary ministry.

It is anticipated that the work of re-imagining the circuit will over the coming year will provide further clarity on the circuits longer term financial framework.

Trustee's Annual Report on Finance and Governance

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 2015 as applicable to the Financial Reporting Standard FRS102.

The Charity's report and accounts include all the separately established funds for which the Circuit has primary responsibility.

Full Name of Charity:	Northampton Methodist Circuit
Registration Charity Number:	1135635
Date of registration	22 April 2010
The circuit office is located at:	Wootton Trinity Christian Centre High Street Wootton Northampton NN4 6LW

The members of the Northampton Methodist Circuit meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches.

Full membership is shown as Appendix A to this report.

Circuit Ministers and officers

Active Circuit Ministers Rev Romeo Pedro,
Rev David Spiers,
Rev Francis M Itiiri,

Circuit Stewards Mrs Margaret Littlecott , (Until September 2021)
Dr Hellen Okello
Mrs E Hale
Miss P Kirkland
Mr P Leeson (From September 2021)

Circuit Treasurer Mr Keith Brooks,

Administrator: Miss Sarah Eason

Mr K Brooks acted as the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the circuit during the year.

Independent examiner Miss C Haynes (ACA)
4 Delamere Road
Northampton

Investment Banker Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church

Charity objective is to act as a Resource provider within the area around Northampton for the Methodist Church:

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 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 organisation and resourcing of regular public acts of worship open to members of the church and non members alike.

The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.

The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.

Taking religious assemblies in local schools.

Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services.

Provision of chaplaincy services to the local university and other institutions.

Public Benefit

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

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 of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD).

Day to day management of the circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team along with the Local Preachers meeting, the Circuit Finance and Property Committee and the Circuit Policy Committee.

Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by 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 Northampton District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The circuit is a member of Shared Churches Northampton Ltd in relation to support of the Emmanuel Group of Churches.

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Finance and Property Committee with professional advice taken as required.

There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

Income and Expenditure is being monitored in total and is compared with the approved annual budget on a half yearly basis to detect trends as part of the risk management process to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

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

The Northampton Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.

The Northampton Circuit commits 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.

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy for the Circuit is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to 4 months' average expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on manses and / or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full Circuit Assessment from churches.

Annual Financial Statements

Basis of preparation

As treasurer I confirm that I have prepared the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit Meeting

Signature of
Treasurer

W K Brooks

Date 23 November
2021

Name

W K Brooks ACMA

Address

2a Stanfield Road
Duston
Northampton

Presentation to the Circuit Meeting for approval.

I confirm that the Accounts have been presented to the Circuit Meeting on 23 November 2021 and were approved.

Signature of the
Chair of the meeting

Rev Romeo Pedro

23 November 2021

Name of the Chair of
the meeting

Rev Romeo Pedro

Date

23 November 2021

Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 August 2021

		Unrestricted funds	Model Trust Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2020- 21
		£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:						
Donations, legacies & grants		5,600		3,132		8,732
Church assessments		218,253				218,253
Lettings		9,480		1,765		11,245
- Miscellaneous						-
Investments		66	24	1		91
Other		58	8,907		600	9,565
Total		233,457	8,931	4,898	600	247,886
Expenditure on:						
Stipends, salaries, NIC & Pension costs	6	153,669		2,340		156,009
District Assessment		9,994				9,994
Methodist Church Fund		42,580				42,580
Telephone & travel		6,023				6,023
Insurance, utilities, etc		19,485		8,207		27,692
Maintenance on manses		26,288				26,288
Expenditure on other Circuit property		1,200		1,499		2,699
Depreciation	9	250				250
Other Expenditure		14,299			605	14,904
Grants and Donations						0
Contributions to District Advance Fund			118,728			118,728
Total		273,788	118,728	12,046	605	405,167
Net income/(expenditure)		(40,331)	(109,797)	(7,148)	(5)	(157,281)
Transfers between funds		(337,892)	337,892			0
		(378,223)	228,095	(7,148)	(5)	(157,281)
Gains/(Losses) on revaluation of fixed assets						0
Gains/(Losses) on investment assets						0
Net investment in funds		(378,223)	228,095	(7,148)	(5)	(157,281)
Total funds brought forward		1,765,734	326	207,461	1,179	1,974,700
Total funds carried forward		1,387,511	228,421	200,313	1,174	1,817,419

Comparative Statement of Financial Activities for previous year ended 31 August 2020

		Unrestricted funds	Model Trust Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2019-20
		£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:						
Donations, legacies & grants		900				900
Church assessments		242,853				242,853
Lettings		9,480		5,721		15,201
- Miscellaneous						-
Investments		445	3	6	2	456
Other		855				855
Total		254,533	3	5,727	2	260,265
Expenditure on:						
Stipends, salaries, NIC & Pension costs	6	164,435		2,340		166,775
District Assessment		10,552				10,552
Methodist Church Fund		46,200				46,200
Telephone & travel		7,973				7,973
Insurance, utilities, etc		22,973		4,129		27,102
Maintenance on manses		25,084				25,084
Expenditure on other Circuit property		5,316		291		5,607
Depreciation	9	250				250
Other Expenditure		6,261				6,261
Grants and Donations						0
Contributions to District Advance Fund			9			9
Total		289,044	9	6,760	0	295,813
Net income/(expenditure)		(34,511)	(6)	(1,033)	2	(35,548)
Transfers between funds						0
		(34,511)	(6)	(1,033)	2	(35,548)
Gains/(Losses) on revaluation of fixed assets						0
Gains/(Losses) on investment assets						0
Net investment in funds		(34,511)	(6)	(1,033)	2	(35,548)
Total funds brought forward		1,800,245	332	208,494	1,177	2,010,248
Total funds carried forward		1,765,734	326	207,461	1,179	1,974,700

