

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales · Charity number 1135822

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2010-05-06

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Asbury House
Merrey Road
Stafford
ST17 9LX

Phone 01785229973

Email admin@staffmc.org.uk

Website www.staffmc.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 charity supports the 10 churches within the Stafford circuit by the provision of ministers and lay workers to undertake Christian leadership through church services, pastoral work within the communities, schools & youth work.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

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

Finances

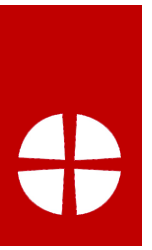
Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£373,131	£314,399	-	-
2024-08-31	£260,404	£273,846	-	-
2023-08-31	£230,363	£284,424	-	-
2022-08-31	£221,707	£268,801	-	-
2021-08-31	£615,871	£309,307	£1,237,702	8
2020-08-31	£237,210	£252,847	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev David Jonathan Bintliff	Chair	2022-09-01
AMICIA HARDY		2017-09-28
Alice Elizabeth Dair		2015-04-27
Alison Jayne Horton FCCA		2024-09-01
Allan J Lowe		2018-09-27
Beverley Godridge		2023-09-01
CAROLYN ANNE HAMER		
David Arthur Hemingway BSc AFIMA		2021-11-25
David John Smith		2025-07-03
Dorothy Helen Kirkham B Ed Hons		2018-10-10
Dr Mark Andrew Timothy		2025-09-01
Dr Paul Christopher Yates		2025-05-04
Dr Susan McCready-Shea		2019-12-01
Elizabeth Ann Hilderley		2025-09-01
Hazel Ord		2025-11-26
Ian Allred		2024-09-26
Ian Francis Baldwin		2015-04-23
Ian James Bradburn		2025-03-20
Ian Mason		2022-09-12
JENNIFER MARY TIMMIS		
Jill O'Byrne RGN		2024-09-01
KATHRYN ANNE FORD		2011-12-21
Kenneth Charles Davies		2022-09-01
Kevin Day		2023-12-05
LEIGH BARBARA READE		
Lynn Margaret Westoby		2018-09-01
MARGARET ELIZABETH HEMINGWAY		

Name	Role	Appointed
Maureen Embrey BEd,CertEd		2019-09-01
Peter Walton Hardy BSc Hons		2019-02-12
Ruth Ann Wall		2024-09-26
Susan Francis		2020-10-30
Terry Anson Steed Goodchild		2019-09-01
Valerie Elizabeth Bates		2019-11-28
WILLIAM DENYS BASFORD		2016-05-01
Wendy Timothy BAHonsMLIB		2024-09-26
Winifred Ruth Smith		2025-07-03

Accounts



Stafford Methodist Circuit

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2025

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 135822

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Contents of the Financial Statements for the Year ended 31st August 2025

	Page
Reference and Administrative Details	2
Report of the Trustees	3
Independent Examiners Report	12
Statement of Financial Activities	13
Balance Sheet	14
Notes to the Financial Statements	15-26

Reference and Administrative Details for the Year ended 31st August 2025

Principal Address	Circuit Office Asbury House Merrey Road Stafford ST17 9LX
Registered Charity Number	1135822
Independent Examiner	Melanie Crooks Associates Limited Bellfield House 33 Stafford Road Bloxwich West Midlands WS3 3NJ
Investment Bankers	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church 9 Bonhill Street London EC2A 4PE The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes Central Buildings Oldham Street Manchester M1 1JQ

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Reference and Administrative Details for the Year ended 31st August 2025 cont.

The trustees as set out below have held office during the period 1st September 2024 to the date of this report, unless otherwise stated:

Ministers	Rev. D.J. Bintliff Rev. D. Middleton (until 31/07/25)	
Lay workers	Mrs C.A. Hamer	Mrs L.B. Reade Mrs I.J. Wakerell (until 19/12/24)
Circuit Stewards	Mr P.W. Hardy Mr D.A. Hemingway Mr K.B. Day Mrs R. Wall (from 26/09/24) Mrs W. Timothy (from 26/09/24) Dr S. McCready-Shea (from 03/07/25)	
Circuit Meeting Secretary	Mrs L.B. Reade * (until 02/09/25) Mrs R. Wall * (from 26/11/25)	
Local Preachers Representatives	Mr R.D. Johnson (until 03/07/2025) Mr I. Mason Mrs J.M. Timmis Mrs E. Hilderley (from 01/09/2025)	
Circuit Representatives to District Synod	Mrs M.E. Hemingway Mrs R. Wall *	
Church Representatives by Church		
Barlaston	Mrs K.A. Ford	Mrs J. O'Byrne
Berkswich	Mrs L.M. Westoby	Mr T.A.S. Goodchild Mr I. Allred (from 26/09/24)
Bishops Offley	Mrs A. Hardy	Mrs. A. Horton
Eccleshall	Mrs M. Embrey Mrs D.H. Kirkham	Mrs C.E. Harper (until 04/05/2025) Dr P.C. Yates (from 04/05/2025)
Gnosall	Mr W.D. Basford	Mr K.C. Davies
Milwich	Mr B. Barker (until 03/07/2025) Mrs J. L. Barker (until 03/07/2025) Mr. D. J. Smith (from 03/07/2025) Mrs. W.R. Smith (from 03/07/2025)	
Rising Brook	Mr I.F. Baldwin	Mrs S. Francis
St. John's Stone	Mrs A.E. Dair Mr D.C. Stewart (until 19/03/2025) Mrs B. Godridge	Mr I.J. Bradburn (from 20/03/2025)
Trinity Stafford	Mr. A.J. Lowe	Mrs V.E. Bates (from 02/09/2025)
Weston	Mrs B. Gillespie (until 31/08/25) Mr. C. Gillespie (until 31/08/25) Mrs H. Ord (from 26/11/25)	

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Report of the Trustees for the Year ended 31st August 2025

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st August 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statements of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives & Aims

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 Circuit produces a quarterly preaching plan to ensure the regular acts of worship take place at each of the 7 Methodist Churches and 3 Local Ecumenical Partnerships in its geographical area. The Stafford Circuit is constituted to offer acts of worship in its church communities and to further the mission of the Church in Stafford and across the borough of Stafford. With our primary internal function being that of Christian worship, we aim to provide access to acts of worship in each of the 10 Circuit churches every Sunday.

Our internal structure is based on a Circuit Meeting which meets four times a year; a Local Preachers' meeting which meets around four times a year; Circuit Leadership Team meetings throughout the year, and Staff Meetings which meet fortnightly. We endeavour to make our meetings focus on the on-going development of the Circuit; they are the place where important decisions are made and within them, we plan our strategies and fulfil our role as Charity Trustees.

Public Benefit

When planning our activities for the year, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and in particular the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our church communities through:

- Worship and prayer, learning about the Gospel, and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the community
- Mission and outreach work

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Report of the Trustees for the Year ended 31st August 2025

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable Activities

Ordained staff of the Circuit at the end of 2024/2025 year, was the Superintendent minister, with the unexpected early retirement of the Authorised Minister from the Baptist Union in July. Alongside the Circuit's ordained staff, the Circuit continues to employ a core team of lay staff, with our administrator and pastoral workers meeting with our presbyters regularly to ensure the ministry of the Circuit is effective. The Safeguarding and Administrative Worker works alongside the Superintendent to oversee the safeguarding practices of the Circuit, and its churches are upheld, verifying that activities are regulated as per the requirements of our safeguarding policies. The circuit staffing was reduced at the start of 2025 following the retirement of one of our pastoral workers in December 2024.

In July, the Circuit purchased a new manse in the centre of the Circuit, to serve the wider area more appropriately once an incumbent needs this provision again. The property meets the guidance set out for Manses by the Methodist Connexion. Our thanks should be expressed to the volunteers within the life of the trust who undertook much of the day-to-day aspects of the purchase, working with solicitors approved by the wider Methodist Connexion and TMCP (the custodian trustees of this building). As a replacement manse was purchased, the levy held upon the sale of the old manse in 2023-2024, was recovered to use towards the purchase.

We continue to hold to the fact that Worship and Teaching are both necessary aspects of our life together as a charity, that through these, the wider aspects of our responsibilities and actions are honed and fashioned, these are often expressed through the nature of "Our Calling". The circuit continues to follow the mission policy which builds upon the aspects of "Our Calling" and utilises the Methodist Connexional mission and growth strategies around "A Methodist Way of Life" and "Our Churches Future Story".

When considering achievements and performance, it is right to pay tribute to the many people throughout the circuit who in their daily lives respond to the call of Jesus "follow me" by offering pastoral care and/or practical help, to our team of Circuit Stewards who support, and lead the Circuit alongside our staff team, and, to the team of Local Preachers who enable services to take place Sunday by Sunday. We operate an open-door policy and welcome all to our church communities and wider work irrespective of race, gender, ethnicity, sexuality, or any kind of disability.

Plans for the Future

Our churches seek to embrace the breadth of 'Our Calling' yet we recognise as a Circuit that the expectations for each local community to fulfil all aspects of the life of the church is becoming more difficult, in this way the Circuit is looking to ensure that across the full breadth of its ministry and mission, all aspects of "A Methodist Way of Life" will be undertaken, even if not all of these will be present in every location the Circuit engages within. We are rooted in several different local communities, but our vision is much wider as we seek to serve the wider church and world in our work. Work in the community continues to be an important aspect of the circuit's mission.

Report of the Trustees for the Year ended 31st August 2025

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

Income

Total Circuit income was £373,131 an apparent increase of 43% compared with 2024 (£260,404). However, £101,518 of this year's income relates to the refund of the CPF levies the Circuit paid in the previous period on the net sale of redundant properties. The underlying Circuit income after adjusting for the refund was £271,613, an increase of just 4% year on year.

Under normal circumstances, income is drawn primarily from the assessments paid by the Circuit member churches, and during the year these totalled £224,028 (2024: £194,556). The assessments were increased as part of the budget for the year.

The Circuit also received rental income from letting of office space of £888 (2024: £1,766) and office income (mainly photocopier charges) totalling £530 (2024: £644). These figures are significantly reduced from those in 2024 as the long-standing tenants found alternative accommodation to suit their growing charity organisation in February 2025. Income also includes £14,606 from Berkswich church to reimburse the Circuit for the employment of their lay worker.

Income from investment interest on bank and trust accounts totalled £27,489, a 6.2% increase on last year (2024: £25,877). This was primarily interest on the capital held which is shown in the income for Designated funds in the accounts of £24,029.

Expenditure

Overall expenditure total for the year at £314,399 was £40,553 higher than the previous year (2024: £273,846).

The increase in overall expenditure is predominately due to:

- Replacement windows at Widecombe Avenue manse (£9,600)
- Increase in District Levy year on year of £9,011 following the sale of the Gnosall manse in 23-24
- Inclusion of the salary of the Berkswich lay worker as noted above
- With the balance being net inflationary increases in the general unrestricted fund.

Net position and transfers.

The overall position, for the year ending 31st August '25 was a net position of £58,732 surplus. This compared to a deficit of (£13,442) for the previous year ending 31st August '24. However, the unrestricted fund incurred an underlying deficit of (£24,882) (2024: £47,222) before transfers from the designated funds.

Effect on Funds & Reserves

The major investment reserve fund of the Circuit, which is held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) is named in the accounts as 'Circuit Investment Fund'. During the

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

year 24-25, this fund received the refund of the CPF Levy applied for the sale of the Gnosall manse (23-24) £101,518 plus generated interest at £22,469. Costs allocated to the fund were the District Levy on the previous year's interest of £30,541, plus £1,703 bank charges. The Circuit meeting agreed a drawdown of £50,000 to replenish the General Fund following the previous year's deficits. The funds were also drawn down to part fund the purchase of the new manse. The manse is held as an unrestricted asset of the Circuit. The fund stood at £236,891 at year-end 31st August 2025.

The Church Support Fund of £11,000 has not been used this year. The Mission Support Fund of £10,000 has allocated £500 in support of two church winter outreach programs, with the fund being topped up by £500 at the close of the year.

Property Refurbishment Fund: This fund has been used in 24-25 to replace the windows at the manse at Widecombe Avenue (£9,600). In accordance with the original design of the fund, this has been replenished and brought up to the desired £20,000 with a transfer of £9,600 at the end of the financial year.

With all the above, as at 31st August 2025, total funds were £1,130,023 (2024: £1,071,291). In summary:

- The unrestricted General Funds stands at £810,815 (2024: £492,421). This includes Land & Buildings (with a fixed asset value of £855,727, so the net current liability value of the Circuit General Fund stands at £44,912).
- Funds designated for specific purposes (excluding the Circuit Model Fund) stand at £80,080 comprising:

○ St. Johns Mission	£ 35,965
○ Church Support Fund *	£ 11,000
○ Mission Support Fund*	£ 10,000
○ Property Refurbishment*	£ 20,000
○ Superintendents Discretionary*	£ 1,940
○ Circuit Youth Fund*	£ 1,175
- The restricted fund (Berkswich CWF) stands at £2,216, with £21 remaining in the restricted fund for the Good Heart project undertaken in 24-25.

General Reserves Policy

It is the Trustees policy to maintain a balance of unrestricted and undesignated funds equivalent to between three and four months average unrestricted expenditure, to cover unexpected requirement which may occur from time to time, this equates to between £65,000 and £85,000.

In addition, the Circuit Reserves Policy is to maintain accessible funds of between £50,000 and £75,000 to enable the Circuit to assist its churches with appropriate grants and loans.

With the above two provisions, the General Reserve Policy equates to a minimum of £115,000 and a maximum of £160,000.

The funds which form part of the General Reserves, also shown by * (asterix) in the list above with their respective balances, on 31st August '25 include:

- Unrestricted - General (current liability) (£44,912)
- Designated - Church Support Fund £11,000, Mission Support Fund £10,000, Property Refurbishment Fund £20,000, Superintendents Discretionary Fund £1940 and Circuit Youth Work Fund £1,175,
- which add to a total General Reserve of (£797).

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

The General Reserves policy was not met at the year end. The Circuit is undertaking actions within its 25-26 Budget to improve this position.

Principal Funds

In addition to the Unrestricted General Fund, into and from which most of the financial transactions of the Circuit are made, the Circuit Meeting have determined certain designated and restricted funds for specific purposes.

Circuit Model Trust Fund (Designated)

Held and invested by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) and consists of income from churches. They have wide purposes, as defined by TMCP, and permission must be sought by the Circuit Meeting from TMCP to call upon money for specific building projects or to support the mission in general.

Property Investment Fund (Designated)

This fund was set up with the purpose of managing the costs of purchasing a new manse. The manse once purchased is held as an unrestricted asset of the Circuit.

St. John's Mission & Development Fund (Designated)

This fund, set up with the Methodist share of the proceeds from the sale of St. John's Church building, has been designated for St. John's use in developing its future mission plans. The fund is monitored by the Circuit Meeting, to ensure that monies will be used, both for an approved purpose and within a reasonable timescale.

Property Refurbishment Fund (Designated)

Manse refurbishments are carried out at irregular intervals, usually to coincide with the change in Ministers and can, therefore, fluctuate considerably from year to year. The intention is for this fund to be held at £20,000 at the close of the financial year and therefore the part of the fund used for replacement windows, was replenished from the general fund.

Mission Support Fund (Designated)

The purpose of this fund is to enable and support mission initiatives within the Circuit. The aim is to set a principal that such mission projects already have money put aside within the Circuit budget (originally set at a level of £10,000), and proposals will be received for approval by representatives of the Trustees. The £500 called upon from this fund has been replenished from the general fund at the close of the year.

Church Support Fund (Designated)

The Church Support Fund is designed to be the vehicle by which the Circuit can respond to a need for financial support that is raised by any church when it is unable to meet these through its own resources. Such a request for a grant or loan may be made to meet challenges in cash flow, unexpected expenditure or indeed, to allow the church time to respond to a significant risk to its sustainability. This fund has not been called upon in 2024-25 and has an opening balance of £11,000 for 25-26.

Other Funds

Circuit Youth Work Fund (Designated)

To support Youth Work in the Circuit.

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Superintendents Discretionary Fund (Designated)

The fund is for spend in cases of local individual need at the discretion of the Superintendent. The fund has been used for a small contribution in this year and so stands at £1,940 at the end of 24-25.

Berkswich Families Fund (Restricted)

This fund, originally set up by a donation, as the Children's Worker Fund. The fund was restored in 24-25 to provide for the payroll services of a Community Families Worker, working alongside Berkswich Church.

Good Heart Project Fund (Restricted)

This fund relates to The Good Heart Project which supports and encourages people with additional needs to experience God's Love in alternative worship.

Going Concern

The Trustees consider that it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis. They have assessed the Circuit's ability to continue by reviewing their plans for 2025-2026 having due regard to the level of assessment income and the restructuring actions taken with effect from September 2025.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

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).

Induction and training of new trustees

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

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).

Related Parties

The Circuit was part of the Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury District until 31/08/25. The Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District and the Birmingham District merged, and on 01/09/25, became the newly formed West Midlands District. As is the case for all Circuits and Districts, Stafford Circuit is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The following Methodist Churches/LEPs are linked to the circuit: Barlaston, Berkswich, Bishops Offley, Eccleshall, Gnosall, Milwich (LEP), Rising Brook, St. John's-Stone (LEP), Trinity (LEP), Weston.

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Audit and Risk Management

The Charity Commission Guidance on Risk Management (CC26) requires only those charities that are above statutory audit threshold to make a risk management statement, however, the Circuit Leadership team undertook an assessment in the financial year 24-25 to include in the trustees' report for this year.

The Circuit Leadership Team, acting on behalf of the trustees meeting, annually review and assess potential risks to the circuit.

Governance – The circuit is governed by The Methodist Church of Great Britain and follows the policies and procedures of The Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Methodist Church. The Circuit's mission policy clearly indicates the agreed direction of travel for the Circuit and its churches. The policy and strategy within it, are reviewed annually to ensure objectives are met. Lay workers are appointed following the procedures of the recruitment process of The Methodist Church. The District Lay employment secretary is consulted for every appointment, and for changes to existing appointments. Job Descriptions and role activities are logged for subsequent recruitment. Safer recruitment processes, including job descriptions are followed for volunteers within the churches, strictly adhering to the Safeguarding procedures of The Methodist Church.

Operational – The circuit, according to the policies and procedures in CPD, follows the complaints procedure for all circuit volunteers, staff and ministerial team. The District Lay employment secretary ensures governance of staff meets with employment law. Lay Staff are responsible to an appointed Line Manager and any changes to work patterns for specific projects are agreed in consultation. Circuit owned property is appropriately maintained, covered by a property maintenance and repairs budget. An annual property inspection is carried out by the circuit property steward with a five-year inspection carried out by an independent property surveyor. The usual practice of obtaining three quotes for major works is upheld to ensure best price for the required work is achieved. IT equipment of circuit employees and presbyters is password protected and backed up on a regular basis. In the event of an emergency which prevents any Presbyter from occupying a manse, temporary accommodation would be provided. In the case of the Circuit Office, temporary office accommodation would be provided within one of the church buildings. All property deeds and documents are held in a fire retardant safe.

Financial – The Circuit Treasurer produces a detailed balance sheet to the leadership team regularly, presenting an up-to-date financial position. The circuit treasurer presents, at minimum, a balance sheet and analysis of income/expenditure to the circuit meetings throughout the year. The circuit treasurer and chair of trustees meet with church treasurers in Quarter two and monitor annually the individual church accounts, particularly their reserve funds. In maintaining an understanding of the financial position of the churches, any potential financial issues can be addressed in a timely manner to minimise risk to circuit funds. The annual Circuit budget, prepared by the treasurer, the chair of trustees and the circuit stewards is presented to the church treasurers, indicating the individual church assessments for the coming year allowing their input into the final figures. The reserves levels and reserves policy are reviewed annually. The circuit accounts hold a contingency of £11,000 in the Church Support Fund for unexpected financial calls on church finances.

Communication – The Circuit trustees receive full updates of events at the regular trustees' meetings. Minutes and reports from all meetings are shared in a timely manner. The Circuit has a social media presence and ensures that information is shared appropriately while complying with the circuit's social media and safeguarding policies. The Methodist Church media team are responsible for any public statements in the event of crisis handling.

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Law and regulation compliance – The Methodist Church provides guidance to ensure all matters of employment law are adhered to. For matters of property sales and purchases, The Methodist Church legal team are responsible for ensuring all matters are handled within charity law requirements, with a list of panel solicitors and surveyors being provided for the circuit to appoint.

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. Amongst 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 Stafford Methodist 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 Stafford Methodist 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.

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards. The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS102);
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed;
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the provisions of the Constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

REPORT APPROVAL

Approved by order of the Board of Trustees on 21st April 2026 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Rev. D.J. Bintliff - Trustee

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Stafford Methodist Circuit

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of the Stafford Methodist Circuit - Charity number 135822 ("the Circuit")

I report to the Circuit trustees on my examination of the accounts for the Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2025 which are set out on pages 13 to 26.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and Examiner

As the trustees of the Circuit, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the Circuit is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- 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 Circuit 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 of the Circuit 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 next statement.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention 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 2011; 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 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

This report is made solely to the trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 (Regulation 31) of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the trustee those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.



Melanie Crooks FCA
Melanie Crooks Associates Limited
Bellfield House
33 Stafford Road
Bloxwich, WS3 3NJ

Date: 23.4.2026

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended 31st August 2025

	2025 Unrestricted Funds £	2025 Designated Funds £	2025 Restricted Funds £	2025 Total Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
Income and Endowments from :					
<i>Income from charitable activities</i>					
Donations & Legacies	-	-	-	-	956
Grants	-	2,250	900	3,150	-
Church Assessments	224,028	-	-	224,028	194,556
Office income & recharges	530	501	14,606	15,637	644
Investments	3,460	24,029	-	27,489	62,074
Rental income	888	-	-	888	1,776
Other income	16	101,923	-	101,939	398
Total income	228,922	128,703	15,506	373,131	260,404
Expenditure on:					
Stipends, salaries, NI and Pensions	171,484	-	14,264	185,748	161,267
District Assessment	40,575	-	-	40,575	40,431
URC Mission & Ministry	9,688	-	-	9,688	9,412
Property	13,855	2,750	-	16,605	19,261
Office expenses	6,229	1,702	445	8,376	8,592
Telephone & Travel Expenses	10,425	-	233	10,658	11,388
Apprenticeship levy	781	-	-	781	684
Mission & Ministry expenses	466	500	-	966	1,020
Rent paid	-	-	543	543	-
Other expenditure	301	40,158	-	40,459	21,791
Total expenditure	253,804	45,110	15,485	314,399	273,846
Net (expenditure) resources before transfer	(24,882)	83,593	21	58,732	(13,442)
Transfers:					
Gross transfers between funds - in	432,816	344,330	-	777,146	713,651
Gross transfers between funds - out	(89,540)	(687,606)	-	(777,146)	(713,651)
Other recognised gains and losses:					
Gains /losses on investment assets	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds					(13,442)
Total funds brought forward	492,421	576,654	2,216	1,071,291	1,084,733
Total funds carried forward	810,815	316,971	2,237	1,130,023	1,071,291

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Balance Sheet as of 31st August 2025 (Charity number 135822)

		2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Note 7	Residential land	75,000	75,000
Note 7	Manses	505,727	75,000
Note 7	Other Buildings	275,000	275,000
	Total Fixed Assets	855,727	425,000
Current Assets			
Note 9	Debtors	20,111	6,782
Note 8	Cash	259,839	641,357
	Total Current Assets	279,950	648,139
Current Liabilities			
Note 9	Creditors falling due within 1 year	(5,654)	(1,848)
	Net Current Assets	274,296	646,291
	Net Assets	1,130,023	1,071,291
Represented by:			
Note 6	General (Unrestricted) Fund	810,815	492,421
Note 6	Designated Funds	316,971	576,654
Note 6	Restricted Funds	2,237	2,216
	Total Funds	1,130,023	1,071,291

The notes 1 to 14 form part of these financial statements. The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 21st April 2026 and signed by:



Rev. D.J. Bintliff - Trustee



Mr K.B. Day - Trustee

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year ended 31st August 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £ Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements.

Consolidation

The Circuit has denominational regulatory oversight in respect of the work of the Churches within the Circuit but has no legal or operational control of those Churches and their governing bodies except in extreme circumstances. For this reason, the financial statements of Churches within the Circuit are not consolidated into these financial statements.

Income

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.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement to make a grant without performance conditions or as and when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment if it is subject to performance conditions. When the grant is recurrent over more than one year the balance payable in future years is treated as a provision for future commitments in the Balance Sheet against the appropriate fund, the provision being released in future years as instalments are paid in accordance with the originally agreed terms.

Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and individually cost at least £1,000. The freehold property is shown in the accounts at 2015 deemed values, of which the land component is deemed to be £75,000. No depreciation is provided on the buildings because the trustees consider the current residual value of the property in its present condition to be not less than its current value, and in the absence of any evidence of impairment, any depreciation provision would not be material.

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Redundant Churches as Investment Properties

From time to time the Circuit may be required to assume responsibility for Church premises following closure and cessation for worship. This results in the Circuit becoming Managing Trustees for the property. At that time the property is recognised as an asset at its anticipated net sale price as determined by a professional valuation. Any expenditure on such assets, if held for reinvestment of the proceeds, as the trustees determine, that is likely to enhance sales value is capitalised at the time the expenditure is incurred. Where the proceeds are intended to be spent on activities, the property is included in current assets at the lower of cost and realisable value.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

The Circuit is a member of the Connexional pension scheme (MMPS) which covers presbyters and deacons of the Methodist Church. The contribution rates are set each year by the Methodist Conference. The MMPS is a multi-employer scheme and in accordance with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission, the Circuit employees enrolled in a defined contribution pension scheme administered by The Pension Trust. Employer contributions are made into this scheme on behalf of employees who are members.

2. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2025 Unrestricted Funds £	2025 Designated Funds £	2025 Restricted Funds £	2025 Total Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
<i>Income and Endowments from :</i>					
<i>Donations and Legacies</i>					
1305- Donations	-	-	-	-	956
Income from Donations & legacies Totals	-	-	-	-	956
Grant income					
1311- Grant from URC	-	2,250	-	2,250	-
1304- Connexional and District Grants	-		900	900	-
Grant income Totals	-	2,250	900	3,150	-
<i>Income from charitable activities</i>					
1301- Assessments	224,028	-	-	224,028	194,556
1309- Administration & recharges	530	501	14,606	15,637	644
Income from charitable activities Totals	224,558	501	14,606	239,665	195,200

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Investments

1308-Rent	888	-	-	888	1,776
1309-Interest & Investment	3,460	24,029	-	27,489	3,606
1307-Property Sale	-	-	-	-	58,468
Investment Totals	4,348	24,029	-	28,377	63,850

Other income

1302- CPF Levy returned	-	101,518	-	101,518	-
1306-Other income	16	405	-	421	262
1312-Leaving Gifts	-	-	-	-	136
Other income Totals	16	101,923	-	101,939	398
Income and Endowments Total	228,922	128,703	15,506	373,131	260,404

Income codes are consistent with the previous year:

- 1301 Assessments - Contribution to Circuit costs donated by the churches in the Circuit
- 1309 Administration & recharges – income from office activities e.g. photocopier charge to tenants and recharges to churches
- 1308 Rent – Income from rent charged to tenants of Asbury House office space
- 1303 Interest & Investment – Interest from bank accounts & TMCP investments
- 1302 Other income – primarily refund of CPF Levy
- 1311 Grant from URC for manse refurbishment
- 1304 Grant from District towards the Good Heart Project

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

3. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2025 Unrestricted Funds £	2025 Designated Funds £	2025 Restricted Funds £	2025 Total Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
Expenditure on:					
1401- Methodist Stipends	171,484	-	14,264	185,748	161,267
1403-District Levy	-	30,540	-	30,540	21,529
1404-District Assessment	40,575	-	-	40,575	40,431
1402-URC Mission & Ministry	9,688	-	-	9,688	9,412
1412- Insurance	1,883	-	-	1,883	2,540
1413-Utilities	4,798	-	-	4,798	6,750
1414-Maintenance (Office)	2,086	-	-	2,086	4,710
1418-Property Surveys	3,510	-	-	3,510	1,080
1419 -Property refurbishment	-	9,600	-	9,600	-
1428 Maintenance (manses)	1,578	-	-	1,578	4,181
1429- URC Maintenance (manses)	-	2,750	-	2,750	-
1405-Administration	4,524	-	445	4,969	5,182
1423-Bank Charges	86	1,703	-	1,789	1,731
1406-Telephone & Broadband	3,506	-	233	3,739	3,103
1407-Travel Expenses	6,918	-	-	6,918	8,285
1424-Apprenticeship Levy	781	-	-	781	684
1409- Youth work	120	-	-	120	-
1410-Pastoral Work	133	-	-	133	155
1411 - Donations to Churches	-	500	-	500	677
1420-Training & Recruitment	126	-	-	126	100
1425-Accountancy	1,620	-	-	1,620	1,680
1426 - Leaving Gifts	50	-	-	50	-
1422-Pastoral Work Other	87	-	-	87	87
1415- Rent	-	-	543	543	-
1421 - Other expenditure	251	17	-	268	262
Expenditure on charitable activities Total	253,804	45,110	15,485	314,399	273,846

- 1401 Methodist Stipends – The restricted fund value is that of salary paid to Community Outreach Worker.
- 1424 Apprenticeship Levy - Apprenticeship Levy is an amount paid to HMRC at a rate of 0.5% of an employer's annual pay bill.
- 1403 District Levy – a levy by the Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury Methodist District on interest earned from TMCP capital.
- 1404 District Assessment & URC Mission & Ministry – payments to District and URC Synod for governance & administrative oversight
- 1412 Insurance, 1413 Utilities and 1406 Telephone & Broadband – running costs for office, manses under the management of the Circuit.
- 1414 Maintenance (Office), 1416 Property Management & 1428 Maintenance (Manses) – relate to costs of maintaining the Circuit property portfolio.
- 1418 Property Surveys – costs of Quinquennial Surveys and pre-purchase reports.

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

- 1407 Travel Expenses – reimbursement of expenses incurred by staff in carrying out their duties
- 1409 Youth Work and 1410 Pastoral Work – Costs for materials and consumables associated with these areas of ministry
- 1420 Training & Recruitment – direct costs associated with attracting and developing ministerial & staff in the Circuit

4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

Certain trustees are remunerated as employees of the Circuit. All payments to trustees are at normal market rates and are subject to review by independent members of the trustee body. Total remuneration paid to these trustees in their lay employment was £53,449 (2024:£57,995)

No expenses were paid to trustees in their capacity as trustees for the year ended 31 August 2025 (2024: £nil).

Trustee indemnity insurance was taken out for the year as part of the Circuit general insurance policy (premium costs for indemnity insurance are not identified within this general insurance policy).

5. STAFF COSTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Lay Employee Costs (excluding Presbyters)		
Wages and Salaries	90,597	75,710
National Insurance	7,114	4,640
Pension Costs	3,216	2,364
Redundancy Costs	2,650	-
	<u>103,577</u>	<u>82,714</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was 6 (2024:6). No lay employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

The Presbyters stipends are not included within the Circuit staff costs, as they are not employees of the Circuit. The Circuit is merely responsible for the central administration and payment of the stipends on behalf of the churches. However, the Circuit paid on average 2 (2024:2) presbyters as office holders and the costs were as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Stipends & Allowances	65,556	58,923
National Insurance	7,208	5,510
Pension	12,408	14,120
	<u>84,172</u>	<u>78,553</u>

The Presbyters of the Circuit are also provided with the use of a manse rent free and council tax and water rates in furtherance of their duties. The Authorised Presbyter from the Baptist Union chose to live in his own property.

Key Management Personnel are considered to be the Superintendent of the Circuit, the other Presbyter and the remaining members of the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT). The Superintendent chairs meetings of the CLT and Circuit Meetings.

The remuneration and pensions of these people amounted to £130,678 (2024:£133,109)

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

6. FUNDS & MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	1.9.2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains & Losses	31.8.2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted:						
General	492,421	228,922	(253,804)	343,276	-	810,815
Designated:						
Church Support Fund	11,000	-	-	-	-	11,000
Circuit Youth Work Fund	770	405	-	-	-	1,175
Mission Support Fund	10,000	-	(500)	500	-	10,000
Circuit Model Trust Fund	498,524	22,469	(32,244)	(251,858)		236,891
Superintendent's Discretionary Fund	1,956	-	(16)	-	-	1,940
Property Refurbishment Fund	20,000	2,750	(12,350)	9,600	-	20,000
St John's Mission & Development Fund	34,404	1,561	-	-	-	35,965
Property Investment Fund	-	101,518		(101,518)	-	-
Total Designated	576,654	128,703	(45,110)	343,276	-	316,971
Restricted:						
Berkswich Children's Worker Fund	2,216	14,606	(14,606)	-	-	2,216
Good Heart Project	-	900	(879)	-	-	21
Total Restricted	2,216	15,506	(15,485)	-	-	2,237
Total Funds	1,071,291	373,131	(314,399)	-	-	1,130,023

	1.9.2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains & Losses	31.8.2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted:						
General	634,019	200,980	(248,202)	(94,376)	0	492,421
Designated:						
Church Support Fund	11,000					11,000
Circuit Youth Work Fund	770					770
CMT - Circuit Model Trust Fund	0					0
Mission Support Fund	10,000					10,000
Circuit Model Trust Fund	130,538	56,756	(21,976)	333,206		498,524
Superintendent's Discretionary Fund	1,000	956	(18)	18		1,956
Property Refurbishment Fund	10,640			9,360		20,000

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

St John's Mission & Development Fund	32,692	1,712				34,404
Redundant Property Fund	251,858		(3,650)	(248,208)		0
Total Designated	448,498	59,424	(25,644)	94,376	0	576,654
Restricted:						
Berkswich Children's Worker Fund	2,216	-	-	-	0	2,216
Total Funds	1,084,733	260,404	(273,846)	0	0	1,071,291

Transfers between funds in the year are as follows:

		Unrestricted General £	Unrestricted Designated £	Restricted £
1	General to Mission Support	(500)	500	-
2	General to Property Refurbishment	(9,600)	9,600	-
3	Circuit Model to General	201,858	(201,858)	-
4	Property Investment to General	101,518	(101,518)	-
5	Circuit Model to General	50,000	(50,000)	-
		343,276	(343,276)	-

1. Being replenishment of Mission Fund to £10,000
2. Being replenishment of Property Refurbishment Fund to £20,000
3. Being transfer of new manse from element funded by Circuit Model to General fund
4. Being transfer of new manse from element funded by Property Investment to General fund
5. Being replenishment of General Fund from Circuit Model re prior year deficits.

Principal Funds

In addition to the Unrestricted General Fund, into and from which most of the financial transactions of the Circuit are made, the Circuit Meeting have determined certain designated and restricted funds for specific purposes.

Circuit Model Trust Fund (Designated)

Held and invested by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) and consists of income from churches. They have wide purposes, as defined by TMCP, and permission must be sought by the Circuit Meeting from TMCP to call upon money for specific building projects or to support the mission in general. It is managed by TMCP and contain net revenue from the sale of properties and the interest earned from the capital. The District Levy is made from this fund on the interest.

Property Investment Fund (Designated)

This fund was set up with the purpose of managing the costs of purchasing a new manse.

St. John's Mission & Development Fund (Designated)

This fund, set up with the Methodist share of the proceeds from the sale of St. John's Church building, has been designated for St. John's use in developing its future mission plans. The fund is monitored by the Circuit Meeting, to ensure that monies will be used, both for an approved purpose and within a reasonable timescale.

Property Refurbishment Fund (Designated)

Manse refurbishments are carried out at irregular intervals, usually to coincide with the change in Ministers and can, therefore, fluctuate considerably from year to year. The intention is that the fund will receive between £5-£10,000 per year from general funds. A transfer of £9,600 was made from general funds in 24-25 thereby achieving a closing balance of £20,000.

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Mission Support Fund (Designated)

The fund has the purpose of enabling and supporting mission initiatives within the Circuit. The aim is to set a principal that such mission projects already have money put aside within the Circuit budget and proposals will be received for approval by representatives of the Trustees.

Church Support Fund

The Church Support Fund is designed to be the vehicle by which the Circuit can respond to a need for financial support that is raised by any church when it is unable to meet these through its own resources. Such a request for a grant or loan may be made to meet challenges in cash flow, unexpected expenditure or indeed, to allow the church time to respond to a significant risk to its sustainability.

Circuit Youth Work Fund (Designated)

To support Youth Work in the Circuit.

Superintendents Discretionary Fund (Designated)

The fund is for spend in cases of local individual need at the discretion of the Superintendent.

Berkswich Families Outreach Fund (Restricted)

This fund provides for the payroll services of a Families Outreach Worker at the Berkswich church.

Good Heart Project Fund (Restricted)

This fund relates to The Good Heart Project which supports and encourages people with additional needs to experience God's Love in alternative worship.

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Land £	Manse £	Other buildings £	Total £
Deemed Cost and carrying value				
As at 1.9.2024	75,000	75,000	275,000	425,000
Addition	-	403,727	-	403,727
As at 31.8.2025	75,000	505,727	275,000	855,727

The properties include the Manse at Widecombe Avenue, Berkswich, Stafford, the newly purchased Manse at Bellardia Road, Stafford and Circuit Office at Asbury House, Rising Brook, Stafford. All properties are held within the unrestricted general fund.

8. CASH IN BANK AND IN HAND

	2025 £	2024 £
1501: CAF Bank	28,839	20,996
1502: Central Finance Board	49,407	62,080
1503:TMCP:Circuit Model Trust	145,628	523,877
1504:CFBSt John's M&D Fund	35,965	34,404
Total Cash at Bank	259,839	641,357

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

The current asset values are all in bank accounts:

- 1501 CAF Bank – The current account used for general expenditure. The account balance is maintained by periodic transfers from CFB and TMCP accounts.
- 1502 Central Finance Board – this account receives the Church Assessments and is used to make the lay salary & stipendiary payments and maintain balance of the CAF account.
- 1503 TMCP – the repository for capital realisations from property sales & source of interest on these investments
- 1504 CFB St Johns M&D Fund – managed by the Circuit on behalf of St Johns Church. No transactions made apart from interest earned & retained.

9. DEBTORS & CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Debtors:		
Assessments owed	11,635	-
Recharge Debtor	1,522	
Prepayments	6,954	6,782
Total Debtors	20,111	6,782

Creditors falling due within 1 Year

Other Creditors	(4,154)	-
Accounts examination accrual	(1,500)	(1,680)
Assessments in advance	-	(168)
Total Creditors within 1 year	(5,654)	(1,848)

- Assessments due – relate to assessments re 24/25 not paid by churches at year end.
- Recharge Debtor – relates to lay worker costs not yet reimbursed by Berkswich church at year end.
- Prepayments – allocation of insurance paid yearly, and September stipendiary payments made in advance of year end 31st August.
- Other creditors – accruals for expenditure re 24/25 outstanding at year end
- Accounts Examination – Allowance of £1,500 for 24-25
- Assessments in advance – these are overpayments made by churches that are repayable and will be done so via offset against the following year assessments.

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

10. COMPARATIVES FOR PREVIOUS YEAR 1ST SEPTEMBER '23 TO 31ST AUGUST '24

	2024 Unrestricted Funds £	2024 Designated Funds £	2024 Restricted Funds £	2024 Total Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
Income and Endowments from :					
<i>Income from charitable activities</i>					
Donations & Legacies	0	956	0	956	0
Church Assessments	194,556	0	0	194,556	205,854
Office income	644	0	0	644	783
Investments	3,606	58,468	0	62,074	10,398
Rental income	1,776	0	0	1,776	2,256
Other income	398	0	0	398	11,072
Total income	200,980	59,424	0	260,404	230,363
Expenditure on:					
Stipends, salaries, NI and Pensions	161,267	0	0	161,267	155,317
District Assessment	40,431	0	0	40,431	42,717
URC Mission & Ministry	9,412	0	0	9,412	9,424
Property	16,462	2,799	0	19,261	24,736
Office expenses	7,442	1,150	0	8,592	6,668
Telephone & Travel Expenses	11,240	148	0	11,388	10,198
Apprenticeship levy	684	0	0	684	657
Mission & Ministry expenses	1,020	0	0	1,020	476
Other expenditure	244	21,547	0	21,791	34,231
Total expenditure	248,202	25,644	0	273,846	284,424
Net (expenditure) resources before transfer	(47,222)	33,780	0	(13,442)	(54,061)
Transfers:					
Gross transfers between funds - in	183,350	530,301	0	713,651	69,846
Gross transfers between funds - out	(277,726)	(435,925)	0	(713,651)	(69,846)
Other recognised gains and losses:					
Gains /losses on investment assets				0	(51,818)
Net movement in funds	(141,598)	128,156	0	(13,442)	(105,879)
Total funds brought forward	634,019	448,498	2,216	1,084,733	1,190,612
Total funds carried forward	492,421	576,654	2,216	1,071,291	1,084,733

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

11. NET ASSETS

The net assets of the Circuit may be analysed as follows:

	2025	2025	2025	2025
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	855,727	-	-	855,727
Debtors	20,111	-	-	20,111
Cash at bank	(59,369)	316,971	2,237	259,839
Creditors	(5,654)	-	-	(5,654)
Total Net Assets	810,815	316,971	2,237	1,130,023

	2024	2024	2024	2024
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	425,000	-	-	425,000
Debtors	6,782	-	-	6,782
Cash at bank	62,487	576,654	2,216	641,357
Creditors	(1,680)	-	-	(1,680)
Creditors -Assessments in advance	(168)	-	-	(168)
Total Net Assets	492,421	576,654	2,216	1,071,291

12. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENT

As of 31 August 2025, the Circuit was committed to making the following payments under non-cancellable operating leases:

Operating Leases which expire:	2025	2024
	£	£
Within 1 year		
Within 1-2 years	590	
Within 2-5 years		590
More than 5 years		
Total	590	590

13. RELATED PARTIES

Transactions between the Circuit and its member churches

The Circuit received assessments of £224,028 (2024: £194,556) from the churches within the circuit.

The Circuit provided grants to churches in the circuit amounting to £500 (2024: £677) in support of winter outreach projects.

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Transactions between the Circuit and the Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury District

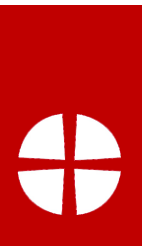
The Circuit paid the District £40,575 (2024: £40,431) in district assessments. They also paid them £30,540 (2024: £102,598) by way of levies on the net sale of properties and on the balance of monies held in the Circuit Investment Fund at the start of the financial year. The Circuit received back the £101,518 of the levy paid in prior year on the net sale of properties, to assist with the purchase of a new manse in the year.

The Connexional assessment is collected by the District as part of the above District Assessment and in 2025 this was £38,219.

14. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENT

With effect from 1 September 2025, the Circuit became part of the West Midlands District. The West Midlands District was formed by the merger of the existing Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury District with the Birmingham District.

Accounts



Stafford Methodist Circuit

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2024

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1135822

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Contents of the Financial Statements for the Year ended 31st August 2024

	Page
Reference and Administrative Details	2
Report of the Trustees	3
Independent Examiners Report	11
Statement of Financial Activities	12
Balance Sheet	14
Notes to the Financial Statements	16

Reference and Administrative Details for the Year ended 31st August 2024

Principal Address	Circuit Office Asbury House Merrey Road Stafford ST17 9LX
Registered Charity Number	1135822
Independent Examiner	Melanie Crooks Associates Limited Bellfield House 33 Stafford Road Bloxwich West Midlands WS3 3NJ
Investment Bankers	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church 9 Bonhill Street London EC2A 4PE The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes Central Buildings Oldham Street Manchester M1 1JQ

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Reference and Administrative Details for the Year ended 31st August 2024 cont.

The trustees as set out below have held office during the period 1st September 2023 to the date of this report, unless otherwise stated:

Ministers	Rev. D.J. Bintliff Rev. David Middleton (from 1/11/23)	
Lay workers	Mrs C.A. Hamer	Mrs L.B. Reade *
	Mrs I.J. Wakerell (until 31/12/2024)	
Circuit Stewards	Mr P.W. Hardy ** Mrs J. Harrison (until 31/08/24) Mr D.A. Hemingway Dr P.C. Yates (until 19/03/24) Mr K.B. Day (from 5/12/23) Mrs R. Wall (from 26/09/24) Mrs W. Timothy (from 26/09/24)	
Circuit Meeting Secretary	*Mrs L.B. Reade	
Local Preachers Representatives	Mr R.D. Johnson Mr I. Mason Mrs J.M. Timmis	
Circuit Representatives to District Synod	Mrs V.E. Bates Mr P.W. Hardy ** Mrs M.E. Hemingway Dr S. McCready-Shea	
Church Representatives by Church		
Barlaston	Mrs K.A. Ford	Mrs J. O'Byrne (from 01/09/24)
Berkswich	Mrs L.M. Westoby Mr T.A.S. Goodchild Mr A. Lotinga (until 31/08/24) Mr. I. Allred (from 26/09/24)	
Bishops Offley	Mrs A. Hardy Mrs J. Palin (until 31/08/24) Mrs. A. Horton (from 01/09/24)	
Eccleshall	Mrs M. Embrey Mrs C.E. Harper Mrs D.H. Kirkham	
Gnosall	Mr W.D. Basford Mr K.C. Davies Mrs J. Jobling (until 01/05/24)	
Milwich	Mr B. Barker Mrs J. L. Barker	
Rising Brook	Mr I.F. Baldwin Mrs S. Francis	
St. John's Stone	Mrs A.E. Dair Mr D.C. Stewart Mrs B. Godridge	
Trinity Stafford	Mr. A.J. Lowe	
Weston	Mrs B. Gillespie	Mr. C. Gillespie

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Report of the Trustees for the Year ended 31st August 2024

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st August 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statements of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives & Aims

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 Circuit produces a bi-monthly preaching plan to ensure the regular acts of worship take place at each of the 7 Methodist Churches and 3 Local Ecumenical Partnerships in its geographical area. The Stafford Circuit is constituted to offer acts of worship in its church communities and to further the mission of the Church in Stafford and across the borough of Stafford. With our primary internal function being that of Christian worship, we aim to provide access to acts of worship in each of the 10 Circuit churches every Sunday.

Our internal structure is based on a Circuit Meeting which meets four times a year; a Local Preachers' meeting which meets around four times a year; Circuit Leadership Team meetings throughout the year, and Staff Meetings which meet weekly. We endeavour to make our meetings focus on the on-going development of the Circuit; they are the place where important decisions are made and within them, we plan our strategies and fulfil our role as Charity Trustees.

Public Benefit

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

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Report of the Trustees for the Year ended 31st August 2024

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable Activities

2023/2024 have been a period of change and development for the charity, with changes in staffing as expected in last year's report, but also the employment of additional support for the charity's endeavours in safeguarding. The Ordained staff of the Circuit now stands as the Superintendent minister, appointed in 2022 and an Authorised Minister from the Baptist Union, who began ministry within the Circuit in November 2023. Alongside the Circuit's ordained staffing, the Circuit continues to employ a core team of lay staff across the Circuit, our administrator and pastoral workers meet with our presbyters regularly to ensure the ministry of the Circuit is effective. In January of 2024 a new Safeguarding and Administrative Worker joined the Circuit team who, alongside the Superintendent oversees the safeguarding practices of the Circuit and its daughter churches are upheld and that activities are regulated as per the requirements of our safeguarding policies.

With the Authorised minister choosing to live within their own accommodation, the Circuit has taken the opportunity to begin the process of relocating one of the two Manses (accommodation for ordained staff) from the very south of the Circuit, to its centre, therefore serving the wider Circuit more appropriately once an incumbent needs this provision again. In the year 2023/2024 the manse was sold, with the expectation that within 2024/2025 a new manse will be purchased that meets the guidance set out for Manses by the Methodist Connexion. Our thanks should be expressed to volunteers within the life of the trust who undertook much of the day-to-day aspects of the sale, working with solicitors approved by the wider Methodist Connexion and TMCP (the custodian trustees of this building). Until the capital is spent on a like for like replacement, TMCP will continue to hold a levy upon the sale of the manse, once a purchase is agreed we are assured that this levy will be reversed.

We continue to hold to the fact that Worship and Teaching are both necessary aspects of our life together as a charity, that through these, the wider aspects of our responsibilities and actions are honed and fashioned, these are often expressed through the nature of "Our Calling" but have worked as a Circuit to develop a mission policy which builds upon the aspects of "Our Calling" and utilises the Methodist Connexional mission and growth strategies around "A Methodist Way of Life"

Our churches seek to embrace the breadth of 'Our Calling' yet we recognise as a Circuit that the expectations for each local community to fulfil all aspects of the life of the church is becoming more difficult, in this way the Circuit is looking to ensure that across the full breadth of its ministry and mission, all aspects of "A Methodist Way of Life" will be undertaken, even if not all of these will be present in every location the Circuit engages within. We are rooted in several different local communities, but our vision is much wider as we seek to serve the wider church and world in our work. Work in the community continues to be an important aspect of the circuit's mission. Our youth workers continue to support young people in a variety of ways.

When considering achievements and performance it is right to pay tribute to the many people throughout the circuit who in their daily lives respond to the call of Jesus "follow me" by offering pastoral care and/or practical help, to our team of Circuit Stewards who support, and lead the Circuit alongside our staff team, and, to the team of Local Preachers who enable services to take place Sunday by Sunday. We operate an open-door policy and welcome all to our church communities and wider work irrespective of race, gender, ethnicity, sexuality, or any kind of disability.

Report of the Trustees for the Year ended 31st August 2024

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

Income

Circuit income was £260,404 an increase of 13% compared with 2023 (£230,363) – however, this includes the net surplus on the sale of Gnosall Manse (see below).

Under normal circumstances, income is drawn primarily from the assessments paid by the Circuit member churches, and during the year these totalled £194,556 (2023: £205,854). This reduction in assessments had been agreed as part of the budget for the year, which considered the fall in church incomes (see comment on budget 24-25).

There was a kind donation of £957 from the estate of a member of Rowley Street Church, this was used to restore the Superintendent's Discretionary Fund.

The Circuit also received rental income from letting of office space of £1,776 (2023: £1,766) and office income (mainly photocopier charges) totalling £644 (2023: £783).

Income from investment interest on bank and trust accounts totalled £25,877, a 150% increase on last year (2023: £10,398). This was primarily interest on the capital realised from sale of properties in the previous two years, namely Rowley Street and Woodseaves church buildings, which is shown in the income for Designated funds in the accounts of £22,271.

