



# 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         |
| <b>Income</b>                                   |              |               |               |               |
| 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          |
|   |              |               |               |               |
| <b>Total income</b>                             | <b>291.3</b> | <b>305.7</b>  | <b>294.3</b>  | <b>260.3</b>  |
|   |              |               |               |               |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                              |              |               |               |               |
| 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          |
|   |              |               |               |               |
| <b>Total expenditure</b>                        | <b>293.4</b> | <b>316.0</b>  | <b>304.5</b>  | <b>295.9</b>  |
|   |              |               |               |               |
| <b>Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources</b>       | <b>(2.1)</b> | <b>(10.3)</b> | <b>(10.2)</b> | <b>(35.6)</b> |
|   |              |               |               |               |
| <b>Increase/ (Reduction) in manse valuation</b> | <b>0.0</b>   | <b>0.0</b>    | <b>0.0</b>    | <b>0.0</b>    |
|   |              |               |               |               |
| <b>Gain/ (Loss) on Investments</b>              | <b>0.0</b>   | <b>0.0</b>    | <b>0.0</b>    | <b>0.0</b>    |
|   |              |               |               |               |
| <b>Increase/ (Decrease ) in value of funds</b>  | <b>(2.1)</b> | <b>(10.3)</b> | <b>(10.2)</b> | <b>(35.6)</b> |
|   |              |               |               |               |

## **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<br>High Street<br>Wootton<br>Northampton<br>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

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b><u>Active Circuit Ministers</u></b> | Rev Romeo Pedro,<br>Rev Philip Snelson,<br>Rev Francis M Itiiri,<br>Deacon Richard Beckett ,         |
| <b><u>Circuit Lay Workers</u></b>      | Mr John Brown, ( Until July 2020 )   |
| <b><u>Circuit Stewards</u></b>         | Mrs Margaret Littlecott ,<br>Dr Hellen Okello ( From January 2020 )<br>Mrs E Hale<br>Miss P Kirkland |
| <b><u>Circuit Treasurer</u></b>        | Mr Keith Brooks,   |
| <b><u>Administrator:</u></b>           | 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)<br>4 Delamere Road<br>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 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    |
|---|---|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|   |   | £                  | £                | £                | £                | £                |
| <b>Income and Endowments from:</b>            |   |                    |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| 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              |
| <b>Total</b>                                  |   | <b>254,533</b>     | <b>3</b>         | <b>5,727</b>     | <b>2</b>         | <b>260,265</b>   |
| <b>Expenditure on:</b>                        |   |                    |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| 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                |
| <b>Total</b>                                  |   | <b>289,044</b>     | <b>9</b>         | <b>6,760</b>     | <b>0</b>         | <b>295,813</b>   |
| <b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>               |   | <b>(34,511)</b>    | <b>(6)</b>       | <b>(1,033)</b>   | <b>2</b>         | <b>(35,548)</b>  |
| <b>Transfers between funds</b>                |   |                    |                  |                  |                  | <b>0</b>         |
|   |   | (34,511)           | (6)              | (1,033)          | 2                | (35,548)         |
| Gains/(Losses) on revaluation of fixed assets |   |                    |                  |                  |                  | 0                |
| Gains/(Losses) on investment assets           |   |                    |                  |                  |                  | 0                |
| <b>Net investment in funds</b>                |   | <b>(34,511)</b>    | <b>(6)</b>       | <b>(1,033)</b>   | <b>2</b>         | <b>(35,548)</b>  |
| Total funds brought forward                   |   | 1,800,245          | 332              | 208,494          | 1,177            | 2,010,248        |
| Total funds carried forward                   |   | <b>1,765,734</b>   | <b>326</b>       | <b>207,461</b>   | <b>1,179</b>     | <b>1,974,700</b> |