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Totals this year £
Tangible Fixed Assets						
Land & Buildings		1,405,808		200,000		1,605,808
Equipment		2,518				2,518
Investment properties						
Investments						
Total fixed assets		1,408,326		200,000		1,608,326
Current Assets						
Debtors and Prepayments		9,093				9,093
Other						
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes deposits			228,421			228,421
Central Finance Board Deposits		31,870		21		31,891
Cash at Bank and in hand		7,563		292	1,174	9,029
Total current assets		48,526	228,421	313	1,174	278,434
Creditors and Accruals (due in under 1 yr)		49,341				49,341
Net current assets (liabilities)		(815)	228,421	313	1,174	229,093
Total assets less current liabilities		1,407,511	228,421	200,313	1,174	1,837,419
Loans and creditors due after 1 year		20,000				20,000
Provisions for liabilities and charges						
Net assets		1,387,511	228,421	200,313	1,174	1,817,419
Funds of the Circuit						
Unrestricted funds		(18,297)				-18,297
Property reserve		1,405,808		200,000		1,605,808
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			228,421			228,421
Designated funds	12			313		313
Restricted funds	12				1,174	1,174
Total Funds		1,387,511	228,421	200,313	1,174	1,817,419

Comparative Balance Sheet for 31 August 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Totals this year £
Tangible Fixed Assets						
Land & Buildings		1,405,700		200,000		1,605,700
Equipment		2,228				2,228
Investment properties		338,000				338,000
Investments						
Total fixed assets		1,745,928		200,000		1,945,928
Current Assets						
Debtors and Prepayments		11,300				11,300
Other						
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes deposits			326			326
Central Finance Board Deposits		57,143		820		57,963
Cash at Bank and in hand		28,835		6,641	1,179	36,655
Total current assets		97,278	326	7,461	1,179	106,244
Creditors and Accruals (due in under 1 yr)		57,472				57,472
Net current assets (liabilities)		39,806	326	7,461	1,179	48,772
Total assets less current liabilities		1,785,734	326	207,461	1,179	1,994,700
Loans and creditors due after 1 year		20,000				20,000
Provisions for liabilities and charges						
Net assets		1,765,734	326	207,461	1,179	1,974,700
Funds of the Circuit						
Unrestricted funds		360,034				360,034
Property reserve		1,405,700		200,000		1,605,700
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			326			326
Designated funds	12			7,461		7,461
Restricted funds	12				1,179	1,179
Total Funds		1,765,734	326	207,461	1,179	1,974,700

Notes to the Accounts

1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2015 version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 – the Charities SORP (FRS102) and taking note of the Update Bulletin 2 issued in 2018.

2 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 categorised as unrestricted. Restricted funds which are held for a narrower purpose. There are no Endowment funds. Details of each material fund are disclosed in the final note to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

3 Accounting policies

Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that investments are shown at their market value at the end of the year and land and buildings at deemed current value. Accruals accounting principles have been adopted as far as practical to show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

Incoming Resources

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Circuit becomes entitled to the resources, and the trustees are reasonably certain they will receive the resources; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Resources Expended

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. 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 made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment.

VAT

Since the Circuit is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged with the expenses to which it refers.

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Circuit

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £500.

The freehold property is shown in the accounts at 2015 deemed values, of which the land component is deemed to be £350,000. No depreciation is provided on the buildings because the trustees consider the current residual fair value of the manse buildings (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year-end) to be not less than its current value. Any depreciation would not be material. The properties have been reviewed for impairment.

Investment Properties

Investment properties – 16 Booth Lane has been deemed to not be held for the long term purposes of the charity and has been reclassified as an investment property prior to its disposal.

Investments

Investments are valued in the balance sheet at market value at the year end. Investment income is included in the accounts when receivable and any gains or losses on revaluation at the year end are shown in the SOFA.

Debtors and Prepayments

The prepayment included in the accounts is in respect of ministerial stipends paid in August due on 1st September.8.

Creditors

Creditors include both sundry expenses and specifically the 1st quarter assessment received in August.

4 Payment to Trustees

There were no payments made to trustees for additional services provided to the Circuit by agreement with the Circuit Meeting, this excludes stipends.

Trustee expenses

	2020/21	2019/20
Number of Trustees	6	8
Total amount	£5,779	£7,907

Expense payments primarily relate to reimbursement for travel and computing costs

5 Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

	2020/21 £	2019/20 £
Independent examiner's or auditors' fees for reporting on the accounts	Nil	Nil
Other fees (eg: advice, accountancy services) paid to the independent examiner or auditor	Nil	Nil

6 Paid employees

Staff Costs paid during the year were:

	2020/21 £	2019/20 £
Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind	117,945	128,162
Employer's National Insurance costs	10,551	10,610
Pension costs	26,839	27,472
Apprenticeship levy	673	531
Total staff costs	156,008	166,775

Average number of employees in the year were:

2020/21	2019/20
6	7

7 Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

At the 31st August 2020 there are no capital commitments.
No Contingent liabilities were identified at 31st August 2020.