During the year, the Circuit also sold Gnosall manse as this was not required for the second Minister and the property would have required considerable upgrade to meet the amended current standards for manses for future residency by a minister. This sale realised a sales price of £313,795 against an asset value of £175,000, giving a net income of £138,795, after marketing & conveyancing costs. From this TMCP levy and survey costs of £102,598 were deducted giving rise to an overall surplus of £36,197.

Expenditure

Overall expenditure total for the year at £273,846 compared to £284,424 in the prior year.

Spending under General Funds was up 4.8% at £248,202 (2023: £236,827), within this figure, the largest increase was a budgeted increase in Stipends & Salary, with the additional part-time lay worker (Safeguarding officer) and increases in remuneration to adjust for the cost-of-living.

Other significant changes under general expenditure, in descending order of difference, were:

- a) A £3,678 or 44% reduction in Utilities due to a refund on utilities for the redundant manse plus a reduction in gas prices for the office
- b) A £1,690 or 4.4% budgeted increase in District Assessment and
- c) A £1,506 or 60% increase in maintenance of manses for on-going work to repair issues

Also, some savings in the Designated Redundant property fund utilities and insurance due to previous year's sale of redundant churches. There was also an extraordinary expense of £21,529 being the District Levy to the DAF from the sale of the redundant church properties in 22-23.

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

There were small changes in the General cost areas under Expenditure on charitable activities, which include Property & Office costs, Telephone & Travel expenses.

Net position and transfers.

The Circuit Meeting approved a budget for the year 23-24 with an expected operational deficit of around £76,000. This required to draw down income from sale of the property assets of Rowley St & Woodseaves and to use some of these monies to maintain the level of Circuit Ministry. By comparison the budget for the previous year was a working deficit of £80,346 (2022: actual deficit £47,094).

In the event, the general operational deficit was £47,222, offset with the £33,780 surplus in the Designated Funds, primarily from net proceeds from the sale as shown in these accounts.

The overall position, for the year ending August '24 was a deficit and reduction of net position of £13,442 This compared to a deficit of £54,061 for the previous year ending August '23.

Effect on Funds & Reserves

The major investment reserve fund of the Circuit, which is held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP), and previously referred to as the Circuit Model Trust Fund, has been renamed in the accounts as 'Circuit Investment Fund' to more clearly designate its purpose. This fund had a closing value of £130,538 at 31st August '23. During the year 23-24, this fund received the income from the sale of Gnosall manse £138,795 plus generated interest at £20,559. Costs allocated to the fund were the CPF Levy on the property sale, and District Levy on the previous year's interest of £21,529, plus some £1,151 bank charges. The Circuit meeting agreed to draw down £90,000 to restore the General Fund following the previous year's deficits. The fund (including a residual £2,932 in a now closed Circuit Model Trust Fund) stood at £498,524 at year end 31st August '24.

Two new funds were agreed by Circuit Meeting in December 2022, namely the Church Support Fund, with the initial value of £11,000 and the Mission Fund with £10,000. Transfers were made in 22-23 from the General Fund to start these. Neither of these funds were used in the year.

Redundant Property Fund: This fund was used for the costs associated with the management & sale of Gnosall Manse, which equated to a £3,650 and was closed by transfer from the Circuit Model Trust Fund.

Property Refurbishment Fund: After being topped up with £15,000 from the General Fund after a gap of three years and having expenditure of £4,807 in 22-23, this fund has not been used in 23-24 but, in accordance with the original design of the fund has been replenished and brought up to the desired £20,000 with a further transfer of £9,360.

With all the above, as at 31st August 2024, total funds reduced by £13,442 to £1,071,291 (2023: £1,084,733). In summary:

- The unrestricted General Funds stands at £492,421 (2023: £634,019). This includes Land & Buildings (with a fixed asset value of £425,000), so the current asset value of the Circuit General Fund stands at £67,421*.
- Funds designated for specific purposes, stand at £576,654 comprising:
 - Circuit Investment Fund £ 498,524

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| ○ St. Johns Mission | £ 34,404 |
| ○ Church Support Fund * | £ 11,000 |
| ○ Mission Support Fund* | £ 10,000 |
| ○ Property Refurbishment* | £ 20,000 |
| ○ Superintendents Discretionary* | £ 1,956 |
| ○ Circuit Youth Fund* | £ 770 |
- The restricted fund (Berkswich CWF) stands at £2,216.

General Reserves Policy

It is the Trustees policy to maintain a balance of unrestricted and undesignated funds equivalent to between three and four months average unrestricted expenditure, to cover unexpected requirement which may occur from time to time, this equates to between £65,000 and £85,000.

In addition, the Circuit Reserves Policy is to maintain accessible funds of between £50,000 and £75,000 to enable the Circuit to assist its churches with appropriate grants and loans.

With the above two provisions, the General Reserve Policy equates to a minimum of £115,000 and a maximum of £160,000.

The funds which form part of the General Reserves, also shown by * (asterix) in the list above with their respective balances, on 31st August '24 include:

- Unrestricted - General (current assets) £67,421, and
- Designated - Church Support Fund £11,000, Mission Support Fund £10,000, Property Refurbishment Fund £20,000, Superintendents Discretionary Fund £1957 and Circuit Youth Work Fund £770,
- which add to a total General Reserve of £111,148.

The General Reserves were therefore just below minimum of the Reserves Policy scale at the year end.

Principal Funds

In addition to the Unrestricted General Fund, into and from which most of the financial transactions of the Circuit are made, the Circuit Meeting have determined certain designated and restricted funds for specific purposes.

Circuit Model Trust Fund (Designated)

Held and invested by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) and consists of income from churches. They have wide purposes, as defined by TMCP, and permission must be sought by the Circuit Meeting from TMCP to call upon money for specific building projects or to support the mission in general.

Redundant Property Fund (Designated)

This fund was set up for the purposes of tracking the income & expenditure related to the management and eventual sale of two church properties, namely Rowley Street and Woodseaves Chapel in 22-23 and Gnosall Manse in 23-24. These projects are now complete, and the net assets from the sale have been transferred to TMCP Circuit Investment Fund. It is proposed that this fund should be renamed and re-used for the purposes of purchasing a replacement Manse.

St. John's Mission & Development Fund (Designated)

This fund, set up with the Methodist share of the proceeds from the sale of St. John's Church building, has been designated for St. John's use in developing its future mission plans. The fund is monitored by the Circuit Meeting, to ensure that monies will be used, both for an approved purpose and within a reasonable timescale.

Property Refurbishment Fund (Designated)

Manse refurbishments are carried out at irregular intervals, usually to coincide with the change in Ministers and can, therefore, fluctuate considerably from year to year. Whilst this fund has been part of the Circuit fund portfolio for several years, but had not received transfers in for two years, so it was largely used up with refurbishment prior to the arrival of the current Superintendent in 21-22. As the intention is that the fund will receive between £5000 and £8000 per year from general funds, the decision was made to top up to £20,000.

Mission Support Fund (Designated)

This fund is for the purpose of enabling and supporting mission initiatives within the Circuit. The aim is to set a principal that such mission projects already have money put aside within the Circuit budget (originally set at a level of £10,000), and proposals will be received for approval by representatives of the Trustees. This fund has been retained at £10,000 in preparation for 24-25.

Church Support Fund (Designated)

The Church Support Fund is designed to be the vehicle by which the Circuit can respond to a need for financial support that is raised by any church when it is unable to meet these through its own resources. Such a request for a grant or loan may be made to meet challenges in cash flow, unexpected expenditure or indeed, to allow the church time to respond to a significant risk to its sustainability. This fund was used in 22-23 to make payments but has not been drawn upon in 23-24 and has an opening balance of £11,000 for 24-25.

Other Funds

Circuit Youth Work Fund (Designated)

To support Youth Work in the Circuit – has not been accessed in 23-24.

Superintendents Discretionary Fund (Designated)

The fund is for spend in cases of local individual need at the discretion of the Superintendent. The fund stood at an annual opening balance of £1,000, as per design, but was not used throughout the year and received a specific memorial donation of £957 in 23-24, so is at £1,957 for 24-25.

Berkswich Families Fund (Restricted)

This fund, originally set up by a donation, as the Children's Worker Fund. The fund is to be restored for 24-25 to provide for the payroll services of a Community Families Worker, working alongside Berkswich Church.

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Report of the Trustees for the Year ended 31st August 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

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).

Induction and training of new trustees

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

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).

Related Parties

The Circuit is part of the Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The following Methodist Churches/LEPs are linked to the circuit: Barlaston, Berkswich, Bishops Offley, Eccleshall, Gnosall, Milwich (LEP), Rising Brook, St. John's-Stone (LEP), Trinity (LEP), Weston.

Audit and Risk Management

As the gross income for the charity in 23-24 is less than the statutory audit threshold (£500,000 or £250,000 with assets exceeding £3.26m) but more than the £250,000 threshold for requiring an independent examination, the Circuit trustees have taken direction from the CC32 Guidance to choose an independent examination for this report.

The Charity Commission Guidance on Risk Management (CC26) requires only those charities that are above statutory audit threshold to make a risk management statement, however, it encourages smaller charities to do so. Therefore, the Circuit Leadership team will be undertaking an assessment in the financial year 24-25 with a view to include this in the trustees report for next year.

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. Amongst 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

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

- 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 Stafford Methodist 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 Stafford Methodist 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.

REPORT APPROVAL

Approved by order of the Board of Trustees on 19 March 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



.....

Rev. D.J. Bintliff - Trustee

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Stafford Methodist Circuit

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of the Stafford Methodist Circuit - Charity number 135822 ("the Circuit")

I report to the Circuit trustees on my examination of the accounts for the Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2024 which are set out on pages 12 to 27.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Circuit, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act").

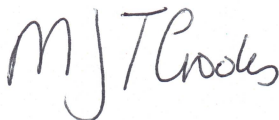
I report in respect of my examination of the Circuit's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- Accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act: or.
- The accounts do not accord with the accounting records.
- The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair" view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.
- The trustee's annual report is not consistent with the accounts

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



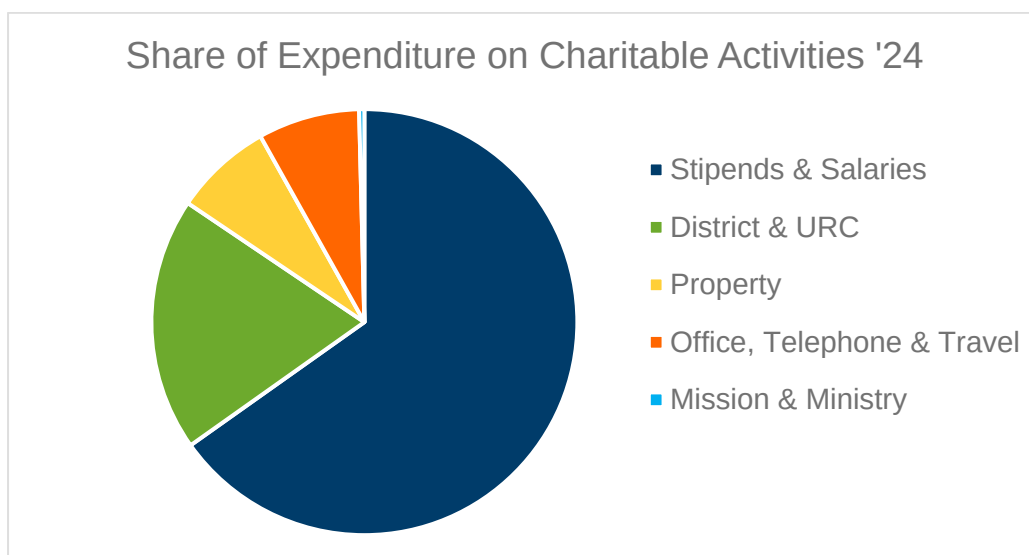
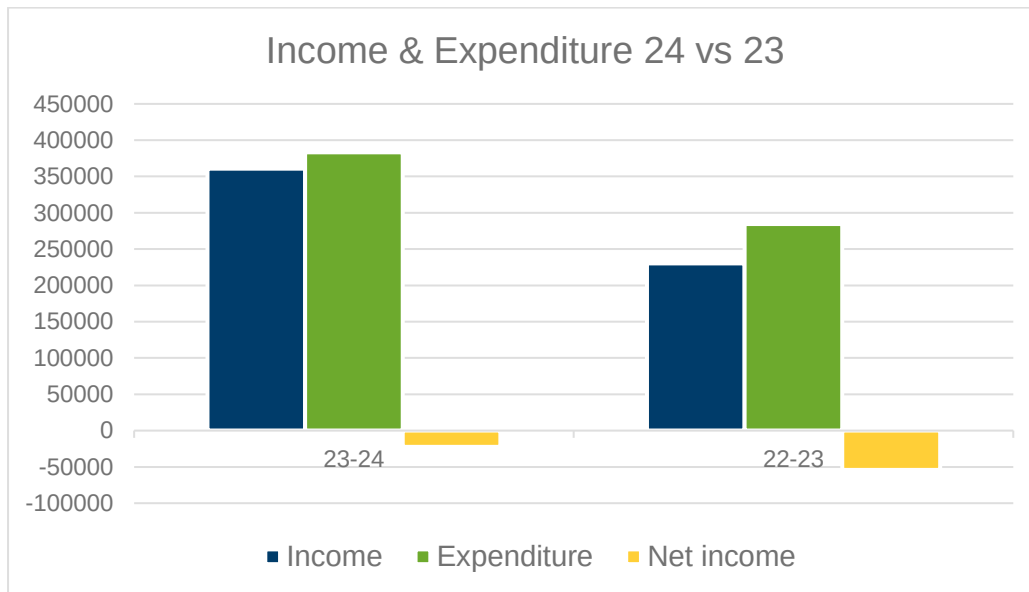
Melanie Crooks
Melanie Crooks Associates Limited
Bellfield House
33 Stafford Road
Bloxwich
West Midlands
Ws3 3NJ

Date: 24.3.2025

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended 31st August 2024

	2024 Unrestricted Funds £	2024 Designated Funds £	2024 Restricted Funds £	2024 Total Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
<i>Income and Endowments from :</i>					
<i>Income from charitable activities</i>					
Donations & Legacies	0	956	0	956	0
Church Assessments	194,556	0	0	194,556	205,854
Office income	644	0	0	644	783
Investments	3,606	58,468	0	62,074	10,398
Rental income	1,776	0	0	1,776	2,256
Other income	398	0	0	398	11,072
Total income	200,980	59,424	0	260,404	230,363
<i>Expenditure on:</i>					
Stipends, salaries, NI and Pensions	161,267	0	0	161,267	155,317
District Assessment	40,431	0	0	40,431	42,717
URC Mission & Ministry	9,412	0	0	9,412	9,424
Property	16,462	2,799	0	19,261	24,736
Office expenses	7,442	1,150	0	8,592	6,668
Telephone & Travel Expenses	11,240	148	0	11,388	10,198
Apprenticeship levy	684	0	0	684	657
Mission & Ministry expenses	1,020	0	0	1,020	476
Other expenditure	244	21,547	0	21,791	34,231
Total expenditure	248,202	25,644	0	273,846	284,424
Net (expenditure) resources before transfer	(47,222)	33,780	0	(13,442)	(54,061)
<i>Transfers:</i>					
Gross transfers between funds - in	183,350	530,301	0	713,651	69,846
Gross transfers between funds - out	(277,726)	(435,925)	0	(713,651)	(69,846)
<i>Other recognised gains and losses:</i>					
Gains /losses on investment assets				0	(51,818)
Net movement in funds	(141,598)	128,156	0	(13,442)	(105,879)
Total funds brought forward	634,019	448,498	2,216	1,084,733	1,190,612
Total funds carried forward	492,421	576,654	2,216	1,071,291	1,084,733



STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

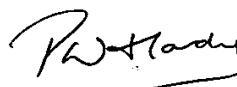
Balance Sheet as of 31st August 2024

		2024	2023
		£	£
Fixed assets	1490: Residential land	75,000	150,000
	1491: Manses	75,000	175,000
	1492: Other Buildings	275,000	275,000
	Total Fixed Assets	425,000	600,000
Current Assets	1501: CAF Bank	20,996	15,031
	1502: Central Finance Board	62,080	60,119
	1503:TMCP:Circuit Model Trust	523,877	403,721
	1504:CFBSt John's M&D Fund	34,404	32,691
	Z06: Prepayments	6,782	4,871
	Total Current Assets	648,139	516,433
Liabilities	Z07: Accounts examination	(1,680)	(1,680)
	Z08: Assessments in advance	(168)	(30,020)
	Total Liabilities	(1,848)	(31,700)
	Net Assets	1,071,291	1,084,733
Represented by:	General (Unrestricted) Fund	492,421	634,019
	Designated Funds	576,654	448,498
	Restricted Funds	2,216	2,216
	Total Funds	1,071,291	1,084,733

The notes 1 to 13 form part of these financial statements. The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 19 March 2025 and signed by:

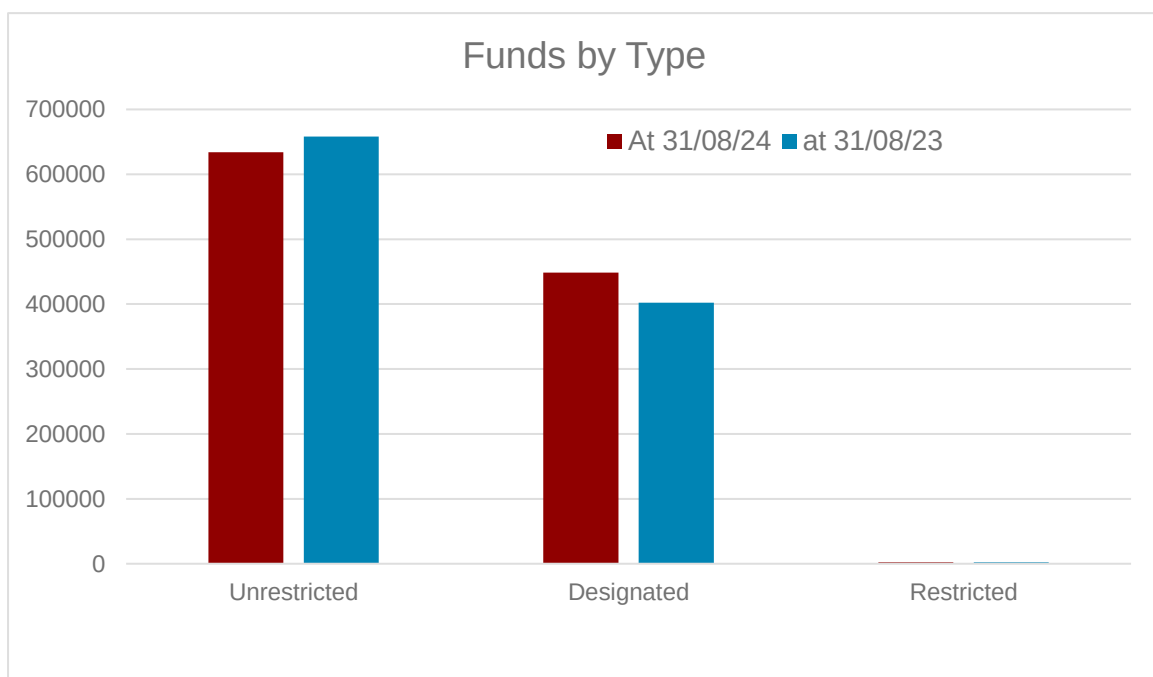
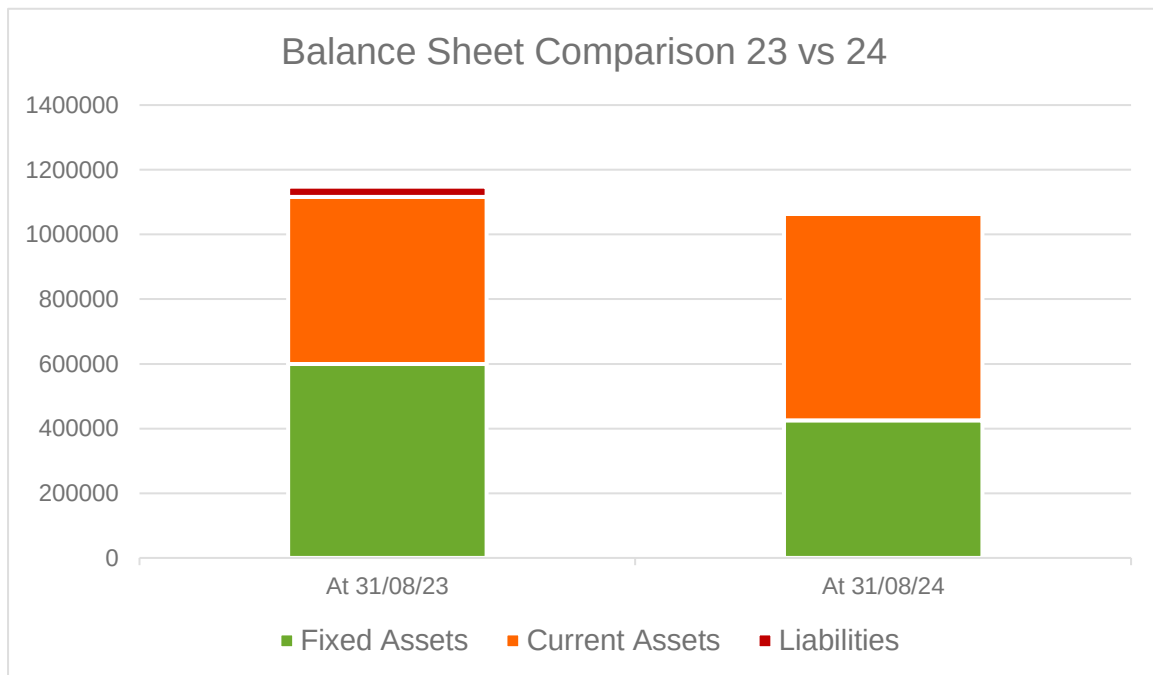


Rev. D.J. Bintliff - Trustee



Mr. P.W.Hardy - Trustee

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT



Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year ended 31st August 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £ Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements.

Consolidation

The Circuit has denominational regulatory oversight in respect of the work of the Churches within the Circuit but has no legal or operational control of those Churches and their governing bodies except in extreme circumstances. For this reason, the financial statements of Churches within the Circuit are not consolidated into these financial statements.

Income

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.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement to make a grant without performance conditions or as and when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment if it is subject to performance conditions. When the grant is recurrent over more than one year the balance payable in future years is treated as a provision for future commitments in the Balance Sheet against the appropriate fund, the provision being released in future years as instalments are paid in accordance with the originally agreed terms.

Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000. The freehold property is shown in the accounts at 2015 deemed values, of which the land component is deemed to be £75,000. No depreciation is provided on the buildings because the trustees consider the current residual value of the property in its present condition to be not less than its current value, and in the absence of any evidence of impairment, any depreciation provision would not be material.

Redundant Churches as Investment Properties

From time to time the Circuit may be required to assume responsibility for Church premises following closure and cessation for worship. This results in the Circuit becoming Managing Trustees for the

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

property. At that time the property is recognised as an asset at its anticipated net sale price as determined by a professional valuation. Any expenditure on such assets, if held for reinvestment of the proceeds, as the trustees determine, that is likely to enhance sales value is capitalised at the time the expenditure is incurred. Where the proceeds are intended to be spent on activities, the property is included in current assets at the lower of cost and realisable value.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

The Circuit is a member of the Connexional pension scheme (MMPS) which covers presbyters and deacons of the Methodist Church. The contribution rates are set each year by the Methodist Conference. The MMPS is a multi-employer scheme and in accordance with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission, the Circuit employees enrolled in a defined contribution pension scheme administered by The Pension Trust. Employer contributions are made into this scheme on behalf of employees who are members.

2. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2024	2024	2024	2024	2023
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Income and Endowments from :</i>					
<i>Donations and Legacies</i>					
1305- Donations		956		956	0
Income from Donations & legacies Totals	0	956	0	956	0
<i>Income from charitable activities</i>					
1301- Assessments	194,556			194,556	205,854
1309- Administration	644			644	783
Income from charitable activities Totals	195,200	0	0	195,200	206,637
<i>Investments</i>					
1308-Rent	1,776			1,776	2,256
1309-Interest & Investment	3,606			3,606	10,398
1307-Property Sale		58,468		58,468	0
Investment Totals	5,382	58,468	0	63,850	12,654

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Other income

1306-Other income	262			262	10,205
1312-Leaving Gifts	136			136	867
Other income Totals	398	0	0	398	11,072
Income and Endowments Total	200,980	59,424	0	260,404	230,363

Income codes are consistent with the previous year:

- 1301 Assessments - Contribution to Circuit costs donated by the churches in the Circuit
- 1305 Donations – donation made in the form of a legacy
- 1309 Administration – income from office activities e.g. photocopier charge to tenants
- 1308 Rent – Income from rent charged to tenants of Asbury House office space
- 1303 Interest & Investment – Interest from bank accounts & TMCP investments
- 1307 Property Sales – Profit on sale of The Manse at The Flashes, Gnosall
- 1312 Leaving Gifts – Gifts from churches & circuit for ministers & staff (see expenditure

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

3. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2024	2024	2024	2024	2023
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure on:					
1401- Methodist Stipends	161,267			161,267	155,317
1403-District Levy	0	21,529		21,529	3,976
1404-District Assessment	40,431			40,431	38,741
1402-URC Mission & Ministry	9,412			9,412	9,424
1412- Insurance	2,386	154		2,540	3,655
1413-Utilities	4,286	2,464		6,750	11,778
1414-Maintenance (Office)	4,710			4,710	5,674
1416-Property Management	0			0	72
1418-Property Surveys	1,080			1,080	1,062
1419 - Property Refurbishment					6,157
1428 Maintenance (manses)	4,001	180		4,181	2,495
1405-Administration	5,182			5,182	4,033
1423-Bank Charges	580	1,151		1,731	955
1406-Telephone & Broadband	2,955	148		3,103	3,398
1407-Travel Expenses	8,285			8,285	6,800
1424-Apprenticeship Levy	684			684	657
1410-Pastoral Work	155			155	243
1411 - Donations to Churches	677			677	23,866
1420-Training & Recruitment	100			100	233
1425-Accountancy	1,680			1,680	1,680
1426 - Leaving Gifts					900
1422-Pastoral Work Other	87			87	
1421 - Other expenditure	244	18		262	3,308
Expenditure on charitable activities Total	248,202	25,644	0	273,846	284,424

- 1401 Methodist Stipends – Showing the cost-of-living increase in line with average of CPI & AWEI.
- 1424 Apprenticeship Levy - Apprenticeship Levy is an amount paid to HMRC at a rate of 0.5% of an employer's annual pay bill.
- 1403 District Levy – a levy by the Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury Methodist District on interest earned from TMCP capital.
- 1404 District Assessment & URC Mission & Ministry – payments to District and URC Synod for governance & administrative oversight
- 1412 Insurance, 1413 Utilities and 1406 Telephone & Broadband – running costs for office, manses and redundant properties under the management of the Circuit. These have reduced in 23-24 due to the sale of the redundant churches.
- 1414 Maintenance (Office), 1416 Property Management & 1428 Maintenance (Manses) – relate to costs of maintaining the Circuit property portfolio

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

- 1418 Property Surveys – costs of Quinquennial Surveys and pre-sale Reports – these have reduced in 23-24 as most of the costs for the sale of properties were in previous years.
- 1407 Travel Expenses – reimbursement of expenses incurred by staff in carrying out their duties
- 1409 Youth Work and 1410 Pastoral Work – Costs for materials and consumables associated with these areas of ministry
- 1420 Training & Recruitment – direct costs associated with attracting and developing ministerial & staff in the Circuit

4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

Certain trustees are remunerated as employees of the Circuit. All payments to trustees are at normal market rates and are subject to review by independent members of the trustee body. Total remuneration paid to these trustees in their lay employment was £57,995 (2023: £56,875).

No expenses were paid to trustees in their capacity as trustees for the year ended 31 August 2024 (2023 £nil).

Trustee indemnity insurance was taken out for the year as part of the Circuit general insurance policy (premium costs for indemnity insurance are not identified within this general insurance policy).

5. STAFF COSTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Lay Employee Costs (excluding Presbyters)		
Wages and Salaries	75,710	71,795
National Insurance	4,640	4,475
Pension Costs	2,364	2,193
	82,714	78,463

The average monthly number of lay employees during the year was 6 (2023:5). No lay employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

The Presbyters stipends are not included within the Circuit staff costs, as they are not employees on the Circuit. The Circuit is merely responsible for the central administration and payment of the stipends on behalf of the churches. However, the Circuit paid on average 2(2023:2) presbyters as office holders and the costs were as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Stipends & Allowances	58,923	56,901
National Insurance	5,510	5,466
Pension	14,120	14,487
	78,553	76,854

The Presbyters of the Circuit are also provided with the use of a manse rent free and council tax and water rates in furtherance of their duties.

Key Management Personnel are considered to be the Superintendent of the Circuit, the other Presbyter and the remaining members of the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT). The Superintendent chairs meetings of the CLT and Circuit Meetings.

The remuneration and pensions of these people amounted to £133,109 (2023:£139,684)

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

6. FUNDS & MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	1.9.2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains & Losses	31.8.2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted:						
General	634,019	200,980	(248,202)	(94,376)	0	492,421
Designated:						
Church Support Fund	11,000					11,000
Circuit Youth Work Fund	770					770
CMT - Circuit Model Trust Fund	0					0
Mission Support Fund	10,000					10,000
Circuit Model Trust Fund	130,538	56,756	(21,976)	333,206		498,524
Superintendent's Discretionary Fund	1,000	956	(18)	18		1,956
Property Refurbishment Fund	10,640			9,360		20,000
St John's Mission & Development Fund	32,692	1,712				34,404
Redundant Property Fund	251,858		(3,650)	(248,208)		0
Total Designated	448,498	59,424	(25,644)	94,376	0	576,654
Restricted:						
Berkswich Children's Worker Fund	2,216	0	0	0	0	2,216
Total Funds	1,084,733	260,404	(273,846)	0	0	1,071,291

	1.9.2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains & Losses	31.8.2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted:						
General	721,946	210,593	(236,826)	(61,694)	0	634,019
Designated:						
Church Support Fund	0		(22,176)	33,176		11,000
Circuit Youth Work Fund	770					770
CMT - Circuit Model Trust Fund	(3,947)	7,580	(4,345)	712		0
Mission Support Fund	0		(3,000)	13,000		10,000
Circuit Model Trust Fund	133,470			(2,932)		130,538
Superintendent's Discretionary Fund	682		(200)	518		1,000

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Property Refurbishment Fund	447		(4,807)	15,000		10,640
St John's Mission & Development Fund	31,594	1,098				32,692
Redundant Property Fund	303,398	4,128	(6,070)	2,220	(51,818)	251,858
Total Designated	466,414	12,806	(40,598)	61,694	(51,818)	448,498

Restricted:

Berkswich Children's Worker Fund	2,252	6,964	(7,000)	0	0	2,216
Total Funds	1,190,612	230,363	(284,424)	0	(51,818)	1,084,733

Principal Funds

In addition to the Unrestricted General Fund, into and from which most of the financial transactions of the Circuit are made, the Circuit Meeting have determined certain designated and restricted funds for specific purposes.

Circuit Model Trust Fund (Designated)

Held and invested by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) and consists of income from churches. They have wide purposes, as defined by TMCP, and permission must be sought by the Circuit Meeting from TMCP to call upon money for specific building projects or to support the mission in general. It is managed by TMCP and contain net revenue from the sale of properties and the interest earned from the capital. The District Levy is made from this fund on the interest.

Redundant Property Fund (Designated)

This fund was set up for the purposes of tracking the income & expenditure related to the management and eventual sale of two church properties, namely Rowley St and Woodseaves Chapel. These projects are now complete, and the net assets from the sale are transferred to TMCP Circuit Model Trust Fund.

St. John's Mission & Development Fund (Designated)

This fund, set up with the Methodist share of the proceeds from the sale of St. John's Church building, has been designated for St. John's use in developing its future mission plans. The fund is monitored by the Circuit Meeting, to ensure that monies will be used, both for an approved purpose and within a reasonable timescale.

Property Refurbishment Fund (Designated)

Manse refurbishments are carried out at irregular intervals, usually to coincide with the change in Ministers and can, therefore, fluctuate considerably from year to year. The intention is that the fund will receive between £5-10,000 per year from general funds. A transfer of £9,360 was made from general funds in 23-24 thereby achieving a closing balance of £20,000 at 31 August 2024

Mission Support Fund (Designated)

The fund has the purpose of enabling and supporting mission initiatives within the Circuit. The aim is to set a principal that such mission projects already have money put aside within the Circuit budget and proposals will be received for approval by representatives of the Trustees.

Church Support Fund

The Church Support Fund is designed to be the vehicle by which the Circuit can respond to a need for financial support that is raised by any church when it is unable to meet these through its own resources. Such a request for a grant or loan may be made to meet challenges in cash flow,

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

unexpected expenditure or indeed, to allow the church time to respond to a significant risk to its sustainability.

Circuit Youth Work Fund (Designated)

To support Youth Work in the Circuit – has not been accessed in 23-24.

Superintendents Discretionary Fund (Designated)

The fund is for spend in cases of local individual need at the discretion of the Superintendent. The Circuit designated a £956 legacy received in 23-24 to this fund.

Children's Worker Fund (Restricted)

This fund, originally set up by a donation, closed in the year to 2021 as the Children's Worker was made redundant during the pandemic. The fund was to be restored this year to provide for the payroll services of a Schools' Worker, however, this project has now ceased, so the intention is for these remaining monies to be transferred to the Berkswich Church Community Worker Fund.

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Land £	Manse £	Other buildings £	Total £
Deemed Cost and carrying value				
As at 1.9.2023	150,000	175,000	275,000	600,000
Disposal	(75,000)	(100,000)		(175,000)
As at 31.8.2024	75,000	75,000	275,000	425,000

Analysed by Funds as follows:	Land £	Manse £	Other buildings £	Total £	2023 £
Unrestricted	75,000	75,000	275,000	425,000	600,000
Designated	0			0	0
Total	75,000	75,000	275,000	425,000	600,000

The properties include the Manse at Widecombe Avenue, Berkswich and Office at Asbury House, Rising Brook, Stafford. The Manse at The Flashes, Gnosall was disposed of during the year ended 31 August 2024. Prior to its disposal the Manse was transferred from the unrestricted general fund to designated funds.

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

8. CASH IN BANK AND IN HAND

	2024	2023
	£	£
1501: CAF Bank	20,996	15,031
1502: Central Finance Board	62,080	60,119
1503:TMCP:Circuit Model Trust	523,877	403,721
1504:CFBSt John's M&D Fund	34,404	32,691

Total Cash at Bank	641,357	511,562
---------------------------	----------------	----------------

The current asset values are all in bank accounts:

- 1501 CAF Bank – The current account used for general expenditure. The account balance is maintained by periodic transfers from CFB and TMCP accounts.
- 1502 Central Finance Board – this account receives the Church Assessments and is used to make the stipendiary payments and maintain balance of the CAF account.
- 1503 TMCP – the repository for capital realisations from property sales & source of interest on these investments
- 1504 CFB St Johns M&D Fund – managed by the Circuit on behalf of St Johns Church. No transactions made apart from interest earned & retained.

9. DEBTORS & CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£	£
Debtors:		
Z06:Prepayments	6,782	4,871

Creditors falling due within 1 Year

Z07: Accounts examination	(1,680)	(1,680)
Z08: Assessments in advance	(168)	(30,020)
	<u>(1,848)</u>	<u>(31,700)</u>

- Z06 Prepayments –September stipendiary payments made in advance of year end 31st August.
- Z07 Accounts Examination – Allowance of £1,680 for 23-24
- Z08 Assessments in advance – these are overpayments made by churches that are repayable and will be done so via offset against the 24-25 assessments.

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

10. COMPARATIVES FOR PREVIOUS YEAR 1ST SEPTEMBER '22 TO 31ST AUGUST '23

	2023 Unrestricted Funds £	2023 Designated Funds £	2023 Restricted Funds £	2023 Total Funds £	2022 Total Funds £
<i>Income and Endowments from :</i>					
<i>Income from charitable activities</i>					
Church Assessments	205,854			205,854	213,628
Office income	783			783	997
Investments	1,720	8,678		10,398	990
Rental income	1,776	480		2,256	3,931
Other income	460	3,648	6,964	11,072	2,352
Total income	210,593	12,806	6,964	230,363	221,898
<i>Expenditure on:</i>					
Stipends, salaries, NI and Pensions	148,353		6,964	155,317	141,996
District Assessment	38,741	3,976		42,717	38,873
URC Mission & Ministry	9,424			9,424	9,876
Property	18,674	6,062		24,736	33,369
Office expenses	6,255	377	36	6,668	7,947
Telephone & Travel Expenses	10,198			10,198	9,576
Apprenticeship levy	657			657	570
Mission & Ministry expenses	476			476	573
Other expenditure	4,048	30,183		34,231	26,212
Total expenditure	236,826	40,598	7,000	284,424	268,992
 Net (expenditure) resources before transfer	 (26,233)	 (27,792)	 (36)	 (54,061)	 (47,094)
<i>Transfers:</i>					
Gross transfers between funds - in		69,846		69,846	6,327
Gross transfers between funds - out	(61,694)	(8,152)		(69,846)	(6,327)
<i>Other recognised gains and losses:</i>					
Gains /losses on investment assets		(51,818)		(51,818)	0
Net movement in funds	(87,927)	(17,916)	(36)	(105,879)	(47,094)
Total funds brought forward	721,946	466,414	2,252	1,190,612	1,237,706
Total funds carried forward	634,019	448,498	2,216	1,084,733	1,190,612

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

11. NET ASSETS

The net assets of the Circuit may be analysed as follows:

	2024	2024	2024	2024
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	425,000			425,000
Debtors	6,782			6,782
Cash at bank	62,487	576,654	2,216	641,357
Creditors	(1,680)			(1,680)
Creditors -Assessments in advance	(168)			(168)
Total Net Assets	492,421	576,654	2,216	1,071,291

	2023	2023	2023	2023
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	600,000			600,000
Debtors	4,871			4,871
Cash at bank	60,848	448,498	2,216	511,562
Creditors	(1,680)			(1,680)
Creditors -Assessments in advance	(30,020)			(30,020)
Total Net Assets	634,019	448,498	2,216	1,084,733

12. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENT

As of 31 August 2024, the Circuit was committed to making the following payments under non-cancellable operating leases:

Operating Leases which expire:	2024	2023
	£	£
Within 1 year		
Within 1-2 years		
Within 2-5 years	590	590
More than 5 years		
Total	590	590

13. RELATED PARTIES

Transactions between the Circuit and its member churches

The Circuit received assessments of £194,556 (2023: £205,854) from the churches within the circuit.

The Circuit provided grants to churches in the circuit amounting to £677 (2023: £1,690) in support of technology improvements.

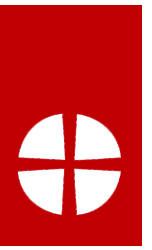
STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Transactions between the Circuit and the Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury District & Connexion

The Circuit paid the District £40,431 (2023: £38,741) in district assessments. They also paid them £102,598 (2023: £101,529) by way of levies on the net sale of properties and on the balance of monies held in the Circuit Investment Fund at the start of the financial year.

The Connexional assessment is collected by the District as part of the above District Assessment and in 2024 this was £36,755.

Accounts



Stafford Methodist Circuit

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2023

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 135822

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Contents of the Financial Statements for the Year ended 31st August 2023

Reference and Administrative Details	1-2
Report of the Trustees	3-11
Independent Examiners Report	12
Statement of Financial Activities	13
Balance Sheet	15
Notes to the Financial Statements	16-27

Reference and Administrative Details for the Year ended 31st August 2023

Principal Address	Circuit Office Asbury House Merrey Road Stafford ST17 9LX
Registered Charity Number	1135822
Independent Examiner	Stephen Hendy Data Developments (UK) Ltd First Floor, The Chubb Buildings Fryer Street Wolverhampton WV1 1HT
Investment Bankers	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church 9 Bonhill Street London EC2A 4PE The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes Central Buildings Oldham Street Manchester M1 1JQ

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Reference and Administrative Details for the Year ended 31st August 2023 cont.

The trustees as set out below have held office during the period 1st September 2022 to the date of this report, unless otherwise stated:

Ministers	Rev. D.J. Bintliff Rev. David Middleton (from 1/11/23)	Rev. J. Kaci (until 31/08/22)
Lay workers	Mrs C.A. Hamer Mrs I.J. Wakerell	Mrs L.B. Reade *
Circuit Stewards	Mr P.W. Hardy Mr D.A. Hemingway Dr P.C. Yates (until 19/03/24)	Mrs J. Harrison Mrs J.D. Wood (until 31/12/22) Mr K.B. Day (from 5/12/23)
Circuit Meeting Secretary	*Mrs L.B. Reade	
Local Preachers Representatives	Mr R.D. Johnson (from 12/09/22) Mr I. Mason (from 12/09/22) Mrs J.M. Timmis	
Circuit Representatives to District Synod	Mrs V.E. Bates Mrs M.E. Hemingway	Mr P.W. Hardy Dr S. McCready-Shea
Church Representatives by Church		
Barlaston	Mrs K.A. Ford	Mrs K. Bradburn (until 31/08/23)
Berkswich	Mrs L.M. Westoby Mr A. Lotinga (from 29/03/23)	Mr T.A.S. Goodchild
Bishops Offley	Mrs A. Hardy	Mrs J. Palin
Eccleshall	Mrs M. Embrey Mrs D.H. Kirkham	Mrs C.E. Harper
Gnosall	Mr W.D. Basford Mrs J. Jobling	Mr K.C. Davies
Milwich	Mrs E. Hodson (until 01/07/2023) Mr R.W. Knight (until 01/07/2023) Mr B. Barker (from 01/07/2023) Mrs J. L. Barker (from 01/07/2023)	
Rising Brook	Mr I.F. Baldwin Mrs S. Francis	Mrs I.M. Cantrill (until 13/10/22)
St. John's Stone	Mrs A.E. Dair Mr D.C. Stewart	Mr A.J.A. Lockett (until 22/8/23) Mrs B. Godridge (from 01/09/23)
Trinity Stafford	Miss L.H. Birch (until 31/12/22) Miss W.E. Harris (until 31/12/22) Mr T. Houghton (until 31/12/22) Mr. A.J. Lowe	
Weston	Mrs B. Gillespie	Mr. C. Gillespie

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Report of the Trustees for the Year ended 31st August 2023

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st August 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statements of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives & Aims

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 Circuit produces a bi-monthly preaching plan to ensure the regular acts of worship take place at each of the 7 Methodist Churches and 3 Local Ecumenical Partnerships in its geographical area. The Stafford Circuit is constituted to offer acts of worship in its church communities and to further the mission of the Church in Stafford and across the borough of Stafford. With our primary internal function being that of Christian worship, we aim to provide access to acts of worship in each of the 10 Circuit churches every Sunday.

Our internal structure is based on a Circuit Meeting which meets four times a year; a Local Preachers' meeting which meets around four times a year; Circuit Leadership Team meetings throughout the year, and Staff Meetings which meet monthly. We endeavour to make our meetings focus on the on-going development of the Circuit; they are the place where important decisions are made and within them, we plan our strategies and fulfil our role as Charity Trustees.

Public Benefit

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

Report of the Trustees for the Year ended 31st August 2023

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable Activities

2022/2023 has seen a period of reflection as we have moved from pandemic to post-pandemic practices. The ordained staff team remains the same numerically. However, the trust has expressed a desire for a new presbyter to come alongside the newly appointed Superintendent (lead) Presbyter. This means that our current second presbyter has been released back to the connexion for the 2023/2024 year and stationing practices have been undertaken to find a replacement. Within the standard practices of Methodist Stationing, the Circuit was unable to secure the ministry of a new presbyter; however, our New Superintendent, working with the District Chair of Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury district, alongside assistance from the connexional team, the willingness of a minister from the Baptist Union and agreement of the Baptist Union, have managed to secure 5 years of ministry from the Baptist Union from a Pastor, authorised to serve within the Stafford Circuit as a Presbyter from September 2023. While this will affect a staff change for us within next year's report, the administration and work to accomplish this must be seen as part of what the trust has achieved this year. Alongside the Circuit's ordained staffing, the Circuit continues to employ a core team of lay staff across the Circuit, our administrator and pastoral workers meet with our presbyters regularly to ensure the ministry of the Circuit is effective.

Before the pandemic, both Rowley Street and Woodseaves Methodist Churches had decided to close. We have been pursuing the possibility of selling both buildings. In 2022/2023, we achieved good sale prices on both of these buildings, recognising that some of the capital from these sales might be utilised for the upkeep or ministry and for projects within the aims of our Circuit's trust. Our thanks should be expressed to volunteers within the life of the trust who undertook much of the day-to-day aspects of the sales, working with solicitors approved by the wider Methodist Connexion and TMCP (the custodian trustees of these buildings). As the sales of these buildings did not include the purchase of capital like for like, a percentage of the overall sales was returned to the wider connexion for use in other projects within their sphere of influence.

This year has included grants for churches to be equipped to support online worship and the use of online materials within their fellowships, in the past twelve months the provision for face-to-face activity has greatly increased, back to levels close to that of pre-pandemic. 2022/2023 has seen us return, in the main, to weekly worship resourced within each of our churches. We continue to hold to the fact that Worship and Teaching are both necessary aspects of our life together as a charity, that through these, the wider aspects of our responsibilities and actions are honed and fashioned, these are often expressed through the nature of "Our Calling"

Our churches seek to embrace the breadth of 'Our Calling' whilst also recognising the challenges and difficulties. We are rooted in a number of different local communities, but our vision is much wider as we seek to serve the wider church and world in our work. Work in the community continues to be an important aspect of the circuit's mission. The return to using our buildings by various user groups has been slow, but has now begun to reach pre-pandemic use in some cases. However, this has not prevented the churches finding ways to reach out to their communities. Our youth workers continue to support the young people in a variety of ways.

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

When considering achievements and performance it is right to pay tribute to the many people throughout the circuit who in their daily lives respond to the call of Jesus "follow me" by offering pastoral care and/or practical help, and, to the team of Local Preachers' who enable services to take place Sunday by Sunday. We operate an open-door policy and welcome all to our church communities and wider work irrespective of race, gender, ethnicity, sexuality, or any kind of disability,

Report of the Trustees for the Year ended 31st August 2023

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

Income

Circuit income was down by some 3.7% compared with 2022. Income is drawn primarily from the assessments paid by the Circuit member churches, and during the year these totalled £205,854 [allowing for a year end adjustment of £30,020] (2022: £213,628). This reduction in assessments had been agreed as part of the budget for the year, which considered the fall in church incomes.

During the year, the Circuit also received General income from office rentals and interest on investments totalling £24,509 (2022: £8,271). Within this total was a significant increase of some £9,408 interest earned on the capital released from the property sales of Rowley Street and Woodseaves church buildings, which is shown in the income for Designated funds in the accounts of £12,806 (2022: £8,079).

Expenditure

The day to day total expenditure for the year at £284,424 was some £15,432 or 5.8% higher than the prior year (2022: £268,992). Under General Funds there was a budgeted increase in Stipends & Salary costs of £8,789 (vs 2022: £139,564) due, primarily, to increases in remuneration to adjust for the cost-of-living post pandemic.

There were some large, extraordinary items of expense which appear under Designated funds that benefit from explanation:

- a) a budgeted £22,176 redistribution of Circuit reserves under the Donations to Churches Fund which is the third and final instalment of the special grant, which reflected the churches loss in lettings and offertory due to the pandemic, the previous payments had been made in '21.
- b) a cost of £4,807 for refurbishment work done on Asbury House (Central Heating) and Widecombe Manse (Bathroom).
- c) a £3000 grant to support Berkswich Community Worker

There were small changes in the General cost areas under Expenditure on charitable activities, which include items such as District assessment, URC Mission & Ministry, Property & Office costs, Telephone & Travel expenses.

Net position and transfers.

Considering the expected realisation of income from sale of the property assets of Rowley St & Woodseaves and deciding to use some of these monies to maintain the level of Circuit Ministry, the Circuit Meeting approved a budget with a working deficit of £80,346 in the year ending August 2023 (2022: actual deficit £47,094).

In the event, the day to day working deficit was to £54,061, as shown in these accounts. However, the working budget did not allow for the £101,529 one-off Connexional Property Fund Levy on the sale proceeds from Rowley Street and Woodseaves. So, adjusting for this extraordinary cost, there was an overall deficit of £105,879, which was 32% higher than the budgeted deficit.

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Effect on Funds & Reserves

New Funds: Two new funds were agreed by Circuit Meeting in December 2022, namely the Donation to Churches Fund, with the initial value of £11,000 plus the £22,141 third grant instalment referred to above, and the Mission Fund with £10,000. Transfers have been made from the General Fund to start these.

Redundant Property Fund: The asset value of Rowley Street and Woodseaves were brought into the Circuit accounts in 2020-21 set at £325,000. The combined sales value achieved was £373,824, which equated to a £48,824 gain in the Redundant Property Fund, before the CPF Levy. Over the three years, there was a £9,911 income, mainly from rent but this was offset by some £30,916 of costs related to insurance, utilities, property surveys, maintenance and bank charges. The £101,529 CPF Levy referred to above, resulted in a net realised value to the Circuit of £251,290 which was £3,992 higher than the forecast made in preparing the 22-23 budget.

Property Refurbishment Fund: After being run down, this designated fund has been topped up with £15,000 from the General Fund after a gap of three years.

With all the above, as at 31st August 2023, Total funds reduced by £105,879 to £1,084, 733 (2022: £1,190,608). Of this:

- The restricted fund (Berkswich CWF) stands at £2,216.
- Funds designated for specific purposes, namely Circuit Model Trust, Churches Fund, Mission Fund, Property Refurbishment, St. Johns Mission, Superintendents Discretionary and Circuit Youth Fund stand with a total at £196,640.
- The unrestricted General Funds stands at £634,019 (2022: £721,946), but, this includes Land & Buildings (with a fixed asset value of £600,000), so the current asset value has been depleted to £34,019.
- The Redundant Property Fund, £251,858 has now served its purpose and its value is now part of the TMCP Circuit Model Trust account. With agreement from TMCP, a transfer should be available for general purposes to support on-going ministry & mission.

The current 3-year budget, 21-25, involves an annual draw-down from TMCP of £90,000 to balance the budget, which means the general unrestricted funds could be regarded as being £94,632 (being the current asset unrestricted general funds plus this annual draw-down).