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

|   |   | Unrestricted funds | Model Trust Fund | Designated Funds | Restricted Funds | Total 2018-19    |
|---|---|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|   |   | £                  | £                | £                | £                | £                |
| <b>Income and Endowments from:</b>            |   |                    |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| 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               |
| <b>Total</b>                                  |   | <b>286,307</b>     | <b>3</b>         | <b>8,008</b>     | <b>22</b>        | <b>294,340</b>   |
| <b>Expenditure on:</b>                        |   |                    |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| 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                |
| <b>Total</b>                                  |   | <b>296,759</b>     | <b>9</b>         | <b>7,689</b>     | <b>100</b>       | <b>304,557</b>   |
| <b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>               |   | <b>(10,452)</b>    | <b>(6)</b>       | <b>319</b>       | <b>(78)</b>      | <b>(10,217)</b>  |
| <b>Transfers between funds</b>                |   |                    |                  |                  |                  | <b>0</b>         |
|   |   | (10,452)           | (6)              | 319              | (78)             | (10,217)         |
| Gains/(Losses) on revaluation of fixed assets |   |                    |                  |                  |                  | 0                |
| Gains/(Losses) on investment assets           |   |                    |                  |                  |                  | 0                |
| <b>Net investment in funds</b>                |   | <b>(10,452)</b>    | <b>(6)</b>       | <b>319</b>       | <b>(78)</b>      | <b>(10,217)</b>  |
| Total funds brought forward                   |   | 1,810,695          | 339              | 208,176          | 1,255            | 2,020,465        |
| Total funds carried forward                   |   | <b>1,800,243</b>   | <b>333</b>       | <b>208,495</b>   | <b>1,177</b>     | <b>2,010,248</b> |

## **Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2020**

|   | Notes | Unrestricted<br>£ | Circuit Model<br>Trust Fund<br>£ | Designated<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Totals this<br>year<br>£ |
|---|-------|-------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Tangible Fixed Assets</b>                          |       |                   |                                  |                          |                          |                          |
| Land & Buildings                                      |       | 1,405,700         |                                  | 200,000                  |                          | 1,605,700                |
| Equipment   |       | 2,228             |                                  |                          |                          | 2,228                    |
| Investment properties                                 |       | 338,000           |                                  |                          |                          | 338,000                  |
| Investments   |       |                   |                                  |                          |                          |                          |
| <b>Total fixed assets</b>                             |       | <b>1,745,928</b>  |                                  | <b>200,000</b>           |                          | <b>1,945,928</b>         |
| <b>Current Assets</b>                                 |       |                   |                                  |                          |                          |                          |
| Debtors and Prepayments                               |       | 11,300            |                                  |                          |                          | 11,300                   |
| Other   |       |                   |                                  |                          |                          |                          |
| Trustees for Methodist Church<br>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                   |
| <b>Total current assets</b>                           |       | <b>97,278</b>     | <b>326</b>                       | <b>7,461</b>             | <b>1,179</b>             | <b>106,244</b>           |
| <b>Creditors and Accruals (due in under<br/>1 yr)</b> |       | <b>57,472</b>     |                                  |                          |                          | <b>57,472</b>            |
| <b>Net current assets (liabilities)</b>               |       | <b>39,806</b>     | <b>326</b>                       | <b>7,461</b>             | <b>1,179</b>             | <b>48,772</b>            |
| <b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>          |       | <b>1,785,734</b>  | <b>326</b>                       | <b>207,461</b>           | <b>1,179</b>             | <b>1,994,700</b>         |
| <b>Loans and creditors due after 1 year</b>           |       | <b>20,000</b>     |                                  |                          |                          | <b>20,000</b>            |
| Provisions for liabilities and charges                |       |                   |                                  |                          |                          |                          |
| <b>Net assets</b>                                     |       | <b>1,765,734</b>  | <b>326</b>                       | <b>207,461</b>           | <b>1,179</b>             | <b>1,974,700</b>         |
| <b>Funds of the Circuit</b>                           |       |                   |                                  |                          |                          |                          |
| Unrestricted funds                                    |       | 360,034           |                                  |                          |                          | 360,034                  |
| Property reserve                                      |       | 1,405,700         |                                  | 200,000                  |                          | 1,605,700                |
| Circuit Model Trust Fund<br>(Unrestricted)            |       |                   | 326                              |                          |                          | 326                      |
| Designated funds                                      | 12    |                   |                                  | 7,461                    |                          | 7,461                    |
| Restricted funds                                      | 12    |                   |                                  |                          | 1,179                    | 1,179                    |
| <b>Total Funds</b>                                    |       | <b>1,765,734</b>  | <b>326</b>                       | <b>207,461</b>           | <b>1,179</b>             | <b>1,974,700</b>         |