8 For information only Money received and passed on to External Organisations

	2020/21 £	2019/20 £
Balance brought forward from last year		
Offerings/Gifts - received for External Organisations	0	0
Offerings/Gifts - passed to External Organisations	0	0
Balance carried forward	0	0

9 Tangible Fixed Assets

Cost or valuation

	Land £	Manse £	Other buildings £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Payments on account and assets under constructio n £	Total £
Balance brought forward	172,000	1,581,700	190,000	4,323		1,948,023
Additions				540		540
Revaluations (+/-)						
Disposals (-)	20,000	317,892				337,892
Transfers * (+/-)						
Balance carried forward	152,000	1,263,808	190,000	4,863		1,610,671

Accumulated depreciation

Balance brought forward				2,095		2,095
Depreciation charge for year (-)				250		250
Revaluations (+/-)						
Disposals (-)						
Transfers* (+/-)						
Balance carried forward				2,345		2,345

Net book value

Brought forward	172,000	1,581,700	190,000	2,228		1,945,928
Carried forward	152,000	1,263,808	190,000	2,518		1,608,326

The additions relate to purchase of computing equipment.

Details related to sale of 16 Booth Lane South

	£	£
Sale proceeds		358,000
Book value of property		<u>337,892</u>
Gross sales margin		20,108
Cost of sale		
Surveyor fees	1,103	
Estate agent fees	6,444	
Legal costs	<u>3,655</u>	11,202
Profit on sale		<u><u>8,907</u></u>

10 Investment assets

The circuit has no common investment fund holdings

11 Loans

The Circuit currently has a loan from the District of £20,000 in respect of initial funding related to the redevelopment of the Kingsthorpe Church This has been treated as a long term creditor.

12 Analysis of restricted and designated funds

Restricted Fund Name	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Closing Balance	Purpose of the fund
Restricted fund						
Benevolent Fund	1,179	600	605		1,174	Support for individuals in specific need
2019/20	1,177	2	0		1,179	
Designated funds						
Development Fund	912	0	0		912	Available for funding outreach and development work
2019/20	912	0	0		912	
Wootton Trinity Fund	6,549	4,899	12,046		(598)	Fund designated for the operation & maintenance of the centre.
2019/20	7,582	5,727	6,760		6549	
Totals	7,461	4,899	12,046		314	
2019/20	8,494	5,727	6,760		7,461	

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Northampton Circuit

This Report is on the Circuit Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021 and is carried out under Sections 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed. The charity is preparing accrued accounts and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of Institute of Chartered Accountants England & Wales.

It is my responsibility to:

- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act ; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or .
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.
- (3) I have not obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes ("TMCP") or held in other Trusts, Bank balances and Funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church ("CFB"), which are individually in excess of £10,000 at the balance sheet date.

Name	Miss C Haynes ACA
Qualification reference	ACA ICAEW 7945127
Address	4 Delamere Road Northampton NN4 8QG
Date	9 th March 2022

CIRCUIT MEETING MEMBERSHIP

MINISTERS

Rev Romeo Pedro
Rev Francis M Itiiri
Rev David Spiers

SUPERNUMERARY MINISTERS

Rev Alan Sharp

CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATOR

Miss Sarah Eason

CIRCUIT STEWARDS

Miss Pam Kirkland
Dr Hellen Okello
Mrs Elizabeth Hale
Mr Phillip Leeson

CIRCUIT TREASURER

Mr Keith Brooks

Circuit Local Preachers & Worship Leaders representatives

Mr Ian Harrison

Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Mrs Jenny Brooks

CIRCUIT CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES

ASTCOTE

Mrs Jackie Bell
Mrs Kate Stretton

EMMANUEL GROUP

Mrs Maureen Timms
Mrs Jenny Cole

GREAT BILLING

Mrs Maureen Cross
Mrs Margaret Littlecott

HARPOLE

Mrs Mary Burt
Mrs. Lynne Threadgold

KINGSLEY PARK

Mrs Julie Osmond
Mrs Marian Gooding
Mrs Christine Forskitt

KINGSTHORPE

Mr Trevor Clarke
Mrs Louise Leeson

PARK AVENUE

Mrs. Hilary MacCallum
Mr Alan Brett

QUEENSGROVE

Mrs Christine Walker
Mr Barry Andrews

ROADE

Mrs Lyn Barber
Mrs Hilary Walden

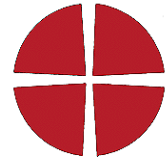
ST ANDREW'S

Ms Linda Caines
Mr Ian Harrison

TOWCESTER ROAD

Mrs Sandra Emerson

Accounts



The Methodist Church

Northampton Circuit
23/13

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

**“The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond
to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out
its discipleship in worship and mission”**

2019 - 2020

Registered Charity No 1135635

Introduction

This is the eleventh formal annual report produced by the Northampton Methodist Circuit since its registration as a separate charity and aims to share a review of the activities of the circuit during 2019 – 20 while also meeting all the legal requirements for formal reporting.