General Reserves Policy

It is the Trustees policy to maintain a balance of unrestricted and undesignated funds equivalent to between three and four months average unrestricted expenditure, to cover unexpected requirement which may occur from time to time, this equates to between £65,000 and £85,000.

In addition, the Circuit Reserves Policy is to maintain accessible funds of between £50,000 and £75,000 to enable the Circuit to assist its churches with appropriate grants and loans.

With the above two provisions, the General Reserve Policy equates to a minimum of £115,000 and a maximum of £160,000.

The funds which form part of the General Reserves, with their respective balances, on 31st August '23 include: Unrestricted - General (current assets) £34,019, and Designated - Church Support Fund £11,000, Mission Support Fund £10,000, Property Refurbishment Fund £10,640, Superintendents Discretionary Fund £1000 and Circuit Youth Work Fund £770, which add to a total General Reserve of £67,430.

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

The General Reserves were therefore below the minimum of this scale at the year end, necessitating the budgeted £90,000 draw-down from TMCP Circuit Model Trust Fund to bring the Reserve back up to £157,430

Principal Funds

In addition to the Unrestricted General Fund, into and from which most of the financial transactions of the Circuit are made, the Circuit Meeting have determined certain designated and restricted funds for specific purposes.

Circuit Model Trust Fund (Designated)

Held and invested by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) and consists of income from churches. They have wide purposes, as defined by TMCP, and permission must be sought by the Circuit Meeting from TMCP to call upon money for specific building projects or to support the mission in general.

Redundant Property Fund (Designated)

This fund was set up for the purposes of tracking the income & expenditure related to the management and eventual sale of two church properties, namely Rowley St and Woodseaves Chapel. These projects are now complete, and the net assets from the sale are transferred to TMCP Circuit Model Trust Fund.

St. John's Mission & Development Fund (Designated)

This fund, set up with the Methodist share of the proceeds from the sale of St. John's Church building, has been designated for St. John's use in developing its future mission plans. The fund is monitored by the Circuit Meeting, to ensure that monies will be used, both for an approved purpose and within a reasonable timescale.

Property Refurbishment Fund (Designated)

Manse refurbishments are carried out at irregular intervals, usually to coincide with the change in Ministers and can, therefore, fluctuate considerably from year to year. Whilst this fund has been part of the Circuit fund portfolio for several years, but had not received transfers in for two years, so it was largely used up with refurbishment prior to the arrival of the current Superintendent in 21-22. As the intention is that the fund will receive between £5000 and 8000 per year from general funds, the decision was made to recover the previous three year's transfers (£15,000) before the year end, some £4,807 of this was used in 22-23 thereby leaving a closing balance of £10,640.

Mission Support Fund (Designated)

One of the new funds set up from general funds during the year, is for the purpose of enabling and supporting mission initiatives within the Circuit. The aim is to set a principal that such mission projects already have money put aside within the Circuit budget (originally set at a level of £10,000), and proposals will be received for approval by representatives of the Trustees. This fund has provided a grant of £3,000 to one church in 22-23, and the fund has been restored to £10,000 in preparation for 23-24.

Church Support Fund

Introduced alongside the Mission Support Fund, the Church Support Fund is designed to be the vehicle by which the Circuit can respond to a need for financial support that is raised by any church when it is unable to meet these through its own resources. Such a request for a grant or loan may be made to meet challenges in cash flow, unexpected expenditure or

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

indeed, to allow the church time to respond to a significant risk to its sustainability. Whilst the fund was not in place to make the first & second grants in response to the pandemic, the fund has been used as the vehicle to make the final grant of £22,176 and this has been replaced and made up to an opening balance of £11,000 for 23-24.

Other Funds

Circuit Youth Work Fund (Designated)

To support Youth Work in the Circuit – has not been accessed in 22-23.

Superintendents Discretionary Fund (Designated)

The fund is for spend in cases of local individual need at the discretion of the Superintendent. The fund has been used for a £200 donation and the annual opening balance is designed at and restored to £1,000 for 23-24 by transfer from general fund.

Childrens Worker Fund (Restricted)

This fund, originally set up by a donation, closed in the year to 2021 as the Childrens Worker was made redundant during the pandemic. The fund was potentially to be restored this year to provide for the payroll services of a Schools Worker, however, this project has now ceased, so the intention is for these remaining monies to be transferred to Berkswich Church.

Report of the Trustees for the Year ended 31st August 2023

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

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).

Induction and training of new trustees

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

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).

Related Parties

The Circuit is part of the Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The following Methodist Churches/LEPs are linked to the circuit: Barlaston, Berkswich, Bishops Offley, Eccleshall, Gnosall, Milwich (LEP), Rising Brook, St. John's-Stone (LEP), Trinity (LEP), Weston.

Risk Management

The major risks associated with the Circuit have been identified by the Circuit Leadership Team. A regular review process is in place and will be recorded.

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. Amongst 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.

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

- 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 Stafford Methodist 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 Stafford Methodist 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.

REPORT APPROVAL

Approved by order of the Board of Trustees on May 1st 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



.....

Rev. D.J. Bintliff - Trustee

**Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of the Stafford Methodist Circuit -
Charity number 135822 ("the Circuit")**

I report to the Circuit trustees on my examination of the accounts for the Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2023 which are set out on pages 13 to 27.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Circuit, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Circuit's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- Accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act: or.
- The accounts do not accord with the accounting records.
- The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair" view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.
- The trustee's annual report is not consistent with the accounts

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



Stephen Hendy
Data Developments (UK) Limited
1st Floor The Chubb Buildings
Fryer Street
Wolverhampton
West Midlands
WV1 1HT

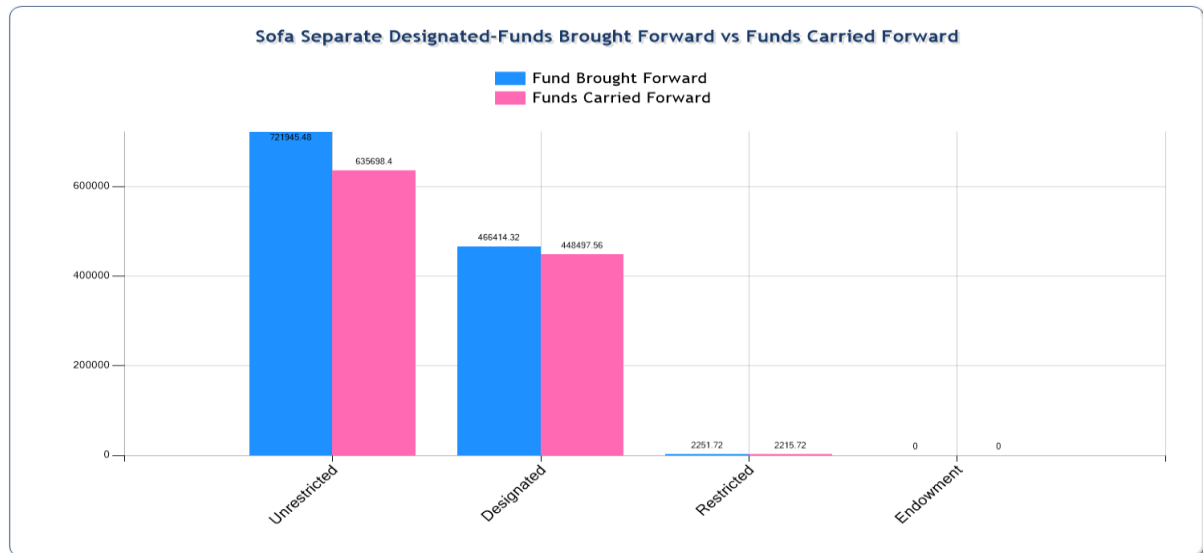
Date: 26th June 2024

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended 31st August 2023

	2023	2023	2023	2023	2022
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from :					
<i>Income from charitable activities</i>					
Church Assessments	205,854			205,854	213,628
Office income	783			783	997
Investments	1,720	8,678		10,398	990
Rental income	1,776	480		2,256	3,931
Other income	460	3,648	6,964	11,072	2,352
Total income	210,593	12,806	6,964	230,363	221,898
Expenditure on:					
Stipends, salaries, NI and Pensions	148,353		6,964	155,317	141,996
District Assessment	38,741	3,976		42,717	38,873
URC Mission & Ministry	9,424			9,424	9,876
Property	18,674	6,062		24,736	33,369
Office expenses	6,255	377	36	6,668	7,947
Telephone & Travel Expenses	10,198			10,198	9,576
Apprenticeship levy	657			657	570
Mission & Ministry expenses	476			476	573
Other expenditure	4,048	30,183		34,231	26,212
Total expenditure	236,826	40,598	7,000	284,424	268,992
Net (expenditure) resources before transfer	(26,233)	(27,792)	(36)	(54,061)	(47,094)
Transfers:					
Gross transfers between funds - in		69,846		69,846	6,327
Gross transfers between funds - out	(61,694)	(8,152)		(69,846)	(6,327)
Other recognised gains and losses:					
Gains /losses on investment assets		(51,818)		(51,818)	0
Net movement in funds	(87,927)	(17,916)	(36)	(105,879)	(47,094)
Total funds brought forward	721,946	466,414	2,252	1,190,612	1,237,706
Total funds carried forward	634,019	448,498	2,216	1,084,733	1,190,612

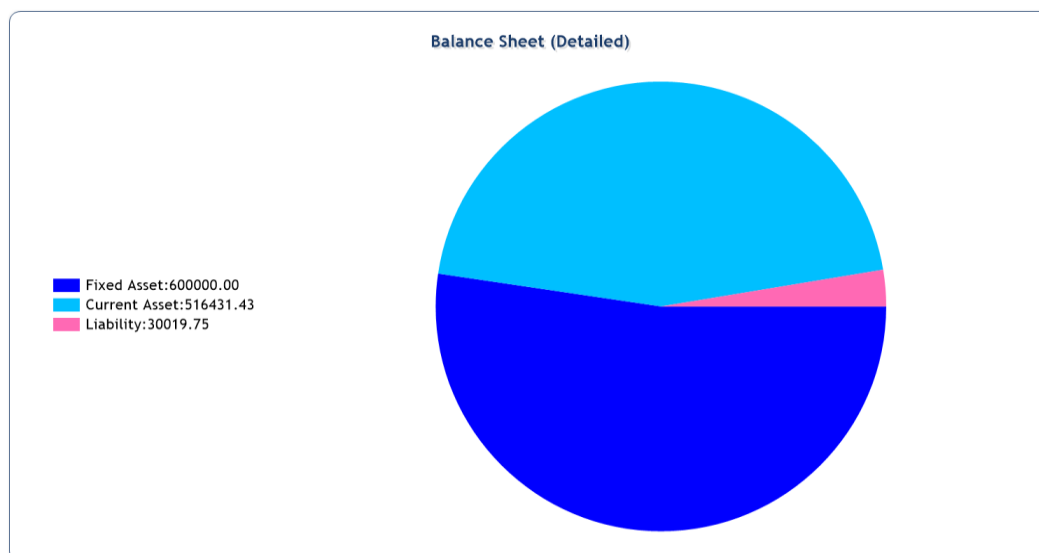
STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT



STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Balance Sheet as of 31st August 2023

		2023	Restated 2022
		£	£
Fixed assets	1490: Residential land	150,000	150,000
	1491: Manses	175,000	175,000
	1492: Other Buildings	275,000	600,000
	Total Fixed Assets	600,000	925,000
Current Assets	1501: CAF Bank	15,031	45,990
	1502: Central Finance Board	60,119	59,845
	1503:TMCP:Circuit Model Trust	403,721	129,524
	1504:CFBSt John's M&D Fund	32,691	31,594
	1505: HSBC Community Account		25,634
	1506:HSBC Business Money Manager		141
	1509: Lloyds		832
	Z06: Prepayments	4,871	7,894
	Total Current Assets	516,433	301,454
Liabilities	Z04: Accounts Payable		(200)
	Z07: Accounts examination	(1,680)	(2,400)
	Z08: Assessments in advance	(30,020)	(33,242)
	Total Liabilities	(31,700)	(35,842)
	Net Assets	1,084,733	1,190,612
Represented by:			
	General (Unrestricted) Fund	634,019	721,946
	Designated Funds	448,498	466,414
	Restricted Funds	2,216	2,252
	Total Funds	1,084,733	1,190,612



Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year ended 31st August 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £ Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements.

Consolidation

The Circuit has denominational regulatory oversight in respect of the work of the Churches within the Circuit but has no legal or operational control of those Churches and their governing bodies except in extreme circumstances. For this reason, the financial statements of Churches within the Circuit are not consolidated into these financial statements.

Income

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.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of obligation can be

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement to make a grant without performance conditions or as and when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment if it is subject to performance conditions. When the grant is recurrent over more than one year the balance payable in future years is treated as a provision for future commitments in the Balance Sheet against the appropriate fund, the provision being released in future years as instalments are paid in accordance with the originally agreed terms.

Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000. The freehold property is shown in the accounts at 2015 deemed values, of which the land component is deemed to be £150,000. No depreciation is provided on the buildings because the trustees consider the current residual value of the property in its present condition to be not less than its current value, and in the absence of any evidence of impairment, any depreciation provision would not be material.

Redundant Churches as Investment Properties

From time to time the Circuit may be required to assume responsibility for Church premises following closure and cessation for worship. This results in the Circuit becoming Managing Trustees for the property. At that time the property is recognised as an asset at its anticipated net sale price as determined by a professional valuation. Any expenditure on such assets, if held for reinvestment of the proceeds, as the trustees determine, that is likely to enhance sales value is capitalised at the time the expenditure is incurred. Where the proceeds are intended to be spent on activities, the property is included in current assets at the lower of cost and realisable value.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

The Circuit is a member of the Connexional pension scheme (MMPS) which covers presbyters and deacons of the Methodist Church. The contribution rates are set each year by the Methodist Conference. The MMPS is a multi-employer scheme and in accordance with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission, the Circuit employees enrolled in a

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

defined contribution pension scheme administered by The Pension Trust. Employer contributions are made into this scheme on behalf of employees who are members.

2. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2023	2023	2023	2023	2022
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Income and Endowments from :</i>					
<i>Income from charitable activities</i>					
1301- Assessments	205,854			205,854	213,628
1309- Administration	783			783	997
Income from charitable activities Total	206,637	0	0	206,637	214,625
Investments					
1308-Rent	1,776	480		2,256	3,931
1309-Interest & Investment	1,720	8,678		10,398	990
Investment Totals	3,496	9,158	0	12,654	4,921
Other income					
1306-Other income	(407)	3,648	6,964	10,205	1,202
1312-Leaving Gifts	867			867	1,150
Other income Totals	460	3,648	6,964	11,072	2,352
Income and Endowments Total	210,593	12,806	6,964	230,363	221,898

Income codes are consistent with the previous year:

- 1301 Assessments - Contribution to Circuit costs donated by the churches in the Circuit
- 1309 Administration – income from office activities e.g. photocopier charge to tenants
- 1308 Rent – Income from rent charged to tenants of Asbury House office space
- 1303 Interest & Investment – Interest from bank accounts & TMCP investments
- 1306 Other income – primarily refunds from suppliers & utility companies associated with management of redundant property. Also transfer of costs from one church to cover the salary of the Schools worker
- 1312 Leaving Gifts – Gifts from churches & circuit for ministers & staff (see expenditure

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

3. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2023	2023	2023	2023	2022
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure on:					
1401- Methodist Stipends	148,353		6,964	155,317	141,996
1403-District Levy		3,976		3,976	
1404-District Assessment	38,741			38,741	38,873
1402-URC Mission & Ministry	9,424			9,424	9,876
1412- Insurance	1,946	1,709		3,655	3,823
1413-Utilities	8,342	3,436		11,778	15,366
1414-Maintenance (Office)	4,757	917		5,674	7,421
1416-Property Management	72			72	123
1418-Property Surveys	1,062			1,062	6,636
1428 Maintenance (manses)	2,495			2,495	
1405-Administration	3,989	8	36	4,033	7,767
1423-Bank Charges	586	369		955	180
1406-Telephone & Broadband	3,398			3,398	3,879
1407-Travel Expenses	6,800			6,800	5,697
1424-Apprenticeship Levy	657			657	570
1409-Youth Work				0	212
1410-Pastoral Work	243			243	124
1420-Training & Recruitment	233			233	237
1425-Accountancy	1,680			1,680	
Expenditure on charitable activities Total	232,778	10,415	7,000	250,193	242,780

- 1401 Methodist Stipends – Showing the cost-of-living increase in line with average of CPI & AWEI. The restricted fund value is that of salary paid to Community Schools Worker and matches the income for the same purpose shown under 1306 Other Income above.
- 1424 Apprenticeship Levy - Apprenticeship Levy is an amount paid to HMRC at a rate of 0.5% of an employer's annual pay bill.
- 1403 District Levy – a levy by the Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury Methodist District on interest earned from TMCP capital.
- 1404 District Assessment & URC Mission & Ministry – payments to District and URC Synod for governance & administrative oversight
- 1412 Insurance, 1413 Utilities and 1406 Telephone & Broadband – running costs for office, manses and redundant properties under the management of the Circuit. These have reduced in 22-23 due to the sale of the redundant churches.
- 1414 Maintenance (Office), 1416 Property Management & 1428 Maintenance (Manses) – relate to costs of maintaining the Circuit property portfolio

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

- 1418 Property Surveys – costs of Quinquennial Surveys and pre-sale Reports – these have reduced in 22-23 as most of the costs for the sale of properties were in previous years.
- 1407 Travel Expenses – reimbursement of expenses incurred by staff in carrying out their duties
- 1409 Youth Work and 1410 Pastoral Work – Costs for materials and consumables associated with these areas of ministry
- 1420 Training & Recruitment – direct costs associated with attracting and developing ministerial & staff in the Circuit

4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

Certain trustees are remunerated as employees of the Circuit. All payments to trustees are at normal market rates and are subject to review by independent members of the trustee body. Total remuneration paid to these trustees in their lay employment was £62,830 (2022: £56,875)

No expenses were paid to trustees in their capacity as trustees for the year ended 31 August 2023 (2022: £nil).

Trustee indemnity insurance was taken out for the year as part of the Circuit general insurance policy (premium costs for indemnity insurance are not identified within this general insurance policy).

5. STAFF COSTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Lay Employee Costs (excluding Presbyters)		
Wages and Salaries	71,795	59,262
National Insurance	4,475	3,529
Pension Costs	2,193	2,099
	<u>78,463</u>	<u>64,890</u>

The average monthly number of lay employees during the year was 5 (2022: 5).No lay employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

The Presbyters stipends are not included within the Circuit's staff costs, as they are not employees of the Circuit. The Circuit is merely responsible for the central administration and payment of the stipends on behalf of the churches. However, the Circuit paid on average 2 (2022: 2) presbyters as office holders and the costs were as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Stipends & Allowances	56,901	54,766
National Insurance	5,466	5,278
Pension	14,487	13,943
	<u>76,854</u>	<u>73,986</u>

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

The Presbyters of the Circuit are also provided with the use of a manse rent free and council tax and water rates in furtherance of their duties.

Key Management Personnel are considered to be the Superintendent of the Circuit, the other Presbyter and the remaining members of the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT). The Superintendent chairs meetings of the CLT and Circuit Meetings.

The Remuneration and pensions for these people amounted to £139,684 (2022: £130,861).

6. FUNDS & MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	1.9.2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains & Losses	31.8.2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted:						
General	721,946	210,593	(236,826)	(61,694)	0	634,019
Designated:						
Church Support Fund	0		(22,176)	33,176		11,000
Circuit Youth Work Fund	770					770
CMT - Circuit Model Trust Fund	(3,947)	7,580	(4,345)	712		0
Mission Support Fund	0		(3,000)	13,000		10,000
Circuit Model Trust Fund	133,470			(2,932)		130,538
Superintendent's Discretionary Fund	682		(200)	518		1,000
Property Refurbishment Fund	447		(4,807)	15,000		10,640
St John's Mission & Development Fund	31,594	1,098				32,692
Redundant Property Fund	303,398	4,128	(6,070)	2,220	(51,818)	251,858
Total Designated	466,414	12,806	(40,598)	61,694	(51,818)	448,498
Restricted:						
Berkswich Children's Worker Fund	2,252	6,964	(7,000)	0	0	2,216
Total Funds	1,190,612	230,363	(284,424)	0	(51,818)	1,084,733

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

	1.9.2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains & Losses	31.8.2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted:						
General	734,616	219,360	(232,030)		0	721,946
Designated:						
Church Support Fund	0					0
Circuit Youth Work Fund	982		(212)			770
CMT - Circuit Model Trust Fund	0	607	(4,554)			(3,947)
Mission Support Fund	0					0
Circuit Model Trust Fund	133,470					133,470
Superintendent's Discretionary Fund	742		(60)			682
Property Refurbishment Fund	15,000	761	(15,314)			447
St John's Mission & Development Fund	31,462	132				31,594
Redundant Property Fund	316,650	1,038	(14,290)			303,398
Total Designated	498,306	2,538	(34,430)	0	0	466,414
Restricted:						
Berkswich Children's Worker Fund	4,784		(2,532)	0	0	2,252
Total Funds	1,237,706	221,898	(268,992)	0	0	1,190,612

Principal Funds

In addition to the Unrestricted General Fund, into and from which most of the financial transactions of the Circuit are made, the Circuit Meeting have determined certain designated and restricted funds for specific purposes.

Circuit Model Trust Fund (Designated)

Held and invested by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) and consists of income from churches. They have wide purposes, as defined by TMCP, and permission must be sought by the Circuit Meeting from TMCP to call upon money for specific building projects or to support the mission in general. Circuit Model Trust & Circuit Model Trust Fund – these two funds were consolidated in 22-23. They are managed by TMCP and contain net revenue from the sale of properties and the interest earned from the capital. The District Levy is made from this fund on the interest.

Redundant Property Fund (Designated)

This fund was set up for the purposes of tracking the income & expenditure related to the management and eventual sale of two church properties, namely Rowley St and Woodseaves Chapel. These projects are now complete, and the net assets from the sale are transferred to TMCP Circuit Model Trust Fund.

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

St. John's Mission & Development Fund (Designated)

This fund, set up with the Methodist share of the proceeds from the sale of St. John's Church building, has been designated for St. John's use in developing its future mission plans. The fund is monitored by the Circuit Meeting, to ensure that monies will be used, both for an approved purpose and within a reasonable timescale.

Property Refurbishment Fund (Designated)

Manse refurbishments are carried out at irregular intervals, usually to coincide with the change in Ministers and can, therefore, fluctuate considerably from year to year. Whilst this fund has been part of the Circuit fund portfolio for several years, but had not received transfers in for two years, so it was largely used up with refurbishment prior to the arrival of the current Superintendent in 21-22. As the intention is that the fund will receive between £5-8000 per year from general funds, the decision was made to recover the lost three year's transfers (£15,000) before the year end, some £4,807 of this was used in 22-23 thereby leaving a closing balance of £10,640.

Mission Support Fund (Designated)

One of the new funds set up from general funds during the year, is for the purpose of enabling and supporting mission initiatives within the Circuit. The aim is to set a principal that such mission projects already have money put aside within the Circuit budget (originally set at a level of £10,000), and proposals will be received for approval by representatives of the Trustees. This fund has provided a grant of £3000 to one church in 22-23, and the fund has been restored to £10,000 in preparation for 23-24.

Church Support Fund

Introduced alongside the Mission Support Fund, the Church Support Fund is designed to be the vehicle by which the Circuit can respond to a need for financial support that is raised by any church when it is unable to meet these through its own resources. Such a request for a grant or loan may be made to meet challenges in cash flow, unexpected expenditure or indeed, to allow the church time to respond to a significant risk to its sustainability. Whilst the fund was not in place to make the first & second grants in response to the pandemic, the fund has been used as the vehicle to make the final grant of £22,176 and this has been replaced and made up to an opening balance of £11,000 for 23-24.

Circuit Youth Work Fund (Designated)

To support Youth Work in the Circuit – has not been accessed in 22-23.

Superintendents Discretionary Fund (Designated)

The fund is for spend in cases of local individual need at the discretion of the Superintendent. The fund has been used for a £200 donation and the annual opening balance is designed at and restored (by transfer from general fund) to £1,000 for 23-24,

Children's Worker Fund (Restricted)

This fund, originally set up by a donation, closed in the year to 2021 as the Children's Worker was made redundant during the pandemic. The fund was potentially to be restored this year to provide for the payroll services of a Schools' Worker, however, this project has now ceased, so the intention is for these remaining monies to be transferred to Berkswich Church.

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Land £	Manse £	Other buildings £	Total £
Deemed Cost and carrying value				
As at 1.9.2022	150,000	175,000	600,000	925,000
Transfer to investment properties			(325,000)	(325,000)
As at 31.8.2023	150,000	175,000	275,000	600,000

Analysed by Funds as follows:	Land £	Manse £	Other buildings £	Total £	2022 £
Unrestricted	150,000	175,000	275,000	600,000	600,000
Designated	0			0	325,000
Total	150,000	175,000	275,000	600,000	925,000

The properties include the Manse at Widecombe Avenue, Berkswich, Manse at The Flashes Gnosnall and Office at Asbury House, Rising Brook, Stafford

8. REDUNDANT CHURCHES INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	Redundant Churches £
Designated Fund:	£
As at 1.9.2022	0
Transfer from Fixed Assets	325,000
Disposal	(325,000)
As at 31.8.2023	0

The Redundant Churches being Rowley Street Church and Woodseaves Chapel were sold during the year. They achieved a value of £373,824 – resulting in a £48,824 gain before CPF levy costs paid of £101,529. The net value has been transferred to TMCP Circuit Model Trust bank account.