Comparative Balance Sheet for 31 August 2019

|   | Notes | Unrestricted<br>£ | Circuit Model<br>Trust Fund<br>£ | Designated<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Totals this<br>year<br>£ |
|---|-------|-------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Tangible Fixed Assets</b>                          |       |                   |                                  |                          |                          |                          |
| Land & Buildings                                      |       | 1,743,700         |                                  | 200,000                  |                          | 1,943,700                |
| Equipment   |       | 2,478             |                                  |                          |                          | 2,478                    |
| Investment properties                                 |       |                   |                                  |                          |                          |                          |
| Investments   |       |                   |                                  |                          |                          |                          |
| <b>Total fixed assets</b>                             |       | 1,746,178         |                                  | 200,000                  |                          | 1,946,178                |
| <b>Current Assets</b>                                 |       |                   |                                  |                          |                          |                          |
| Debtors and Prepayments                               |       | 11,494            |                                  |                          |                          | 11,494                   |
| Other   |       |                   |                                  |                          |                          |                          |
| Trustees for Methodist Church<br>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                   |
| <b>Total current assets</b>                           |       | 116,623           | 333                              | 8,495                    | 1,177                    | 126,628                  |
| <b>Creditors and Accruals (due in under<br/>1 yr)</b> |       | 62,558            |                                  |                          |                          | 62,558                   |
| <b>Net current assets (liabilities)</b>               |       | 54,065            | 333                              | 8,495                    | 1,177                    | 64,070                   |
| <b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>          |       | 1,800,243         | 333                              | 208,495                  | 1,177                    | 2,010,248                |
| <b>Loans and creditors due after 1 year</b>           |       |                   |                                  |                          |                          |                          |
| Provisions for liabilities and charges                |       |                   |                                  |                          |                          |                          |
| <b>Net assets</b>                                     |       | 1,800,243         | 333                              | 208,495                  | 1,177                    | 2,010,248                |
| <b>Funds of the Circuit</b>                           |       |                   |                                  |                          |                          |                          |
| Unrestricted funds                                    |       | 56,543            |                                  |                          |                          | 56,543                   |
| Property reserve                                      |       | 1,743,700         |                                  | 200,000                  |                          | 1,943,700                |
| Circuit Model Trust Fund<br>(Unrestricted)            |       |                   | 333                              |                          |                          | 333                      |
| Designated funds                                      | 12    |                   |                                  | 8,495                    |                          | 8,495                    |
| Restricted funds                                      | 12    |                   |                                  |                          | 1,177                    | 1,177                    |
| <b>Total Funds</b>                                    |       | 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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<br>£ | 2018/19<br>£ |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| 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<br>£ | 2018/19<br>£ |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| 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<br>£ | 2018/19<br>£ |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| 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<br>£ | Manse<br>£ | Other<br>buildings<br>£ | Fixtures,<br>fittings<br>and<br>equipment<br>£ | Payments<br>on account<br>and assets<br>under<br>constructio<br>n<br>£ | Total<br>£ |
|-------------------------|-----------|------------|-------------------------|--|--|------------|
| 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<br>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  |
|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------------|--|
| <b>Restricted fund</b>  |                 |                    |                    |           |                 |  |
| Benevolent Fund         | 1,177           | 2                  | 0                  |           | 1,179           | Support for individuals in specific need                       |
| 2018/19                 | 1,255           | 22                 | 100                |           | 1,177           |  |
| <b>Designated funds</b> |                 |                    |                    |           |                 |  |
| 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<br>Northampton<br>NN4 8QG |
| Date                    | 9 <sup>th</sup> 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