Mission Statement

The Northampton Methodist Circuit currently consists of 13 Christian Communities, seeking to be a discipleship movement shaped for mission. We see mission as who we are. It is the sharing of the good news of God's love incarnate, through Jesus Christ, in the witness of the community to the world.

We will seek to concentrate our prayers, resources, imagination, and commitments on this priority, guided by God, to continue our journey together as a Circuit seeking to promote active growth.

As a circuit we are committed to Worship, Service, Evangelism, and Learning & caring,

To invite and call all people to discipleship, evangelism, and service
To equip and resource people for mission
To encourage and participate in networks of Church-to-Church relationships

WORSHIP, which seeks to increase awareness of God's presence and celebrates God's love seeking to underpin everything we do in God-centred prayer

SERVICE seeking to be a good neighbour to people in need and challenge injustice.,

EVANGELISM, which is a call to all people to Christian discipleship, growing in the Christian faith alongside others seeking the same, to talk about God and to serve God in the world

LEARNING and CARING, which is equipping and resourcing people for mission and Christian relationships.

In response to the above the members of the Circuit Meeting, seeking support from the Circuit Leadership Team, the Circuit Local Preachers and Worship Leaders, will adopt the following Action statement: -

WORSHIP

- Ensure that worship is available at a variety of times on Sundays and on other days, and to make sure that all services of Worship in the Circuit are advertised appropriately.
- Ensure appropriate training and opportunity for ongoing development for all those engaged in the leading of worship
- Encourage new and more creative ways of worship to develop, including a variety of traditions, styles and cultures.

SERVICE

- Encourage each church to be actively engaged in Christ's mission to all age groups.
- Share the love of Christ with the people around us, primarily in Northamptonshire.
- Speak out against injustice, intolerance, prejudice, abuse and all forms of social harm by encouraging individuals and Churches to work with groups and organisations which seek to better the lives of the disadvantaged
- Promote the provision of chaplaincy, lay and ordained, to groups in the community with specific needs
- Take opportunities to be involved in areas of new build.

EVANGELISM

- Be intentional about calling people to commitment to Christ and in encouraging membership growth.
- Encourage and equip those with gifts of evangelism, to play their part in faith sharing.
- Help all those who are 'on the periphery' to move from community through conversion to discipleship.

LEARNING & CARING

- Encourage local fellowship groups, and potentially the formation of new groups, to share and advance their biblical and theological understanding and confidence for its application today
- Develop and encourage a fuller understanding and practice of pastoral ministry at all levels of Circuit and church
- Ensure that an appropriate safeguarding framework is in place across the circuit including training, officers, and policies.

- Improve cross-circuit fellowship, communication and pooling of resources where appropriate and encourage participation in joint activities.

With these action points as our point of reference, we will focus our administrative resources to:-

- Commit to supporting each of our Church congregations to develop mission action plans
- Ensure effective stewardship of our resources
- Empower the partnership between the ordained and the lay across the circuit to develop and model ministry and mission.
- Provide suitable administrative, technical and training support to all those engaged in active work in and for the Circuit
- Ensure effective communication between the worshipping communities within the Circuit and share information from District and Connexion
- Continue to ensure that all our properties are well maintained
- Devote resources to the redevelopment of Kingsthorpe Methodist presence.
- Review the sustainability and suitability of our buildings, as part of our mission to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ

Superintendent's letter of Greeting

Dear friends

As I write this letter, we draw to the end of 2020 and we have entered the Advent season, which is the beginning of the Christian calendar. We are in between times- the old and the new, a time of expectancy and hope, a time in which by faith, we prepare to receive and celebrate the birth of God-With-Us, Emmanuel!

2020 has been a profoundly disruptive, disorienting and exhausting year for all! Due to the Covid 19 virus- nothing has remained the same. We have experienced radical change of life as we know it; living with anxiety, fear, illness, isolation, loneliness, death, loss of loved ones, loss of employment, etc. All these affect us and cause physical and mental fatigue.

The church is part of society and has therefore not been immune to these challenges. Even before the pandemic we were seriously considering what the future of the Methodist Church in the circuit might look like.. The Pandemic has made this an even more urgent question to consider. You can read more about this in the Review below

I think that it is important for me to remind you that the Advent season for Christians, is importantly about hope. The hope of advent reminds us that we are a people of hope. Hope is the energy that sustains us beyond every real obstacle, difficulty or challenge we face. In the words of Luther E. Smith, "Hope is a force of God that enlivens us to life and saves us from a false sense of aliveness". (Weavings: The Work of Hope) Advent hope therefore enables us to look beyond our present realities and see God who did and continues to offer intervention in human history!

I've seen this hope reflected in the way we quickly found ways to adapt to this new way of being. One of our Local Preachers started a book club and a coffee morning on Facebook. Someone else started "Coffee and Chat", sharing weekly church family news. Others started WhatsApp groups to keep regular contact. One homegroup started "Sofa Church" on Zoom. And so many of you started writing cards, letters and making phone calls to keep in touch. Many stewards started writing weekly updates to keep everyone informed. I am deeply indebted to the pastoral secretaries and friends for the invaluable work done during this period. The creative energy that I've seen released during this time is something I wish we would continue to embrace as we get closer to some sense of normality.

All these changes that we face, dear friends, cannot and will not change or dilute the message of Christmas! Out of unimaginable love- the transcendent God chose to be vulnerable and take on human nature – in Jesus Christ. This loving and gracious God is always with us! We will never be outside the reach of God's presence and love in this life or the next! This is the unchanging good news of Christmas!