9. CASH IN BANK AND IN HAND

	2023 £	Restated 2022 £
1501: CAF Bank	15,031	45,990
1502: Central Finance Board	60,119	59,845
1503:TMCP:Circuit Model Trust	403,721	129,524
1504:CFBSt John's M&D Fund	32,691	31,594
1505: HSBC Community Account		25,634
1506:HSBC Business Money Manager		141
1509: Lloyds		832
Total Cash at Bank	511,562	293,560

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

- 1501 CAF Bank – The current account used for general expenditure. The account balance is maintained by periodic transfers from CFB and TMCP accounts.
- 1502 Central Finance Board – this account receives the Church Assessments and is used to make the stipendiary payments and maintain balance of the CAF account.
- 1503 TMCP – the repository for capital realisations from property sales & source of interest on these investments
- 1504 CFB St Johns M&D Fund – managed by the Circuit on behalf of St Johns Church. No transactions made apart from interest earned & retained.
- 1508 Natwest – Previously used as the Circuit Youth account, balance has been transferred to CAF and closed, as this is managed as a separate fund

10. DEBTORS & CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Restated	
	2023	2022
	£	£
Debtors:		
Z06:Prepayments	<u>4,871</u>	<u>7,894</u>
Creditors falling due within 1 Year		
Z04: Accounts Payable		(200)
Z07: Accounts examination	(1,680)	(2,400)
Z08: Assessments in advance	<u>(30,020)</u>	<u>(33,242)</u>
	<u>(31,700)</u>	<u>(35,842)</u>

- Z06 Prepayments – allocation of insurance paid yearly, and September stipendiary payments made in advance of year end 31st August.
- Z04 Accounts Payable – has previously included staff expenses claims received but not paid. No entries for 22-23.
- Z07 Accounts Examination – provision for year end accounts independent examination
- Z08 Assessments in advance – these are September 23 (next financial year) assessments from churches that have been received by August '23.

11. RESTATEMENT OF 2022 COMPARATIVES

In the reported accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022, there was a mis-analysis between the cash balances and creditors within 1 year of £19,500. The cash balances as at 31 August 2022 were £293,560 not the reported £313,058 and there was not a bank overdraft of £19,500 in place. The year ended 31 August 2022 comparatives have been restated for this correction. The effected note numbers are Note 9 (Cash), Note 10 (Debtors and Creditors) and Note 13 (Net Assets by Fund).

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

12. COMPARATIVES FOR PREVIOUS YEAR 1ST SEPTEMBER '21 TO 31ST AUGUST '22

Stafford Methodist Circuit Sofa Separate Designated For the period from 01 September 2021 to 31 August 2022				
	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
Income and endowments from:				
Income from charitable activities	-	-	-	-
Church Assessments	213,628	-	-	213,628
Office Income	997	-	-	997
Investments	232	758	-	990
Rental Income	3,118	813	-	3,931
Other income	1,386	967	-	2,353
Total income	219,360	2,538	-	221,898
Expenditure on:				
Expenditure on charitable activities	-	-	-	-
Stipends, Salaries, NI and Pensions	139,564	-	2,433	141,996
District Assessment	38,873	-	-	38,873
URC Mission and Ministry	9,876	-	-	9,876
Property	18,895	14,474	-	33,369
Office Expenses	7,908	39	-	7,947
Telephone and Travel Expenses	9,576	-	-	9,576
Apprenticeship Levy	570	-	-	570
Mission & Ministry Expenses	361	212	-	573
Other expenditure	6,409	19,703	100	26,212
Total expenditure	232,031	34,429	2,533	268,993
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(12,670)	(31,891)	(2,533)	(47,094)
Transfers:				
Gross transfers between funds - in	-	-	-	-
Gross transfers between funds - out	-	-	-	-
Other recognised gains / losses				
Gains/losses on investment assets	-	-	-	-
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	(12,670)	(31,891)	(2,533)	(47,094)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	734,616	498,306	4,784	1,237,706
Total funds carried forward	721,945	466,414	2,252	1,190,612

13. NET ASSETS

The net assets of the Circuit may be analysed as follows:

	2023	2023	2023	2023
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	600,000			600,000
Debtors	4,871			4,871
Cash at bank	60,848	448,498	2,216	511,562
Creditors	(1,680)			(1,680)
Creditors -Assessments in advance	(30,020)			(30,020)
Total Net Assets	634,019	448,498	2,216	1,084,733

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

	Restated 2022	Restated 2022	2022	2022
	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	600,000	325,000		925,000
Debtors	7,894			7,894
Cash at bank	149,894	141,414	2,252	293,560
Creditors	(2,600)			(2,600)
Creditors -Assessments in advance	(33,242)			(33,242)
Total Net Assets	721,946	466,414	2,252	1,190,612

14. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENT

As at 31 August 2023, the Circuit was committed to making the following payments under non-cancellable operating leases:

Operating Leases which expire:	2023	2022
	£	£
Within 1 year		648
Within 1-2 years		
Within 2-5 years	590	
More than 5 years		
Total	590	648

This relates to the Circuit office photocopier.

15. RELATED PARTIES

Transactions between the Circuit and its member churches

The Circuit received assessments of £ 205,854 (2022: £213,628) from the churches within the circuit.

The Circuit provided grants to churches in the circuit amounting to £1,690 (2022: £nil) in support of technology improvements and £21,866 (2022: £nil) to support churches with the impact of reduced lettings and offertory due to the pandemic.

Transactions between the Circuit and the Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury District & Connexion

The Circuit paid the District £ 38,741 (2022:£38,873) in district assessments. They also paid them £101,529 (2022: nil) by way of levies on the net sale of properties and on the balance of monies held in the Circuit Model Trust Fund at the start of the financial year.

The Connexional assessment is collected by the District as part of the above District Assessment and in 2023 this was £35,131.

Accounts

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022
FOR
STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Crombies Accountants Limited
Chartered Accountants
34 Waterloo Road
Wolverhampton
West Midlands
WV1 4DG

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	Page
Reference and Administrative Details	1 to 2
Report of the Trustees	3 to 7
Independent Examiner's Report	8
Statement of Financial Activities	9
Balance Sheet	10
Notes to the Financial Statements	11 to 19
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	20

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

MINISTERS

Rev. P M Salter

Rev. J Kaci

LAYWORKERS

Mrs C A Hamer

Mrs I J Wakerell

CIRCUIT STEWARDS

Dr P C Yates

Mr P W Hardy

Mrs J D Wood

Mrs J Harrison

Mr D A Hemingway

CIRCUIT MEETING SECRETARY

Mrs L B Reade

LOCAL PREACHERS REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs G F Ashmore

Mrs M E Winnington

Mrs J M Timmis

CIRCUIT REPRESENTATIVES TO SYNOD

Mr P Hardy

Mrs V Bates

Dr S McCready-Shea

Mrs M E Hemingway

CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES

Barlaston

Mrs K A Ford

Mrs K M Bradburn

Berkswich

Mrs L M Westoby

Mr T A S Goodchild

Bishops Offley

Mrs M E Hemingway

Mrs J Palin

Mrs A Hardy

Eccleshall

Mrs C Harper

Mrs D H Kirkham

Mrs M Embrey

Gnosall

Mr W D Basford

Mr T H Harrison

Mrs J Jobling

Milwich

Mr R W Knight

Mrs E Hodson

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Rising Brook

Mr I F Baldwin
Mrs I M Cantrill
Mrs S Francis

St. John's Stone

Mrs A Dair
Mr A R Heath (until 23/03/22)
Mr A J A Lockett (from 23/03/22)
Mr D C Stewart

Trinity Stafford

Miss W E Harris
Mr T Houghton
Mr A Lowe
Miss L Birch

Weston

Mrs B Gillespie
Mr C Gillespie

PRINCIPAL ADDRESS

Circuit Office
Asbury House
Merrey Road
Stafford
ST17 9LX

**REGISTERED CHARITY
NUMBER**

1135822

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Crombies Accountants Limited
Chartered Accountants
34 Waterloo Road
Wolverhampton
West Midlands
WV1 4DG

INVESTMENT BANKERS

Central Finance Board of the Methodist
Church
9 Bonhill Street
London
EC2A 4PE

The Trustees for Methodist Church
Purposes
Central Buildings
Oldham Street
Manchester
M1 1JQ

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2022. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

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 Circuit produces a bi-monthly preaching plan to ensure that regular acts of worship take place at each of the 7 Methodist Churches and 3 Local Ecumenical Partnerships in its geographical area. The Stafford Circuit is constituted to offer acts of worship in its church communities and to further the mission of the Church in Stafford and across the borough of Stafford. With our primary internal function being that of Christian worship, we aim to provide access to acts of worship in each of the 10 Circuit churches every Sunday.

Our internal structure is based on a Circuit Meeting which meets four times a year; a Local Preachers meeting which meets around four times a year; Circuit Leadership Team meetings throughout the year, and Staff Meetings which meet monthly. We endeavour to make our meetings focus on the on-going development of the Circuit; they are the place where important decisions are made and within them, we plan our strategies and fulfil our role as Charity Trustees.

Public benefit

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

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

2021/2022 has required us both to consider the new ways of working due to the pandemic which began to affect the way we operated from March 15th 2020 and reflect on what of our previous patterns of practice to reimplement, as restrictions have begun to be lifted. The ordained staff team remains the same with two full time presbyters working alongside one administrator, two pastoral workers and two youth workers. We have worked as a team across the whole circuit with the core team of presbyters, administrator and pastoral workers meeting regularly to ensure the ministry of the church is effective. From September 2022 the Circuit will have a new Superintendent (lead) Presbyter as our current Superintendent retires.

Before the pandemic both Rowley Street and Woodseaves Methodist Churches had made the decision to close. We have been pursuing the possibility of selling both buildings. It had been our hope to complete these sales in the 2021/2022 year, however this has not been possible, and our hope is for the sales to be achieved in the 2022/2023 calendar.

As something of the new normal has been found, we have continued to offer an online presence for worship and teaching, while recognising that the churches within the Circuit are starting to require support for face-to-face activities once again too. For as much of the period of 2021/2022 as possible we have offered worship at each of our congregational spaces on alternate weeks to the worship offered online via zoom, and have continued to produce pre-recorded worship fortnightly, when another online service would not be available from the Circuit via Zoom. We continue to hold to the fact that Worship and Teaching are both the necessary aspects of our life together as a charity, that through these, the wider aspects of our responsibilities and actions are honed and fashioned, these are often expressed through the nature of "Our Calling"

Our churches seek to embrace the breadth of 'Our Calling' whilst also recognising the challenges and difficulties. We are rooted in a number of different local communities, but our vision is much wider as we seek to serve the wider church and world in our work. Work in the community continues to be an important aspect of the circuit's mission. Sadly, the pandemic has meant that our buildings were not available for community use for long periods of time. The return to using our buildings by various user groups has been slow. However, this has not prevented the churches finding ways to reach out to their communities. Our youth workers continue to support the young people in a variety of ways. When considering achievements and performance it is right to pay tribute to the many people throughout the circuit who in their daily lives respond to the call of Jesus "follow me" by offering pastoral care and/or practical help, and, to the team of Local Preachers' who enable services to take place Sunday by Sunday. We operate an open-door policy and welcome all to our church communities and wider work irrespective of race, gender, ethnicity, sexuality or any kind of disability, taking seriously the challenge to love God, self and neighbour.

Alongside our continued day to day engagement in activities has been a renewal of our leadership and trusteeship to help us in the days ahead. Our Circuit Leadership Team, who are given delegated authority by the Managing Trustees to shape and direct our practices between meetings and offer a wider vision of practice to be affirmed within the Managing Trustees meetings, have been expanded to include new members taking on responsibility for both the buildings of the Circuit and the outreach of the trust. Alongside this change has been a renewal of the Circuit meeting (trustees body) to utilise Zoom to meet more regularly than was viable during the pandemic and a refreshing of those on the trust, in order to better represent the wider life of the Circuit and its churches.

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

Circuit income is drawn primarily from the assessments paid by the circuit member churches, and during the year these totalled £213,628 (2021: £224,010) - the difference being largely down to an adjustment in 2022 to account for an error in gift aid allocation made in 2020.

During the year the circuit also received donations of bank funds and rental income valued at £8,079 (2021: 18,651) - the major reduction resulting from the need to cease the rental of one manse to accommodate the incoming Superintendent. Total income last year 2021 had been elevated due to the exceptional transfer of assets of two churches, namely Rowley Street and Woodseaves, both church properties have been offered for sale, and whilst this was anticipated in 2021-22, this value is expected to be realised in next year's 2023 accounts.

Expenditure for the year was 13% lower total in 2022 compared with 2021, however, there were significant variations within the categories, notably in four areas a) the reduction of £21,160 salary cost associated with the redundancy of the Childrens Worker in 2021, b) £8,649 increase in office and travel expenses due to the return to more normal activities post-pandemic, c) additional £21,160 expenditure on refurbishment of the Widecombe Ave manse in preparation for the new Superintendent, and d) as was reported last year, the Circuit Meeting approved grants being made to all churches based on a formula which reflected their loss of lettings and offertory income due to the pandemic. These grants totalled £44,352 and were paid in two instalments before the end August 2021, no such payment was made in 2022, however, a third is approved and planned upon the sale of Rowley Street (expected in 22-23 accounts).

As at 31 August 2022, total funds stood at £1,190,608 (2021: £1,237,702). Unrestricted funds, excluding Land and Buildings (with asset value £925,000), were at £265,608 (2021: £312,702) of which £193,857 (2021: £225,464) was designated for particular purposes, these being Property Refurbishment, St Johns M&D, Superintendents Discretionary and Redundant Property Fund. This leaves a general unrestricted fund of £69,500 (2021: 76,127).

It is expected that the sales of the redundant properties, namely Rowley Street and Woodseaves churches, will take place in 2022-23. A proportion of the income from these has already been sunk into their maintenance, upkeep and cost of selling, however, it is hoped that the net value after church levies will be allocated to the continued ministry & mission in the Circuit.

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

General

It is the Trustees policy to maintain a balance of unrestricted and undesignated funds equivalent to between three and four months average unrestricted expenditure, to cover unexpected requirement which may occur from time to time, this equates to between £66-88,000.

In addition, the aim is to maintain a fund of between £50,000 and £75,000 to enable the Circuit to assist its churches with appropriate grants and loans. With the above provisions, the general reserve equates to a minimum of £116,000 to maximum £163,000.

St Johns Mission & Development Fund

This fund, set up with the Methodist share of the proceeds from the sale of the St John's Church building, has been designated for St John's use in developing its future mission plans. The fund is monitored by the Circuit Meeting to ensure that that monies will be used, both for an approved purpose and within a reasonable timescale.

Property Refurbishment Fund

Manse refurbishments are carried out at irregular intervals, usually to coincide with a change in Minsters, and can therefore fluctuate considerably from year to year. This fund was depleted in 21-22, as work was carried out on Widdecombe Ave manse prior to the arrival of the current Superintendent. In order that there is adequate provision is made for future costs, this fund will receive a transfer from General fund of £5,000-8,000 each year, but will be capped at a maximum of £25,000.

Redundant Property Fund

The Circuit received a considerable and extraordinary income last year from the transfer of the assets of two churches which had ceased to meet, namely Rowley Street and Woodseaves. It was decided that, rather than absorbing these into the General Fund, a specific unrestricted fund be set up to manage and report the income and expenditure for these properties. This has been named the 'Redundant Property Fund. Costs associated with maintaining and preparing these properties for sale have been allocated to this fund, which will also be used to reconcile the balances from realisation of the assets.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

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).

Induction and training of new trustees

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

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).

Related parties

The Circuit is part of the Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The following Methodist Churches/LEP's are linked to the circuit: Barlaston, Berkswich, Bishops Offley, Eccleshall, Gnosall, Milwich (LEP), Rising Brook, St Johns-Stone (LEP), Trinity (LEP), Weston.

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Risk management

The major risks associated with the Circuit have been identified by the Circuit Leadership Team. A regular review process is in place and will be recorded.

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 Stafford Methodist 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 Stafford Methodist 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.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Rev R D Bintliff - Trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Stafford Methodist Circuit

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Stafford Methodist Circuit (the Trust) for the year ended 31 August 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Ian Cattell FCA
Chartered Accountant
Crombies Accountants Limited
Chartered Accountants
34 Waterloo Road
Wolverhampton
West Midlands
WV1 4DG

Date:

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		-	-	-	372,593
Charitable activities	4				
Assessments on Churches		213,628	-	213,628	224,627
Rents received		3,931	-	3,931	11,016
Other trading activities	2	3,158	-	3,158	6,937
Investment income	3	990	-	990	698
Total		<u>221,707</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>221,707</u>	<u>615,871</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
District Assessment & Levy		43,047	-	43,047	44,007
Support costs		6,208	100	6,308	7,757
Stipends,salaries,NIC & Pensions		138,572	2,433	141,005	165,814
URC Mission & Ministry		9,876	-	9,876	8,621
Office Expenses		25,380	-	25,380	20,231
Telephone & Travelling Expenses		9,576	-	9,576	6,076
Property Expenses		33,609	-	33,609	12,449
Grants to churches		-	-	-	44,352
Total		<u>266,268</u>	<u>2,533</u>	<u>268,801</u>	<u>309,307</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(44,561)	(2,533)	(47,094)	306,564
Transfers between funds	15	<u>6,327</u>	<u>(6,327)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		(38,234)	(8,860)	(47,094)	306,564
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		1,226,591	11,111	1,237,702	931,138
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>1,188,357</u></u>	<u><u>2,251</u></u>	<u><u>1,190,608</u></u>	<u><u>1,237,702</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

BALANCE SHEET
31 AUGUST 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	10	925,000	-	925,000	925,000
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	11	7,894	-	7,894	7,581
Cash at bank	12	310,807	2,251	313,058	344,344
		318,701	2,251	320,952	351,925
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(55,344)	-	(55,344)	(39,223)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		263,357	2,251	265,608	312,702
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,188,357	2,251	1,190,608	1,237,702
NET ASSETS		1,188,357	2,251	1,190,608	1,237,702
FUNDS	15				
Unrestricted funds				1,188,357	1,226,591
Restricted funds				2,251	11,111
TOTAL FUNDS				1,190,608	1,237,702

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
P W Hardy - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £ Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

Going concern

In common with many entities the effects of the Covid -19 Pandemic have had an impact on the activities of the Circuit and its member Churches. However based upon the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2022, the trustees believe that the Circuit is a going concern.

Consolidation

The Circuit has denominational regulatory oversight in respect of the work of the Churches within the Circuit but has no legal or operational control of those Churches and their governing bodies except in extreme circumstances. For this reason, the financial statements of Churches within the Circuit are not consolidated into these financial statements.

Income

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.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement to make a grant without performance conditions or as and when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment if it is subject to performance conditions. When the grant is recurrent over more than one year the balance payable in future years is treated as a provision for future commitments in the Balance Sheet against the appropriate fund, the provision being released in future years as instalments are paid in accordance with the originally agreed terms.

Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000.

The freehold property is shown in the accounts at 2015 deemed values, of which the land component is deemed to be £150,000. No depreciation is provided on the buildings because the trustees consider the current residual value of the property in its present condition to be not less than its current value, and in the absence of any evidence of impairment, any depreciation provision would not be material. From time to time the Circuit may be required to assume responsibility for Church premises following closure and cessation for worship. This results in the Circuit becoming Managing Trustees for the property. At that time the property is recognised as an asset at its anticipated net sale price as determined by a professional valuation. Any expenditure on such assets, if held for reinvestment of the proceeds, as the trustees determine, that is likely to enhance sales value is capitalised at the time the expenditure is incurred. Where the proceeds are intended to be spent on activities, the property is included in current assets at the lower of cost and realisable value.

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

The Circuit is a member of the Connexional pension scheme (MMPS) which covers presbyters and deacons of the Methodist Church. The contribution rates are set each year by the Methodist Conference. The MMPS is a multi-employer scheme and in accordance with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission, the Circuit accounts for these contributions as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The Circuit also has four lay employees enrolled in a defined contribution pension scheme administered by The Pension Trust. Employer contributions are made into this scheme on behalf of employees who are members.

2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2022	2021
	£	£
Other income	3,158	6,937
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2022	2021
	£	£
Deposit account interest	990	698
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

		2022	2021
	Activity	£	£
Assessment on churches	Assessments on Churches	213,628	224,627
Lettings-non-investment property	Rents received	2,155	9,240
Office space	Rents received	1,776	1,776
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
		217,559	235,643
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Assessments on Churches

At the beginning of the year, the Circuit comprised of 10 churches and each was assessed for a contribution to meet the overall net costs of the Circuit. For several years the Circuit has been engaged in a plan to ensure that each church's contribution is assessed on a fairer basis than that used in the past. The method used takes account, to varying degrees, of membership, attendance and income, utilising an annual cap on the size of individual annual adjustments.

Property Rentals

The Circuit's manse in Widecombe Avenue was let out on a short-term basis during the year, however, this lease was ended to permit refurbishment work to be carried out prior to housing the new Superintendent & family from July 2022.

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

5. SUPPORT COSTS

	Governance costs
	£
Support costs	2,400
	<u> </u>

6. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

Certain trustees are remunerated as employees of the Circuit. All payments to trustees are at normal market rates and are subject to review by independent members of the trustee body. Total annual amounts paid to trustees were as follows:

Stipends and salaries - £120,216

Employer's national insurance contributions - £8,807

Employer's contributions to defined benefit pension scheme - £1,839

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 August 2022 nor for the year ended 31 August 2021.

7. STAFF COSTS

The Superintendent of the Circuit, the other Presbyters and the remaining members of the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) are considered as Key Management Personnel. The Superintendent chairs meetings of the CLT and Circuit Meetings. The members of the Circuit Meeting are the trustees of the Circuit. The stipends, employer's NIC and employer's pension contributions and other expenses of the Presbyters of the Circuit are paid by the Circuit. The manses are provided by the Circuit and the Circuit maintains the property (one manse in the Circuit is owned by the United Reformed Church (URC) and is maintained jointly under a sharing agreement). The value of Council Tax and water charges is not disclosed here as HMRC does not regard this as a benefit-in-kind in the hands of the minister.

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2022	2021
Methodist Presbyters	2	2
Lay employees	5	6
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	7	8
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

8. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	353,847	18,746	372,593
Charitable activities			
Assessments on Churches	224,627	-	224,627
Rents received	11,016	-	11,016
Other trading activities	2,081	4,856	6,937
Investment income	698	-	698
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total	592,269	23,602	615,871

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

8. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
District Assessment & Levy	44,007	-	44,007
Support costs	7,757	-	7,757
Stipends,salaries,NIC & Pensions	136,720	29,094	165,814
URC Mission & Ministry	8,621	-	8,621
Office Expenses	20,231	-	20,231
Telephone & Travelling Expenses	6,076	-	6,076
Property Expenses	12,449	-	12,449
Grants to churches	44,352	-	44,352
Total	280,213	29,094	309,307
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	312,056	(5,492)	306,564
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	914,535	16,603	931,138
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	1,226,591	11,111	1,237,702

9. FUNDS

The funds held constitute:

Unrestricted Funds

General Fund

The purpose of the fund is for use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the Circuit.

Circuit Model Trust Fund

This consists of income from churches. They have wide purposes as defined by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP). Permission must be sought from TMCP to call on money for specific building projects or to support the mission in general.

Property Refurbishment Fund

This fund is used by the trustees as a provision for future refurbishments and major repairs as at the balance sheet date and is categorized as unrestricted designated fund. There was no movement in this fund.

St John's M&D Fund

This fund, set up with the Methodist share of the proceeds from the sale of the St John's Church building, has been designated for St John's use in developing its future mission plans. The fund is monitored by the Circuit Meeting to ensure that that monies will be used, both for an approved purpose and within a reasonable timescale.

Superintendent's Discretionary Fund

The fund is for discretionary spend in cases of local needs and is categorized as unrestricted designated fund. There was no movement in this fund.

Redundant property fund

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

9. FUNDS - continued

These monies have been ring fenced for the development of redundant churches whose assets were transferred to the circuit.

Restricted Funds

Children's Worker Fund

This fund was closed in the year to 2021, as the Childrens Worker was made redundant during the pandemic. A separate fund has been developed for a Schools worker, however, this new fund will be managed by Berkswich Church, with Stafford Circuit providing employee payroll services. Remaining monies from the Childrens Worker Fund will be transferred to Berkswich Church.