I therefore pray that whatever our realities are this Christmas- we will celebrate with joy this truth that "We are loved unconditionally by God". In the words of the prophet Isaiah: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given... of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end". (Isaiah 9:6, 7).

Lastly, my deepest gratitude goes to the Rev'd Brian Kennard, who, during a time of great need in our circuit, helped us to be a better team. Brian's time with us came to an end in August. Also, the rest of the ministerial team: you've been brilliant. A word of gratitude to our Circuit Leadership Team that had to meet more than usual, to navigate us during this time. A special word of appreciation to our Circuit Administrator, Sarah Eason. She is the person holding everything together and making sure that we are as effective as we can be. There is a saying in my mother tongue: "When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion". Together we are stronger.

Keep hope alive!

Your brother in Christ

The Rev'd Romeo Regardo Pedro
(Superintendent Minister)

A review of the 2019 – 20, a year two parts .

WORSHIP

There was full provision of Sunday worship up to mid-March following very much the pattern of previous years with the commencement of specific services for the Swahili speaking community.

The three individuals involved in training to become fully accredited local preachers also made encouraging progress.

Post March as the impact of Covid 19 restrictions drastically limited normal worship activities the Circuit moved to offering weekly online worship through the Circuit website along with dial in facilities which have been highly appreciated by members.

At the end of the connexional year the first socially distanced services were held with plans being initiated for these to be gradually increased in September.

SERVICE

The circuit churches continued to seek to effectively support and serve their local communities up to mid-March. The impact of Covid 19 restrictions has drastically altered the situation in the second half of the year with a number of initiatives sadly formally being closed down and much revisioning of options for service will be required going forward.

LEARNING and CARING

The impact of the pandemic has meant a dramatic rethink of care provision within the context of the circuit, with both the adoption of electronic communications mediums like Zoom and extended usage of telephone and written forms of contact. Provision of pastoral care both by the ministry team and volunteers has been severely effected whilst the need has been considerable.

EVANGELISM

At the start of the year some initial thinking had commenced to utilise the Podcast medium as a way to increase contact with those on the edge of our church communities, this initiative was accelerated in April as a new means of sharing the message of the church and once launched has been sustained as a valuable means of sharing the message with new podcasts being released each month.

SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

Based on concerns expressed from across the circuit the leadership team initiated a more formalised review of the overall state of the constituent circuit churches in the last quarter of 2019.

The review gathered views and information about mission, finance, membership and property, with the outcomes published in the Property and Resources Audit (PRAG) report.

In summary the findings were

- *As a circuit, 57% of our members are over 70 and 77% are over 60. Only 8% of our members are 40 or under. With this age-demographic in mind, project ahead 10 years.....
The impacts are already felt in the lack of people able to take on roles within churches & circuit.*
- *Across the circuit, many people are working incredibly hard to simply keep their churches going.*
- *Property issues cannot be considered in isolation, as they impact hugely on all areas of church life & mission, but we must challenge spending large amounts of money on old buildings which are no longer fit for purpose.*
- *Discussion with churches regarding the future was the least productive, with a lack of clear vision for the future, and limited evidence of an engagement with the reality of the next ten years even in 2019.*

Early in 2020 churches were just beginning to consult with congregations about the particular circumstances and pressures which are being faced in these areas. Covid 19 has exacerbated the issues and forced us to re-evaluate what we do and this consultation is projected to continue in the next connexional year.

Review of and financial position of the circuit

The following summary reflects the financial activities of the Circuit for the year, with the previous 3 years provided for comparison: -

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income				
Assessment contributions from circuit churches	275.3	285.5	276.2	242.9
Other income	0.2	4.1	1.7	1.8
Interest	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.4
Rental income	15.5	15.7	15.9	15.2
Total income	291.3	305.7	294.3	260.3
Expenditure				
Ministerial Stipends	171.3	176.2	148.0	155.4
Lay Workers	17.0	17.5	16.9	17.0
Manse maintenance	10.7	11.0	23.0	25.1
Manse utility costs	18.5	19.4	21.2	23.0
Methodist Church Fund	46.3	48.0	50.0	46.2
District Assessment	7.9	8.1	9.9	10.6
Grants	3.9	7.6	3.0	0.0
Levy	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0
Wootton running costs	6.8	12.4	5.8	6.8
Depreciation	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Other Expenses	10.7	15.5	25.8	11.5
Total expenditure	293.4	316.0	304.5	295.9
Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources	(2.1)	(10.3)	(10.2)	(35.6)
Increase/ (Reduction) in manse valuation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Gain/ (Loss) on Investments	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Increase/ (Decrease) in value of funds	(2.1)	(10.3)	(10.2)	(35.6)

Income trends

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment paid by the circuit churches. During 2019-20 two circuit churches made reduced assessment payments to assist with their overall cashflow.

The rental income relates to the rental of a manse to the Vineyard Church and income generated from Wootton Trinity.

Other income includes grants received from the District, insurance claims and circuit promoted events.

Expenditure trends

Ministerial stipends have increased each financial year in line with conference approved increases, the reduction in 2018/19 reflecting the reduced staffing level, partly offset by increased usage of supernumerary ministerial time.

19.1% of expenditure in 2019-20 is the Circuit contribution to the District and Connection to fund the work of the wider Methodist Church.

Fund balances

As at 31 August 2019 the net current assets of the Circuit was £40k, giving approximately 1.6 months cover for expenditure which is below our target level.

Plans for 2020/21

Circuit financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that there remain four full time ordained staff along with reduced usage of supernumerary ministry. Plans for reductions in staffing from September 2021 are being made in response to the current financial position.

Current planning includes sale of one of the circuits manses, proceeds of which will enable a increasing the circuit financial reserves position to support ongoing activity.

Trustee's Annual Report on Finance and Governance

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 2015 as applicable to the Financial Reporting Standard FRS102.

The Charity's report and accounts include all the separately established funds for which the Circuit has primary responsibility.

Full Name of Charity:	Northampton Methodist Circuit
Registration Charity Number:	1135635
Date of registration	22 April 2010
The circuit office is located at:	Wootton Trinity Christian Centre High Street Wootton Northampton NN4 6LW

The members of the Northampton Methodist Circuit meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches.

Fully membership is shown as Appendix A to this report.

Circuit Ministers and officers

<u>Active Circuit Ministers</u>	Rev Romeo Pedro, Rev Philip Snelson, Rev Francis M Itiiri, Deacon Richard Beckett ,
<u>Circuit Lay Workers</u>	Mr John Brown, (Until July 2020)
<u>Circuit Stewards</u>	Mrs Margaret Littlecott , Dr Hellen Okello (From January 2020) Mrs E Hale Miss P Kirkland
<u>Circuit Treasurer</u>	Mr Keith Brooks,
<u>Administrator:</u>	Miss Sarah Eason

Mr K Brooks acted as the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the circuit during the year.

Independent examiner	Miss C Haynes (ACA) 4 Delamere Road Northampton
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Investment Banker	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
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Charity objective is to act as a Resource provider within the area around Northampton for the Methodist Church:

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 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 organisation and resourcing of regular public acts of worship open to members of the church and non members alike.

The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.

The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.

Taking religious assemblies in local schools.

Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services.

Provision of chaplaincy services to the local university and other institutions.

Public Benefit

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

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 of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD).

Day to day management of the circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team along with the Local Preachers meeting, the Circuit Finance and Property Committee and the Circuit Policy Committee.

Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by 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 Northampton District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The circuit is a member of Shared Churches Northampton Ltd in relation to support of the Emmanuel Group of Churches.

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Finance and Property Committee with professional advice taken as required.

There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

Income and Expenditure is being monitored in total and is compared with the approved annual budget on a half yearly basis to detect trends as part of the risk management process to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

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

The Northampton Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.

The Northampton Circuit commits 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.

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy for the Circuit is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to 4 months' average expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on manse and / or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full Circuit Assessment from churches.

Annual Financial Statements

Basis of preparation

As treasurer I confirm that I have prepared the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit Meeting

Signature of
Treasurer

W K Brooks

Date 22 October
2020

Name

W K Brooks ACMA

Address

2a Stanfield Road
Duston
Northampton

Presentation to the Circuit Meeting for approval.

I confirm that the Accounts have been presented to the Circuit Meeting on 22 October 2020 and were approved.

Signature of the
Chair of the meeting

Rev Romeo Pedro

22 October 2020

Name of the Chair of
the meeting

Rev Romeo Pedro

Date

22 October 2020

Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 August 2020

		Unrestricted funds	Model Trust Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2019-20
		£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:						
Donations, legacies & grants		900				900
Church assessments		242,853				242,853
Lettings		9,480		5,721		15,201
- Miscellaneous						-
Investments		445	3	6	2	456
Other		855				855
Total		254,533	3	5,727	2	260,265
Expenditure on:						
Stipends, salaries, NIC & Pension costs	6	164,435		2,340		166,775
District Assessment		10,552				10,552
Methodist Church Fund		46,200				46,200
Telephone & travel		7,973				7,973
Insurance, utilities, etc		22,973		4,129		27,102
Maintenance on manses		25,084				25,084
Expenditure on other Circuit property		5,316		291		5,607
Depreciation	9	250				250
Other Expenditure		6,261				6,261
Grants and Donations						0
Contributions to District Advance Fund			9			9
Total		289,044	9	6,760	0	295,813
Net income/(expenditure)		(34,511)	(6)	(1,033)	2	(35,548)
Transfers between funds						0
		(34,511)	(6)	(1,033)	2	(35,548)
Gains/(Losses) on revaluation of fixed assets						0
Gains/(Losses) on investment assets						0
Net investment in funds		(34,511)	(6)	(1,033)	2	(35,548)
Total funds brought forward		1,800,245	332	208,494	1,177	2,010,248
Total funds carried forward		1,765,734	326	207,461	1,179	1,974,700

Comparative Statement of Financial Activities for previous year ended 31 August 2019