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Residential land £	Manse £	Other buildings £	Totals £
COST				
At 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022	150,000	175,000	600,000	925,000
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 August 2022	150,000	175,000	600,000	925,000
At 31 August 2021	150,000	175,000	600,000	925,000

11. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022 £	2021 £
Prepayments	7,894	7,581

12. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	General fund £	Circuit Model Trust £	Designated Fund £
Central Finance Board	75,666	4,208	28,814
CAF bank	45,987	-	-
Trustees for Methodist Church purposes	-	129,524	-
Lloyds Bank	832	-	-
Total	122,485	133,732	28,814

	2022	2021
Redundant property fund £	Childrens worker fund £	Total funds £
Central Finance Board	2,251	145,696
Natwest Bank	-	1,334
CAF bank	-	36,294
HSBC Bank	25,776	1,718
Trustees for Methodist Church purposes	-	133,470
Lloyds Bank	-	832
CBF Church of England Fund	-	25,000
Carried forward	25,776	344,344

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

12. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND - continued

			2022	2021
	Redundant property fund	Childrens worker fund	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward	25,776	2,251	313,058	344,344
Total	25,776	2,251	313,058	344,344

13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021
	£	£
Bank loans and overdrafts (see note 14)	19,500	8,772
Trade creditors	202	-
Funds held for churches	-	(5,191)
Accounts examination	2,400	2,400
Assessments in advance	33,242	33,242
	55,344	39,223

14. LOANS

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year on demand:		
Bank overdrafts	19,500	8,772

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.9.21 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.8.22 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	701,127	(12,917)	6,327	694,537
Circuit Model Trust	137,678	(3,947)	-	133,731
Designated Fund	43,506	(14,692)	-	28,814
Redundant property fund	344,280	(13,005)	-	331,275
	1,226,591	(44,561)	6,327	1,188,357
Restricted funds				
Childrens worker fund	11,111	(2,533)	(6,327)	2,251
TOTAL FUNDS	1,237,702	(47,094)	-	1,190,608

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	219,170	(232,087)	(12,917)
Circuit Model Trust	607	(4,554)	(3,947)
Designated Fund	893	(15,585)	(14,692)
Redundant property fund	1,037	(14,042)	(13,005)
	221,707	(266,268)	(44,561)
Restricted funds			
Childrens worker fund	-	(2,533)	(2,533)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>221,707</u>	<u>(268,801)</u>	<u>(47,094)</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.9.20 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.8.21 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	729,446	(28,319)	701,127
Circuit Model Trust	137,678	-	137,678
Designated Fund	47,411	(3,905)	43,506
Redundant property fund	-	344,280	344,280
	914,535	312,056	1,226,591
Restricted funds			
Childrens worker fund	16,603	(5,492)	11,111
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>931,138</u>	<u>306,564</u>	<u>1,237,702</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	237,353	(265,672)	(28,319)
Designated Fund	1,004	(4,909)	(3,905)
Redundant property fund	353,912	(9,632)	344,280
	592,269	(280,213)	312,056
Restricted funds			
Childrens worker fund	23,602	(29,094)	(5,492)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>615,871</u>	<u>(309,307)</u>	<u>306,564</u>

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.9.20 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.8.22 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	729,446	(41,236)	6,327	694,537
Circuit Model Trust	137,678	(3,947)	-	133,731
Designated Fund	47,411	(18,597)	-	28,814
Redundant property fund	-	331,275	-	331,275
	914,535	267,495	6,327	1,188,357
Restricted funds				
Childrens worker fund	16,603	(8,025)	(6,327)	2,251
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>931,138</u>	<u>259,470</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,190,608</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	456,523	(497,759)	(41,236)
Circuit Model Trust	607	(4,554)	(3,947)
Designated Fund	1,897	(20,494)	(18,597)
Redundant property fund	354,949	(23,674)	331,275
	813,976	(546,481)	267,495
Restricted funds			
Childrens worker fund	23,602	(31,627)	(8,025)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>837,578</u>	<u>(578,108)</u>	<u>259,470</u>

Transfers between funds

The transfer between funds shown in the current year relates to the correction of an error which arose during the year ended 31 August 2020. The transfer of £6,327 from the Children's Worker restricted fund to the general unrestricted fund represents gift aid tax refunds which were incorrectly allocated to the Children's Worker fund in the earlier period instead of to the general unrestricted fund. This transfer has no effect on the financial results of the current or preceding periods.

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

16. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

No Contingent liabilities were identified at 31st August 2022.

17. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

Related Parties include The Methodist Connexion, the Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury District, Churches within the Circuit (listed below), CFB and TMCP.

Churches within the Circuit:

Barlaston
Berkswich
Bishops Offley
Eccleshall
Gnosall
Milwich (Anglican/Methodist)
Rising Brook
Rowley Street (closed 31.08.2019)
St Johns, Stone (Methodist/URC)
Trinity, Stafford (Methodist/URC)
Weston
Woodseaves (closed 31.12.2018)

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations and transfers	-	366,347
Gift aid	-	6,246
	-	372,593
Other trading activities		
Other income	3,158	6,937
Investment income		
Deposit account interest	990	698
Charitable activities		
Assessment on churches	213,628	224,627
Lettings-non-investment property	2,155	9,240
Office space	1,776	1,776
	217,559	235,643
Total incoming resources	221,707	615,871
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Stipends and allowances	130,099	151,546
Social security	8,807	10,675
Pensions	2,099	3,593
Telephone	3,879	3,619
Insurance, Council tax etc	20,013	15,563
Repairs and maintenance	33,609	12,449
Sundries	3,335	4,914
Travelling expenses	5,697	2,457
Youth/Children's work	336	155
Training	237	288
Office expenses	5,367	4,668
URC mission and ministry	9,876	8,621
District assessment	43,047	44,007
Grants to churches	-	44,352
	266,401	306,907
Support costs		
Governance costs		
Accountancy and legal fees	2,400	2,400
Total resources expended	268,801	309,307
Net (expenditure)/income	(47,094)	306,564

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

Accounts

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021
FOR
STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Crombies Accountants Limited
Chartered Accountants
34 Waterloo Road
Wolverhampton
West Midlands
WV1 4DG

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	Page
Reference and Administrative Details	1 to 2
Report of the Trustees	3 to 6
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities	7
Independent Examiner's Report	8
Statement of Financial Activities	9
Balance Sheet	10
Cash Flow Statement	11
Notes to the Cash Flow Statement	12
Notes to the Financial Statements	13 to 22
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	23

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT
REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

MINISTERS

Rev. P M Salter
Rev. J Kaci

LAYWORKERS

Mrs C A Hamer
Mrs I J Wakerell

CIRCUIT STEWARDS

Dr P C Yates
Mr P W Hardy
Mrs J D Wood
Mrs J Harrison (from 20/4/21)

CIRCUIT MEETING SECRETARY

Mrs L B Reade

LOCAL PREACHERS REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs G F Ashmore
Mrs M E Winnington

CIRCUIT REPRESENTATIVES TO SYNOD

Mr P Hardy
Mrs V Bates
Dr S McCready-Shea
Mrs M E Hemingway

CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES

Barlaston

Mrs K A Ford
Mrs K M Bradburn

Berkswich

Mr D C East
Mrs C East
Mrs P Roberts
Mrs L M Westoby
Mr T A S Goodchild

Bishops Offley

Mrs M E Hemingway
Mrs J Palin
Mrs A Hardy

Eccleshall

Mrs C Harper
Mrs D H Kirkham
Mrs M Embrey

Gnosall

Mr W D Basford
Mr T H Harrison
Mrs J Jobling

Milwich

Mr R W Knight
Mrs E Hodson

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT
REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Rising Brook

Mr I F Baldwin
Mrs I M Cantrill
Mrs S Watson(to 15/10)
Mrs S Francis (from 30/10)

St. John's Stone

Mrs A Dair
Mr A R Heath
Mr D C Stewart

Trinity Stafford

Miss W E Harris
Mr T Houghton
Mr A Lowe
Miss L Birch

Weston

Mrs B Gillespie
Mr C Gillespie

PRINCIPAL ADDRESS

Circuit Office
Asbury House
Merrey Road
Stafford
ST17 9LX

**REGISTERED CHARITY
NUMBER**

1135822

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Crombies Accountants Limited
Chartered Accountants
34 Waterloo Road
Wolverhampton
West Midlands
WV1 4DG

INVESTMENT BANKERS

Central Finance Board of the Methodist
Church
9 Bonhill Street
London
EC2A 4PE

The Trustees for Methodist Church
Purposes
Central Buildings
Oldham Street
Manchester
M1 1JQ

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

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 Circuit produces a bi-monthly preaching plan to ensure that regular acts of worship take place at each of the 7 Methodist Churches and 3 Local Ecumenical Partnerships in its geographical area. The Stafford Circuit is constituted to offer acts of worship in its church communities and to further the mission of the Church in Stafford and across the borough of Stafford. With our primary internal function being that of Christian worship, we organise acts of worship in each of the 10 Circuit churches every Sunday. Our internal structure is based on a Circuit Meeting which meets four times a year; a Local Preachers meeting which meets around four times a year; Circuit Leadership Team meetings throughout the year, and Staff Meetings which meet monthly. We endeavour to make our meetings more than just talking shops; they are the place where important decisions are made and within them, we plan our strategies and fulfill our role as Charity Trustees.

Public benefit

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

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

2020/2021 has again necessitated new ways of working due to the pandemic which began to affect the way we operated from March 15th 2020. The ordained staff team remains the same with two full time presbyters working alongside one administrator, two pastoral workers and two youth workers. We have worked as a team across the whole circuit with the core team of presbyters, administrator and pastoral workers meeting regularly to ensure the ministry of the church is effective. Two of our churches closed before the pandemic. We have tried to find a mission purpose for Woodseaves so the plan is to sell the building and land in the next connexional year if possible.

Rowley Street made the decision to close at the end of August 2019. We have been pursuing the possibility of selling the building. In August 2020 TMCP helped us look at the possibilities and necessary steps to sell the building but again, the pandemic has prevented advancing further. We continually tried to move the sale on but with people working from home and the pressures of the pandemic TMCP were taking 4 months to answer emails. The plan is to persevere and reach a point in 2021/2022 where the building can be sold.

The worshipping life of all the churches is very important. However, the pandemic has meant we have had to make difficult decisions about the way we worship. Churches reopened tentatively in September 2020. In person worship was only be offered once a month by a preacher as several of our preachers were in the vulnerable categories. The buildings being closed has proved to be a catalyst to churches thinking about ways to safely worship. However by winter of 2020 with cases rising we again had to make the decision to close buildings. A prerecorded act of worship continued to be provided every week. These services are compiled and led by preachers ministers and members of the churches. Some churches had really embraced online worship and fellowship. This meant that people could access online, prayer meetings, fellowship groups and Sunday services. The churches have seen a growth in numbers and are more effectively reaching those who were too old and frail to attend worship. It is important to maintain and develop the worshipping life of the church as it is the catalyst for other areas of our calling. From worship flows our three other main activities within local, national and global communities; learning & caring, service and evangelism.

Our churches seek to embrace the breadth of 'Our Calling' whilst also recognising the challenges and difficulties. We are rooted in a number of different local communities, but our vision is much wider as we seek to serve the wider church and world in our work. Work in the community continues to be an important aspect of the circuit's mission. Sadly, the pandemic has meant that our buildings were not available for community use for long periods of time. The return to using our buildings by various user groups has been slow. However, this has not prevented the churches finding ways to reach out to their communities. Our youth workers continue to support the young people in a variety of ways. When considering achievements and performance it is right to pay tribute to the many people throughout the circuit who in their daily lives respond to the call of Jesus "follow me" by offering pastoral care and/or practical help, and, to the team of Local Preachers' who enable services to take place Sunday by Sunday. We operate an open-door policy and welcome all to our church communities and wider work irrespective of race, gender, ethnicity, sexuality or any kind of disability, taking seriously the challenge to love God, self and neighbour.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

Circuit income is drawn primarily from the assessments paid by the circuit member churches, and during the year these totalled £224,627 (2020: £223,761). During the year the circuit also received donations of bank funds and redundant church properties valued at £325,000 from Rowley Street and Woodseaves churches. As a result of these exceptional items, the circuit has an overall surplus for the year of £306,563 (2020: £2,907).

Towards the middle of the financial year the CLT undertook a review of the impact that the pandemic had made upon the income of churches in the Circuit. It was clear from this, that the income of some churches, particularly those with a significant proportion of their income being from lettings, had been affected badly. In light of this, and considering the Circuit reserves were at a sufficient level to allow a response, the Circuit Meeting approved grants being made to all churches based on a formula which reflected their loss of income. These grants totalled £44,352 and were paid in two instalments before the end August, a third is approved and planned upon the sale of Rowley Street (expected in 21-22 accounts).

As at 31 August 2021, unrestricted funds, excluding Land and Buildings, stood at £301,591 (2020: £314,535) of which £266,435 (2020: 267,124) was not designated for any particular purposes. Given the ongoing Covid pandemic, the Circuit Leadership Team felt it was necessary to maintain a position of responsiveness and that it would be inappropriate to reduce the free reserves at this time. Accordingly no further transfers to designated funds have been made during the year.

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

General

It is the Trustees policy to maintain a balance of unrestricted and undesignated funds equivalent to between three and four months average unrestricted expenditure, to cover unexpected requirement which may occur from time to time, and also to maintain a fund of between £50,000 and £75,000 to enable the Circuit to assist its churches with appropriate grants and loans.

St Johns Mission & Development Fund

This fund, set up with the Methodist share of the proceeds from the sale of the St John's Church building, has been designated for St John's use in developing its future mission plans. The fund is monitored by the Circuit Meeting to ensure that that monies will be used, both for an approved purpose and within a reasonable timescale.

Property Refurbishment Fund

Manse refurbishments are carried out at irregular intervals, usually to coincide with a change in Minsters, and can therefore fluctuate wildly from year to year. This fund, which will ensure that adequate provision is made for future costs, will be capped at a maximum of £25,000.

Redundant Property Fund

The Circuit received a considerable and extraordinary income in the year from the transfer of the assets of two churches which had ceased to meet, namely Rowley Street and Woodseaves. It was decided that, rather than absorbing these into the General Fund, a specific unrestricted fund be set up to manage and report the income and expenditure for these properties. This has been named the 'Redundant Property Fund.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

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).

Induction and training of new trustees

A range of guidance is 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 Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The following Methodist Churches/LEP's are linked to the circuit: Barlaston, Berkswich, Bishops Offley, Eccleshall, Gnosall, Milwich (LEP), Rising Brook, St Johns, Stone (LEP), Trinity (LEP), Weston.

Risk management

The major risks associated with the Circuit have been identified by the Circuit Leadership Team. A regular review process is in place and will be recorded.

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

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 Stafford Methodist 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 Stafford Methodist 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.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 23 June 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Rev P M Salter - Trustee

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Stafford Methodist Circuit

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Stafford Methodist Circuit (the Trust) for the year ended 31 August 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of Chartered Accountant which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



Ian Cattell FCA
Chartered Accountant
Crombies Accountants Limited
Chartered Accountants
34 Waterloo Road
Wolverhampton
West Midlands
WV1 4DG

23 June 2022

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	353,846	18,746	372,592	18,544
Charitable activities	5				
Assessments on Churches		224,627	-	224,627	223,761
Rents received		11,016	-	11,016	11,076
Other trading activities	3	2,082	4,856	6,938	-
Investment income	4	<u>698</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>698</u>	<u>2,373</u>
Total		592,269	23,602	615,871	255,754
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	6				
District Assessment & Levy		44,007	-	44,007	44,833
Support costs		7,147	-	7,147	5,559
Stipends,salaries,NIC & Pensions		137,156	29,094	166,250	161,860
URC Mission & Ministry		8,621	-	8,621	6,787
Office Expenses		20,405	-	20,405	4,686
Telephone & Travelling Expenses		6,076	-	6,076	9,665
Property Expenses		12,449	-	12,449	19,457
Grants to churches		44,352	-	44,352	-
Total		<u>280,213</u>	<u>29,094</u>	<u>309,307</u>	<u>252,847</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		312,056	(5,492)	306,564	2,907
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		914,535	16,603	931,138	928,231
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>1,226,591</u></u>	<u><u>11,111</u></u>	<u><u>1,237,702</u></u>	<u><u>931,138</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

BALANCE SHEET
31 AUGUST 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	13	925,000	-	925,000	600,000
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	14	7,581	-	7,581	7,369
Cash at bank	15	<u>333,233</u>	<u>11,111</u>	<u>344,344</u>	<u>367,254</u>
		340,814	11,111	351,925	374,623
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	16	<u>(39,223)</u>	-	<u>(39,223)</u>	<u>(43,485)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>301,591</u>	<u>11,111</u>	<u>312,702</u>	<u>331,138</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>1,226,591</u>	<u>11,111</u>	<u>1,237,702</u>	<u>931,138</u>
NET ASSETS		<u><u>1,226,591</u></u>	<u><u>11,111</u></u>	<u><u>1,237,702</u></u>	<u><u>931,138</u></u>
FUNDS	18				
Unrestricted funds				1,226,591	914,535
Restricted funds				<u>11,111</u>	<u>16,603</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u><u>1,237,702</u></u>	<u><u>931,138</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 23 June 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:

P W Hardy - Trustee

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	<u>295,969</u>	<u>(18,120)</u>
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		<u>295,969</u>	<u>(18,120)</u>
 Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(325,000)	-
Interest received		<u>698</u>	<u>2,373</u>
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities		<u>(324,302)</u>	<u>2,373</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(28,333)	(15,747)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	2	<u>363,905</u>	<u>379,652</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	2	<u><u>335,572</u></u>	<u><u>363,905</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2021 £	2020 £
Net income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	306,564	2,907
Adjustments for:		
Interest received	(698)	(2,373)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(212)	207
Decrease in creditors	<u>(9,685)</u>	<u>(18,861)</u>
Net cash provided by/(used in) operations	<u>295,969</u>	<u>(18,120)</u>

2. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2021 £	2020 £
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	344,344	367,254
Overdrafts included in bank loans and overdrafts falling due within one year	<u>(8,772)</u>	<u>(3,349)</u>
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>335,572</u>	<u>363,905</u>

3. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.9.20 £	Cash flow £	At 31.8.21 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank	367,254	(22,910)	344,344
Bank overdraft	<u>(3,349)</u>	<u>(5,423)</u>	<u>(8,772)</u>
	<u>363,905</u>	<u>(28,333)</u>	<u>335,572</u>
Total	<u>363,905</u>	<u>(28,333)</u>	<u>335,572</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £ Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

Going concern

In common with many entities the effects of the Covid -19 Pandemic have had an impact on the activities of the Circuit and its member Churches. However based upon the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2021, the trustees believe that the Circuit is a going concern.

Consolidation

The Circuit has denominational regulatory oversight in respect of the work of the Churches within the Circuit but has no legal or operational control of those Churches and their governing bodies except in extreme circumstances. For this reason, the financial statements of Churches within the Circuit are not consolidated into these financial statements.

Income

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.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement to make a grant without performance conditions or as and when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment if it is subject to performance conditions. When the grant is recurrent over more than one year the balance payable in future years is treated as a provision for future commitments in the Balance Sheet against the appropriate fund, the provision being released in future years as instalments are paid in accordance with the originally agreed terms.

Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000.

The freehold property is shown in the accounts at 2015 deemed values, of which the land component is deemed to be £150,000. No depreciation is provided on the buildings because the trustees consider the current residual value of the property in its present condition to be not less than its current value, and in the absence of any evidence of impairment, any depreciation provision would not be material. From time to time the Circuit may be required to assume responsibility for Church premises following closure and cessation

for worship. This results in the Circuit becoming Managing Trustees for the property. At that time the property is recognised as an asset at its anticipated net sale price as determined by a professional valuation. Any expenditure on such assets, if held for reinvestment of the proceeds, as the trustees determine, that is likely to enhance sales value is capitalised at the time the expenditure is incurred. Where the proceeds are intended to be spent on activities, the property is included in current assets at the lower of cost and realisable value.

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

The Circuit is a member of the Connexional pension scheme (MMPS) which covers presbyters and deacons of the Methodist Church. The contribution rates are set each year by the Methodist Conference. The MMPS is a multi-employer scheme and in accordance with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission, the Circuit accounts for these contributions as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The Circuit also has four lay employees enrolled in a defined contribution pension scheme administered by The Pension Trust. Employer contributions are made into this scheme on behalf of employees who are members.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2021	2020
	£	£
Donations and transfers	366,346	18,544
Gift aid	<u>6,246</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u><u>372,592</u></u>	<u><u>18,544</u></u>

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2021	2020
	£	£
Other income	<u>6,938</u>	<u>-</u>

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2021	2020
	£	£
Deposit account interest	<u>698</u>	<u>2,373</u>

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

5. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

		2021 £	2020 £
Assessment on churches	Assessments on Churches	224,627	223,761
Lettings-non-investment property	Rents received	9,240	9,240
Office space	Rents received	<u>1,776</u>	<u>1,836</u>
		<u>235,643</u>	<u>234,837</u>

Assessments on Churches

At the beginning of the year, the Circuit comprised of 10 churches and each was assessed for a contribution to meet the overall net costs of the Circuit. For several years the Circuit has been engaged in a plan to ensure that each church's contribution is assessed on a fairer basis than that used in the past. The method used takes account, to varying degrees, of membership, attendance and income, utilising an annual cap on the size of individual annual adjustments.

Property Rentals

The Circuit's manse in Widecombe Avenue is currently let on a short-term basis. It is still anticipated that it may again be required to house a Minister in the next 1 to 2 years. Following the closure of Woodseaves Methodist Church on 31 December 2018, the premises continued to be let out to a local Playgroup on a short-term basis.

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs £	Grant funding of activities (see note 7) £	Support costs (see note 8) £	Totals £
District Assessment & Levy	44,007	-	-	44,007
Support costs	4,747	-	2,400	7,147
Stipends,salaries,NIC & Pensions	166,250	-	-	166,250
URC Mission & Ministry	8,621	-	-	8,621
Office Expenses	20,405	-	-	20,405
Telephone & Travelling Expenses	6,076	-	-	6,076
Property Expenses	12,449	-	-	12,449
Grants to churches	<u>-</u>	<u>44,352</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>44,352</u>
	<u>262,555</u>	<u>44,352</u>	<u>2,400</u>	<u>309,307</u>

District Assessment & Levy

In common with other circuits in the District, the Circuit pays an annual assessment to the Wolverhampton & Shewsbury District of the Methodist Church, which is based on the number of Methodist Presbyters and Lay Workers within each circuit. The Levy is calculated on a sliding scale percentage of the balance of the Circuit's CMTF at 31 August in the previous accounting year

URC Mission & Ministry

Two churches in the Circuit - St John's and Trinity, are Methodist/URC Local Eccumenical Partnerships. The URC Synod makes an annual charge relating to its general costs and specifically to the cost of ministry provided to the two churches concerned, where applicable. In the year to 31 August 2021: NIL (2020: NIL) of a URC Minister's time was allocated in respect of the URC presence within the Circuit and this cost, together with other URC costs allocated on a deemed 50/50 Methodist/URC membership, is regarded as a Circuit cost. The total cost for the year ended 31st August 2021 was £8,620.50 (2020: £6,787).

Property Costs

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS - continued

The Circuit is Managing Trustee for 3 manses or former manses. In addition to one manse which houses one of the Circuit's Ministers, one former manse is used as the Circuit Office, whilst another is let on a short-term basis pending it being brought back into use as a manse. A further manse in the Circuit is owned by the URC and is maintained jointly under a sharing agreement.

7. GRANTS PAYABLE

	2021	2020
	£	£
Grants to churches	<u>44,352</u>	<u>-</u>

The total grants paid to institutions during the year was as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Donations to Churches	<u>44,352</u>	<u>-</u>

8. SUPPORT COSTS

	Governance costs
	£
Support costs	<u>2,400</u>

9. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

Certain trustees are remunerated as employees of the Circuit. All payments to trustees are at normal market rates and are subject to review by independent members of the trustee body. Total annual amounts paid to trustees were as follows:

Stipends and salaries - £102,015

Employer's national insurance contributions - £8,399

Employer's contributions to defined benefit pension scheme - £1,818

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 August 2021 nor for the year ended 31 August 2020.

10. STAFF COSTS

The Superintendent of the Circuit, the other Presbyters and the remaining members of the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) are considered as Key Management Personnel. The Superintendent chairs meetings of the CLT and Circuit Meetings. The members of the Circuit Meeting are the trustees of the Circuit. The stipends, employer's NIC and employer's pension contributions and other expenses of the Presbyters of the Circuit are paid by the Circuit. The manses are provided by the Circuit and the Circuit maintains the property (one manse in the Circuit is owned by the United Reformed Church (URC) and is maintained jointly under a sharing agreement). The value of Council Tax and water charges is not disclosed here as HMRC does not regard this as a benefit-in-kind in the hands of the minister.

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

10. STAFF COSTS - continued

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2021	2020
Methodist Presbyters	2	2
Lay employees	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>
	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

11. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	-	18,544	18,544
Charitable activities			
Assessments on Churches	223,761	-	223,761
Rents received	11,076	-	11,076
Investment income	<u>2,373</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,373</u>
Total	237,210	18,544	255,754
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
District Assessment & Levy	44,833	-	44,833
Support costs	5,259	300	5,559
Stipends, salaries, NIC & Pensions	133,547	28,313	161,860
URC Mission & Ministry	6,787	-	6,787
Office Expenses	4,686	-	4,686
Telephone & Travelling Expenses	9,401	264	9,665
Property Expenses	19,457	-	19,457
Total	<u>223,970</u>	<u>28,877</u>	<u>252,847</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	13,240	(10,333)	2,907
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	<u>901,295</u>	<u>26,936</u>	<u>928,231</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>914,535</u>	<u>16,603</u>	<u>931,138</u>

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

12. FUNDS

The funds held constitute:

Unrestricted Funds

General Fund

The purpose of the fund is for use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the Circuit.

Circuit Model Trust Fund

This consists of income from churches. They have wide purposes as defined by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP). Permission must be sought from TMCP to call on money for specific building projects or to support the mission in general.

Property Refurbishment Fund

This fund is used by the trustees as a provision for future refurbishments and major repairs as at the balance sheet date and is categorized as unrestricted designated fund. There was no movement in this fund.