		Unrestricted funds	Model Trust Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2018-19
		£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:						
Donations and legacies					20	20
Church assessments		276,209				276,209
Lettings		9,480		6,411		15,891
- Miscellaneous				1,591		1,591
Investments		559	3	6	2	570
Other		59				59
Total		286,307	3	8,008	22	294,340
Expenditure on:						
Stipends, salaries, NIC & Pension costs	6	164,407		2,303		166,710
District Assessment		9,906				9,906
Methodist Church Fund		49,983				49,983
Telephone & travel		13,149				13,149
Insurance, utilities, etc		21,184		2,745		23,929
Maintenance on manses		23,003				23,003
Expenditure on other Circuit property		4,560		781		5,341
Depreciation	9	250				250
Other Expenditure		5,960		1,860		7,820
Grants and Donations		4,357			100	4,457
Contributions to District Advance Fund			9			9
Total		296,759	9	7,689	100	304,557
Net income/(expenditure)		(10,452)	(6)	319	(78)	(10,217)
Transfers between funds						0
		(10,452)	(6)	319	(78)	(10,217)
Gains/(Losses) on revaluation of fixed assets						0
Gains/(Losses) on investment assets						0
Net investment in funds		(10,452)	(6)	319	(78)	(10,217)
Total funds brought forward		1,810,695	339	208,176	1,255	2,020,465
Total funds carried forward		1,800,243	333	208,495	1,177	2,010,248

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Totals this year £
Tangible Fixed Assets						
Land & Buildings		1,405,700		200,000		1,605,700
Equipment		2,228				2,228
Investment properties		338,000				338,000
Investments						
Total fixed assets		1,745,928		200,000		1,945,928
Current Assets						
Debtors and Prepayments		11,300				11,300
Other						
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes deposits			326			326
Central Finance Board Deposits		57,143		820		57,963
Cash at Bank and in hand		28,835		6,641	1,179	36,655
Total current assets		97,278	326	7,461	1,179	106,244
Creditors and Accruals (due in under 1 yr)		57,472				57,472
Net current assets (liabilities)		39,806	326	7,461	1,179	48,772
Total assets less current liabilities		1,785,734	326	207,461	1,179	1,994,700
Loans and creditors due after 1 year		20,000				20,000
Provisions for liabilities and charges						
Net assets		1,765,734	326	207,461	1,179	1,974,700
Funds of the Circuit						
Unrestricted funds		360,034				360,034
Property reserve		1,405,700		200,000		1,605,700
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			326			326
Designated funds	12			7,461		7,461
Restricted funds	12				1,179	1,179
Total Funds		1,765,734	326	207,461	1,179	1,974,700

Comparative Balance Sheet for 31 August 2019

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Circuit Model Trust Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Totals this year £
Tangible Fixed Assets						
Land & Buildings		1,743,700		200,000		1,943,700
Equipment		2,478				2,478
Investment properties						
Investments						
Total fixed assets		1,746,178		200,000		1,946,178
Current Assets						
Debtors and Prepayments		11,494				11,494
Other						
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes deposits			333			333
Central Finance Board Deposits		83,964		814		84,778
Cash at Bank and in hand		21,165		7,681	1,177	30,023
Total current assets		116,623	333	8,495	1,177	126,628
Creditors and Accruals (due in under 1 yr)		62,558				62,558
Net current assets (liabilities)		54,065	333	8,495	1,177	64,070
Total assets less current liabilities		1,800,243	333	208,495	1,177	2,010,248
Loans and creditors due after 1 year						
Provisions for liabilities and charges						
Net assets		1,800,243	333	208,495	1,177	2,010,248
Funds of the Circuit						
Unrestricted funds		56,543				56,543
Property reserve		1,743,700		200,000		1,943,700
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			333			333
Designated funds	12			8,495		8,495
Restricted funds	12				1,177	1,177
Total Funds		1,800,243	333	208,495	1,177	2,010,248

Notes to the Accounts

1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2015 version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 – the Charities SORP (FRS102) and taking note of the Update Bulletin 2 issued in 2018.

2 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 categorised as unrestricted. Restricted funds which are held for a narrower purpose. There are no Endowment funds. Details of each material fund are disclosed in the final note to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

3 Accounting policies

Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that investments are shown at their market value at the end of the year and land and buildings at deemed current value. Accruals accounting principles have been adopted as far as practical to show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

Incoming Resources

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Circuit becomes entitled to the resources, and the trustees are reasonably certain they will receive the resources; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Resources Expended

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. 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 made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment.

VAT

Since the Circuit is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged with the expenses to which it refers.

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Circuit

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £500.

The freehold property is shown in the accounts at 2015 deemed values, of which the land component is deemed to be £350,000. No depreciation is provided on the buildings because the trustees consider the current residual fair value of the manse buildings (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year-end) to be not less than its current value. Any depreciation would not be material. The properties have been reviewed for impairment.

Investment Properties

Investment properties – 16 Booth Lane has been deemed to not be held for the long term purposes of the charity and has been reclassified as an investment property prior to its disposal.

Investments

Investments are valued in the balance sheet at market value at the year end. Investment income is included in the accounts when receivable and any gains or losses on revaluation at the year end are shown in the SOFA.

Debtors and Prepayments

The prepayment included in the accounts is in respect of ministerial stipends paid in August due on 1st September.8.

Creditors

Creditors include both sundry expenses and specifically the 1st quarter assessment received in August.

4 Payment to Trustees

There were no payments made to trustees for additional services provided to the Circuit by agreement with the Circuit Meeting, this excludes stipends.

Trustee expenses

	2019/20	2018/19
Number of Trustees	8	9
Total amount	£7,907	£13,481

Expense payments primarily relate to reimbursement for travel and computing costs

5 Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

	2019/20 £	2018/19 £
Independent examiner's or auditors' fees for reporting on the accounts	Nil	Nil
Other fees (eg: advice, accountancy services) paid to the independent examiner or auditor	Nil	Nil

6 Paid employees

Staff Costs paid during the year were:

	2019/20 £	2018/19 £
Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind	128,162	129,640
129,640 Employer's National Insurance costs	10,610	10,806
10,806 Pension costs	27,472	25,632
25,632 Apprenticeship levy	531	632
632 Total staff costs	166,775	166,710
166,710		
Average number of employees in the year were:	7	8

7 Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

At the 31st August 2020 there are no capital commitments.
No Contingent liabilities were identified at 31st August 2020.

8 For information only Money received and passed on to External Organisations

	2019/20 £	2018/19 £
Balance brought forward from last year		
Offerings/Gifts - received for External Organisations	0	0
Offerings/Gifts - passed to External Organisations	0	0
Balance carried forward	0	0

9 Tangible Fixed Assets

Cost or valuation

	Land £	Manse £	Other buildings £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Payments on account and assets under constructio n £	Total £
Balance brought forward	172,000	1,581,700	190,000	4,323		1,948,023
Additions						
Revaluations (+/-)						
Disposals (-)						
Transfers * (+/-)						
Balance carried forward	172,000	1,581,700	190,000	4,323		1,948,023

Accumulated depreciation

Balance brought forward				1,845		1,845
Depreciation charge for year (-)				250		250
Revaluations (+/-)						
Disposals (-)						
Transfers* (+/-)						
Balance carried forward				2,095		2,095

Net book value

Brought forward	172,000	1,581,700	190,000	2,478		1,946,178
Carried forward	172,000	1,581,700	190,000	2,228		1,945,928

The additions relate to purchase of computing equipment and manse improvements.

10 Investment assets

The manse at 16 Booth Lane South has been treated as an investment property as it has been identified as surplus to requirements and is due to be sold during 2021.

The circuit has no common investment fund holdings

11 Loans

The Circuit currently has a loan from the District of £20,000 in respect of initial funding related to the redevelopment of the Kingsthorpe Church. This has been treated as a long term creditor.

12 Analysis of restricted and designated funds

Restricted Fund Name	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Closing Balance	Purpose of the fund
Restricted fund						
Benevolent Fund	1,177	2	0		1,179	Support for individuals in specific need
2018/19	1,255	22	100		1,177	
Designated funds						
Development Fund	912	0	0		912	Available for funding outreach and development work
2018/19	1,181	1,591	1,860		912	
Wootton Trinity Fund	7,582	5,727	6,760		6,549	Fund designated for the operation & maintenance of the centre.
2018/19	6,995	6,415	5,828		7,582	
Totals	8,494	5,727	6,760		7,461	
2017/18	8,176	8,006	7,688		8,494	

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Northampton Circuit

This Report is on the Circuit Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2020 and is carried out under Sections 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed. The charity is preparing accrued accounts and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of Institute of Chartered Accountants England & Wales.

It is my responsibility to:

- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act ; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or .
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.
- (3) I have not obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes ("TMCP") or held in other Trusts, Bank balances and Funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church ("CFB"), which are individually in excess of £10,000 at the balance sheet date.

Name	Miss C Haynes ACA
Qualification reference	ACA ICAEW 7945127
Address	4 Delamere Road Northampton NN4 8QG
Date	9 th February 2021

CIRCUIT MEETING MEMBERSHIP

MINISTERS

Rev Romeo Pedro
Rev Phil Snelson
Rev Francis M Itiiri
Deacon Richard Beckett

SUPERNUMERARY MINISTERS

Rev Alan Sharp

LAYWORKERS

Mr John Brown
Miss Sarah Eason

CIRCUIT STEWARDS

Mrs Margaret Littlecott
Miss Pam Kirkland
Dr Hellen Okello (From November 2019)
Mrs Elizabeth Hale

CIRCUIT TREASURER

Mr Keith Brooks

Circuit Local Preachers & Worship Leaders representatives
Mr Ian Harrison (From October 2019)

Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinator
Mrs Jenny Brooks

CIRCUIT CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES

ASTCOTE

Mr Mark Couling
Mrs Jackie Bell
Mrs Kate Stretton

EMMANUEL GROUP

Mrs Maureen Timms
Mrs Jenny Cole

GREAT BILLING

Mrs Maureen Cross
Mrs Margaret Littlecott

HARPOLE

Mrs Mary Burt
Mrs. Lynne Threadgold

Mrs Sue Powell

KINGSLEY PARK

Mrs Julie Osmond
Mrs Gillian White
Mrs Christine Forskitt

KINGSTHORPE

Mr Trevor Clarke
Mrs Bronwen Thomason

PARK AVENUE

Mrs. Hilary MacCallum
Mr Alan Brett
Mrs Sue Bayliss

QUEENSGROVE

Mrs Christine Walker
Mr Barry Andrews

ROADE

Mr Derek Humphrey
Mrs Mary Brittain
Mrs Jenny Horwell

ST ANDREW'S

Ms Linda Caines
Mr Ian Harrison (From October 2019)

TOWCESTER ROAD

Mrs Sandra Emerson
Mrs Jenny Hughes