St John's M&D Fund

This fund, set up with the Methodist share of the proceeds from the sale of the St John's Church building, has been designated for St John's use in developing its future mission plans. The fund is monitored by the Circuit Meeting to ensure that that monies will be used, both for an approved purpose and within a reasonable timescale.

Superintendent's Discretionary Fund

The fund is for discretionary spend in cases of local needs and is categorized as unrestricted designated fund. There was no movement in this fund.

Redundant property fund

These monies have been ring fenced for the development of redundant churches whose assets were transferred to the circuit.

Restricted Funds

Children's Worker Fund

Funds are received from private donations for the employment of a Schools Worker, employed by the Circuit but based in Berkswich Church.

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Residential land £	Manses £	Other buildings £	Totals £
COST				
At 1 September 2020	150,000	175,000	275,000	600,000
Additions	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>325,000</u>	<u>325,000</u>
At 31 August 2021	<u>150,000</u>	<u>175,000</u>	<u>600,000</u>	<u>925,000</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 August 2021	<u>150,000</u>	<u>175,000</u>	<u>600,000</u>	<u>925,000</u>
At 31 August 2020	<u>150,000</u>	<u>175,000</u>	<u>275,000</u>	<u>600,000</u>

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

14. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021	2020
	£	£
Prepayments	<u>7,581</u>	<u>7,369</u>

15. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	General fund £	Circuit Model Trust £	Designated Fund £
Central Finance Board	86,871	4,208	43,506
CAF bank	36,294	-	-
Trustees for Methodist Church purposes	-	133,470	-
Lloyds Bank	<u>832</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>123,997</u>	<u>137,678</u>	<u>43,506</u>

	Redundant property fund £	Childrens worker fund £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
Central Finance Board	-	11,111	145,696	157,674
Natwest Bank	1,334	-	1,334	4,126
CAF bank	-	-	36,294	67,304
HSBC Bank	1,718	-	1,718	-
Trustees for Methodist Church purposes	-	-	133,470	137,678
Lloyds Bank	-	-	832	472
CBF Church of England Fund	<u>25,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>28,052</u>	<u>11,111</u>	<u>344,344</u>	<u>367,254</u>

16. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021	2020
	£	£
Bank loans and overdrafts (see note 17)	8,772	3,349
Funds held for churches	(5,191)	(4,779)
Accounts examination	2,400	720
Assessments in advance	33,242	41,989
Travelling expenses	-	266
Other	<u>-</u>	<u>1,940</u>
	<u>39,223</u>	<u>43,485</u>

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

17. LOANS

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

	2021 £	2020 £
Amounts falling due within one year on demand:		
Bank overdrafts	<u>8,772</u>	<u>3,349</u>

18. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.9.20 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.8.21 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	729,446	(28,319)	701,127
Circuit Model Trust	137,678	-	137,678
Designated Fund	47,411	(3,905)	43,506
Redundant property fund	<u>-</u>	<u>344,280</u>	<u>344,280</u>
	914,535	312,056	1,226,591
Restricted funds			
Childrens worker fund	<u>16,603</u>	<u>(5,492)</u>	<u>11,111</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>931,138</u>	<u>306,564</u>	<u>1,237,702</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	237,353	(265,672)	(28,319)
Designated Fund	1,004	(4,909)	(3,905)
Redundant property fund	<u>353,912</u>	<u>(9,632)</u>	<u>344,280</u>
	592,269	(280,213)	312,056
Restricted funds			
Childrens worker fund	<u>23,602</u>	<u>(29,094)</u>	<u>(5,492)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>615,871</u>	<u>(309,307)</u>	<u>306,564</u>

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

18. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.9.19 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.8.20 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	712,759	16,687	729,446
Circuit Model Trust	141,348	(3,670)	137,678
Designated Fund	<u>47,188</u>	<u>223</u>	<u>47,411</u>
	901,295	13,240	914,535
Restricted funds			
Childrens worker fund	26,936	(10,333)	16,603
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>928,231</u>	<u>2,907</u>	<u>931,138</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	235,807	(219,120)	16,687
Circuit Model Trust	1,180	(4,850)	(3,670)
Designated Fund	<u>223</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>223</u>
	237,210	(223,970)	13,240
Restricted funds			
Childrens worker fund	18,544	(28,877)	(10,333)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>255,754</u>	<u>(252,847)</u>	<u>2,907</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.9.19 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.8.21 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	712,759	(11,632)	701,127
Circuit Model Trust	141,348	(3,670)	137,678
Designated Fund	47,188	(3,682)	43,506
Redundant property fund	<u>-</u>	<u>344,280</u>	<u>344,280</u>
	901,295	325,296	1,226,591
Restricted funds			
Childrens worker fund	26,936	(15,825)	11,111
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>928,231</u>	<u>309,471</u>	<u>1,237,702</u>

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

18. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	473,160	(484,792)	(11,632)
Circuit Model Trust	1,180	(4,850)	(3,670)
Designated Fund	1,227	(4,909)	(3,682)
Redundant property fund	<u>353,912</u>	<u>(9,632)</u>	<u>344,280</u>
	829,479	(504,183)	325,296
Restricted funds			
Childrens worker fund	42,146	(57,971)	(15,825)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>871,625</u></u>	<u><u>(562,154)</u></u>	<u><u>309,471</u></u>

19. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

No Contingent liabilities were identified at 31st August 2021.

20. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

Related Parties include The Methodist Connexion, the Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury District, Churches within the Circuit (listed below), CFB and TMCP.

Churches within the Circuit:

Barlaston
Berkswich
Bishops Offley
Eccleshall
Gnosall
Milwich (Anglican/Methodist)
Rising Brook
Rowley Street (closed 31.08.2019)
St Johns, Stone (Methodist/URC)
Trinity, Stafford (Methodist/URC)
Weston
Woodseaves (closed 31.12.2018)

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations and transfers	366,346	18,544
Gift aid	<u>6,246</u>	<u>-</u>
	372,592	18,544
Other trading activities		
Other income	6,938	-
Investment income		
Deposit account interest	698	2,373
Charitable activities		
Assessment on churches	224,627	223,761
Lettings-non-investment property	9,240	9,240
Office space	<u>1,776</u>	<u>1,836</u>
	<u>235,643</u>	<u>234,837</u>
Total incoming resources	615,871	255,754
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Stipends and allowances	151,546	134,696
Social security	10,675	10,295
Pensions	3,593	16,869
Telephone	3,619	3,376
Insurance, Council tax etc	15,563	10,111
Repairs and maintenance	12,449	9,346
Sundries	4,914	3,477
Travelling expenses	2,457	6,289
Youth/Children's work	155	522
Training	288	870
Office expenses	4,668	4,686
URC mission and ministry	8,621	6,787
District assessment	44,007	44,833
Grants to churches	<u>44,352</u>	<u>-</u>
	306,907	252,157
Support costs		
Governance costs		
Accountancy and legal fees	<u>2,400</u>	<u>690</u>
Total resources expended	<u>309,307</u>	<u>252,847</u>
Net income	<u><u>306,564</u></u>	<u><u>2,907</u></u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

Accounts

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

(Registered Charity No. 1135822)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Year ended 31 August 2020

CONTENTS	Page
Trustees' Report	1-8
Independent Examiner's Report	9
Statement of Financial Activities	10
Balance Sheet	11
Notes to the Financial Statements	12-19

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Trustees' Annual Report on Finance and Governance For the year ended 31 August 2020

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(FRSSE) 2015.

Full Name of Charity: **STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT**

Registration Charity Number: **1135822**

Date of registration **06 May 2010**

Main communication address:

Circuit Office, Asbury House, Merrey Road, Stafford ST17 9LX

The members of the Stafford 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 on page 8 of this report.

Circuit Ministers and officers

Active Circuit Ministers Rev. Pauline Salter
 Rev. Jimione Kaci

Circuit Lay Worker Mrs Calolyn Hamer
 Mrs Isobel Wakerell

Circuit Stewards Mr Ian Mason
 Mr Paul Yates

Administrator: Mrs Leigh Reade

In accordance with the guidance on term of office, Mr Peter Bell stood down as Treasurer for the Circuit on 31/08/2019 and a replacement is being sought from the local churches. In the interim the remaining Circuit stewards have assumed collective responsibility for the financial accounting for the Circuit during the year.

Independent examiner: Bradshaws Limited
 Charter Court, Well House Barns,
 Chester Road, Chester CH4 0DH

Investment Bankers: Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
 Trustees For Methodist Church Purposes

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2020

Aims and organisation

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 Circuit produces a bi-monthly preaching plan to ensure that regular acts of worship take place at each of the 7 Methodist Churches and 3 Local Ecumenical Partnerships in its geographical area. The Stafford Circuit is constituted to offer acts of worship in its church communities and to further the mission of the Church in Stafford and across the borough of Stafford. With our primary internal function being that of Christian worship, we organise acts of worship in each of the 10 Circuit churches every Sunday. Our internal structure is based on a Circuit Meeting which meets four times a year; a Local Preachers meeting which meets around four times a year; Circuit Leadership Team meetings throughout the year, and Staff Meetings which meet monthly. We endeavour to make our meetings more than just talking shops; they are the place where important decisions are made and within them, we plan our strategies and fulfill our role as Charity Trustees.

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).

Trustee Training

A range of guidance is 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 Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The following Methodist Churches/LEP's are linked to the circuit:

Barlaston, Berkswich, Bishops Offley, Eccleshall, Gnosall, Milwich (LEP), Rising Brook, Rowley Street, St Johns, Stone (LEP), Trinity (LEP), Weston, Woodseaves.

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2020

Review of the year

2019/2020 has again necessitated new ways of working due to the pandemic which began to affect the way we operated from March 15th 2020. The ordained staff team remains the same with two full time presbyters working alongside one administrator, two pastoral workers and two youth workers. We have worked as a team across the whole circuit with the core team of presbyters, administrator and pastoral workers meeting regularly to ensure the ministry of the church is effective. Last year saw the closure of two of the churches. We still hope to find a mission purpose for the Woodseaves building but the pandemic has made it impossible to begin any new work on the premises. Investigations are ongoing to explore the possibility of using the building for mission projects, and we have been advised that we do not need to show the building as an investment property in our accounts at this time.

Rowley Street made the decision to close at the end of August 2019. We have been pursuing the possibility of selling the building. In August 2020 TMCP helped us look at the possibilities and necessary steps to sell the building but again, the pandemic has prevented advancing further.

The worshipping life of all the churches is very important. However, the pandemic has meant we have had to make difficult decisions about the way we worship. On March 16th 2020 the leadership team of the circuit took the decision to ask all the churches to close their buildings for all activities and worship. This was followed only a week later by a national lockdown where churches were required to remain closed. Over the summer months a lot of energy was put into ensuring the buildings could be reopened safely in September. In person worship would only be offered once a month by a preacher as several of our preachers were in the vulnerable categories. The buildings being closed has proved to be a catalyst to churches thinking about ways to safely worship. This has resulted in two live services every Sunday using Zoom, with appropriate safeguards put in place. A prerecorded act of worship has been provided every week. Each church takes a turn in organising the service which is then available on YouTube and Facebook. Churches moved prayer meetings online and some took to reaching out to people by two people holding a short service in the garden or on the pavement for those who were unable to leave their homes. The churches have seen a growth in numbers and are more effectively reaching those who were too old and frail to attend worship. It is important to maintain and develop the worshipping life of the church as it is the catalyst for other areas of our calling. From worship flows our three other main activities within local, national and global communities; learning & caring, service and evangelism.

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2020

Review of the year (continued)

Our churches seek to embrace the breadth of 'Our Calling' whilst also recognising the challenges and difficulties. We are rooted in a number of different local communities, but our vision is much wider as we seek to serve the wider church and world in our work. Work in the community continues to be an important aspect of the circuit's mission. Sadly, the pandemic has meant that our buildings were not available for community use. However, this has not prevented the churches finding ways to reach out to their communities. Our youth workers continue to support the young people in a variety of ways though in person youth work has not been possible since March. When considering achievements and performance it is right to pay tribute to the many people throughout the circuit who in their daily lives respond to the call of Jesus "follow me" by offering pastoral care and/or practical help, and, to the team of Local Preachers' who enable services to take place Sunday by Sunday. We operate an open-door policy and welcome all to our church communities and wider work irrespective of race, gender, ethnicity, sexuality or any kind of disability, taking seriously the challenge to love God, self and neighbour.

Financial Review

Circuit income is drawn primarily from the assessments paid by the churches, and during the year these increased by 2% in line with the annual review to £223,761 (2019: £219,384). Rental income fell by 19% to £11,076 as a result of closure of Woodseaves church the previous year, however, rental of a former manse and office space at Asbury House were maintained. The costs of Ministerial stipends and lay worker salaries were level with the previous year, however, there was an increase in the cost of repairs and maintenance associated with refurbishment of one of the manses and former manse (rental property). These repairs were in line with the budget allocated for this purpose.

At 31st August 2020, unrestricted funds, excluding Land & Buildings, stood at £314,535 (2019: £301,295) of which £263,124 was not designated for any particular purpose.

Given the restrictions on normal activity and uncertainty of future income brought about by the Covid Pandemic, the Circuit Leadership Team felt it was necessary to maintain a position of responsiveness and would be inappropriate to reduce the free reserves at this time.

Plans for 2020/21

Plans for 2020/21 are difficult to make with a high degree of certainty. Many churches in the Circuit have suffered a reduction in income due to lack of attendance offertory and a review of the financial position is planned (will be needed) once all audited accounts are available from all churches.

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2020

Reserves Policy

General

It is the Trustees policy to maintain a balance of unrestricted and undesignated funds equivalent to between three and four months average unrestricted expenditure, to cover unexpected requirement which may occur from time to time, and also to maintain a fund of between £50,000 and £75,000 to enable the Circuit to assist its churches with appropriate grants and loans.

St Johns Mission & Development Fund

This fund, set up with the Methodist share of the proceeds from the sale of the St John's Church building, has been designated for St John's use in developing its future mission plans. The fund is monitored by the Circuit Meeting to ensure that that monies will be used, both for an approved purpose and within a reasonable timescale.

Property Refurbishment Fund

Manse refurbishments are carried out at irregular intervals, usually to coincide with a change in Minsters, and can therefore fluctuate wildly from year to year. This fund, which will ensure that adequate provision is made for future costs, will be capped at a maximum of £25,000.

Risk Management

The major risks associated with the Circuit have been identified by the Circuit Leadership Team. A regular review process is in place and will be recorded.

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.

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2020

Safeguarding (continued)

- 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 Stafford Methodist 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 Stafford Methodist 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.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRSSE);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2020

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities (continued)

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

DECLARATION

The Charity's Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees

Signatures

Name Rev. Pauline Salter
Position Chair
Date 17th June 2021

Leigh Barbara Reade
Secretary

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2020

Appendix A

CIRCUIT MEETING MEMBERSHIP

MINISTERS	Rev. P M Salter Rev. J Kaci
LAYWORKERS	Mrs C A Hamer Mrs I Wakerell
CIRCUIT STEWARDS	Mr I Mason Dr P C Yates Mr P W Hardy Mrs J D Wood
CIRCUIT MEETING SECRETARY	Mrs L B Reade
LOCAL PREACHERS REPRESENTATIVES	Mrs G F Ashmore Dr M Timothy (until 01/05/2020) Mrs M E Winnington
CIRCUIT REPRESENTATIVES TO SYNOD	Mr P Hardy from 28/11/2019 Mrs V Bates from 28/11/2019 Dr S McCready-Shea from 01/12/2019 Mrs M E Hemingway

CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES

Barlaston	Mrs K A Ford Mrs K M Bradburn	Rising Brook	Mr I F Baldwin Mrs I M Cantrill Mrs S Watson
Berkswich	Mr D C East Mrs C East Mrs P Roberts Mrs L M Westoby Mr T A S Goodchild	St John's, Stone	Mrs A Dair Mr A R Heath Mr D C Stewart
Bishops Offley	Mrs M E Hemingway Mrs J Palin Mrs A Hardy	Trinity, Stafford	Miss W E Harris Mr T Houghton Mr A Lowe Miss L Birch
Eccleshall	Mrs C Harper Mrs D H Kirkham Mrs M Embrey	Weston	Mrs B Gillespie Mr C Gillespie
Gnosall	Mr W D Basford Mr T H Harrison Mrs J Jobling		
Milwich	Mr R W Knight Mrs E Hodson		

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT for the year ended 31 August 2020

**Independent Examiner's Report
to the Trustees of Stafford Methodist Circuit**

I report on the Accounts of the Stafford Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31st August 2020 which are set out on pages 10 to 19.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

A J Bradshaw FCA
Bradshaws Limited
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditor
17th June 2021

Charter Court
Well House Barns
Chester Road
Bretton, Chester
CH4 0DH

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds			Restricted Funds	Total 2019-20	Unrestricted Funds			Restricted Funds	Total 2018-19
		Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust	Designated	Restricted		Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust	Designated	Restricted	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments:											
Donations and legacies	2				18,544	18,544				31,248	31,248
Income from Monetary Investments	3	970	1,180	223		2,373	993	1,197	212		2,402
Assessments on Churches	4	223,761				223,761	219,384				219,384
Capital Receipts	5					0					0
Grants	6					0					0
Rents received	7	11,076				11,076	13,628				13,628
Other Income	8					0	3,915				3,915
Total charitable Income		235,807	1,180	223	18,544	255,754	237,920	1,197	212	31,248	270,577
Expenditure on:											
Grants and Donations						0	0				0
Stipends, salaries, NIC & Pension costs	9	133,547			28,313	161,860	130,193			27,535	157,728
District Assessment & Levy	10	40,266	4,567			44,833	40,131	4,760			44,891
URC Mission & Ministry	11	6,787				6,787	10,796				10,796
Property	12	19,457				19,457	14,696				14,696
Office Expenses		4,686				4,686	4,507				4,507
Telephone & Travelling Expenses	13	9,401			264	9,665	13,938			333	14,271
Other Expenditure	14	4,976	283		300	5,559	3,160	291		205	3,656
Total charitable expenditure		219,120	4,850	0	28,877	252,847	217,421	5,051	0	28,073	250,545
Net income before investment gains/losses		16,687	(3,670)	223	(10,333)	2,907	20,499	(3,854)	212	3,175	20,032
Net gains on monetary investments						0					0
Disposals/Revaluations						0					0
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		16,687	(3,670)	223	(10,333)	2,907	20,499	(3,854)	212	3,175	20,032
Transfers between funds	22					0	(6,500)		6,500		0
Net movement in funds		16,687	(3,670)	223	(10,333)	2,907	13,999	(3,854)	6,712	3,175	20,032
Total funds brought forward		712,759	141,348	47,188	26,936	928,231	698,760	145,202	40,476	23,761	908,199
Total funds carried forward		729,446	137,678	47,411	16,603	931,138	712,759	141,348	47,188	26,936	928,231

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2020

Unrestricted Funds			Restricted		
General	Circuit Model Trust	Designated	Funds	Totals 2019-20	Totals 2018-19
£	£	£	£	£	£

Tangible Fixed Assets

Notes

Circuit Manses & Equipment	15	600,000				600,000	600,000
Investment Properties							
Investments							
Total fixed assets		600,000				600,000	600,000

Current Assets

Debtors and Prepayments	16	7,369				7,369	7,576
Loans by the Circuit	17						1,250
Central Finance Board Deposits	18	90,311		47,411	16,603	154,325	223,854
Cash at Bank and in hand	18	71,903				71,903	14,450
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	19		137,678			137,678	141,348
Total current assets		169,583	137,678	47,411	16,603	371,275	388,478

Creditors and Accruals (due in under 1 yr)

20

		40,137				40,137	60,247
Net current assets (liabilities)		129,446	137,678	47,411	16,603	331,138	328,231
Total assets less current liabilities		729,446	137,678	47,411	16,603	931,138	928,231

Creditors and Accruals (due after more than 1 year)

							-
							-
Net assets		729,446	137,678	47,411	16,603	931,138	928,231

Funds of the Circuit

General Fund (Unrestricted)		729,446				729,446	712,759
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			137,678			137,678	141,348
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)				47,411		47,411	47,188
Restricted funds					16,603	16,603	26,936
Total Funds	22	729,446	137,678	47,411	16,603	931,138	928,231

I confirm that I have prepared the accounts from the records of the circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit.

Peter Hardy

Date 17th June 2021

I confirm that the Accounts have been presented to the Circuit Meeting on 28.11.19 and were approved.

Signature of the Chair of the Meeting

Rev. Pauline Salter

Date 17th June 2021

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Notes to the Accounts for the year ending 31 August 2020

1. Basis of accounting and accounting policies

i Accounting standard

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with *Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP)* applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective from 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

ii Public benefit entity

The Stafford Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s) below.

iii 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. The accruals basis has been used and the trustees present accounts that show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

iv Content

The financial information is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used, these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

v Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2020, the trustees believe that the Circuit is a going concern.

vi Consolidation

The Circuit has denominational regulatory oversight in respect of the work of the Churches within the Circuit but has no legal or operational control of those Churches and their governing bodies except in extreme circumstances. For this reason, the financial statements of Churches within the Circuit are not consolidated into these financial statements.

vii Income Recognition

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.

viii Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, where the amount is reliably measurable and it is considered more likely than not that there will be an outflow of economic benefit.

ix Grants

Grants made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement to make a grant without performance conditions or as and when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment if it is subject to performance conditions. When the grant is recurrent over more than one year the balance payable in future years is treated as a provision for future commitments in the Balance Sheet against the appropriate fund, the provision being released in future years as instalments are paid in accordance with the originally agreed terms.

x VAT

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

xi Tangible fixed assets for use by the Circuit

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000.

The freehold property is shown in the accounts at 2015 deemed values, of which the land component is deemed to be £150,000. No depreciation is provided on the buildings because the trustees consider the current residual value of the property in its present condition to be not less than its current value, and in the absence of any evidence of impairment, any depreciation provision would not be material.

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Notes to the Accounts for the year ending 31 August 2020 (continued)

xi Tangible fixed assets for use by the Circuit - continued

From time to time the Circuit may be required to assume responsibility for Church premises following closure and cessation for worship. This results in the Circuit becoming Managing Trustees for the property. At that time the property is recognised as an asset at its anticipated net sale price as determined by a professional valuation and after taking into consideration the levy to be charged by the Connexion. Any expenditure on such assets, if held for reinvestment of the proceeds, as the trustees determine, that is likely to enhance sales value is capitalised at the time the expenditure is incurred. Where the proceeds are intended to be spent on activities, the property is included in current assets at the lower of cost and realisable value.

xii Monetary investments

The Circuit's investments are in monetary assets classified as basic financial instruments under FRS102 and are held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees. The valuations, at market value, are those provided by TMCP.

xiii Investment Property

From time to time the Circuit may hold residential property (formerly manses) which is surplus to its normal staffing requirements. Where this is the case and it is anticipated that the property is unlikely to be used as a manse within a period of two years, the property is classified as Investment Property (whether let out or not) and any lets are at market rates unless there is a compelling reason not to do so in furtherance of the Circuit's charitable objectives. There are currently no properties regarded as Investment Properties.

xiv Receivables and Payables; Bank and Cash (Basic Financial Instruments)

Debtors are stated at the amount owed to the Circuit or prepaid. Creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds of bank balances and deposit fund balances are shown at their realisable values.

xv Funds

The trustees have adopted a policy for all unrestricted reserves which is set out in the Trustees Report.

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Notes to the Accounts for the year ending 31 August 2020 (continued)

2 Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted General Fund	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2020	Unrestricted General Fund	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations	-	-	18,544	18,544	-	-	31,248	31,248
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	18,544	18,544	-	-	31,248	31,248

3 Income from Monetary Investments

	Unrestricted	CMTF	Restricted	2020	Unrestricted	CMTF	Restricted	2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Central Finance Board	1,193	-	-	1,193	1,205	-	-	1,205
TMCP	-	1,180	-	1,180	-	1,197	-	1,197
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1,193	1,180	-	2,373	1,205	1,197	-	2,402

4 Assessments on Churches

At the beginning of the year, the Circuit comprised of 12 churches and each was assessed for a contribution to meet the overall net costs of the Circuit. For several years the Circuit has been engaged in a plan to ensure that each church's contribution is assessed on a fairer basis than that used in the past. The method used takes account, to varying degrees, of membership, attendance and income, utilising an annual cap on the size of individual annual adjustments.

5 Capital Receipts

There were no capital receipts during the year (2019: nil).

6 Grants Receivable

	Unrestricted General Fund	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2020	Unrestricted General Fund	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
District Advance Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

7 Property Rentals

	Unrestricted General Fund	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2020	Unrestricted General Fund	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Letting - non-investment property	9,240	-	-	9,240	8,232	-	-	8,232
Office space	1,836	-	-	1,836	2,106	-	-	2,106
Woodseaves	-	-	-	-	3,290	-	-	3,290
Total	11,076	-	-	11,076	13,628	-	-	13,628

The Circuit's manse in Widecombe Avenue is currently let on a short-term basis. It is still anticipated that it may again be required to house a Minister in the next 1 to 2 years. Following the closure of Woodseaves Methodist Church on 31 December 2018, the premises continued to be let out to a local Playgroup on a short-term basis.

8 Other Income

	Unrestricted General Fund	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2020	Unrestricted General Fund	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance on closure - Woodseaves Church	-	-	-	-	3,915	-	-	3,915
Total	-	-	-	-	3,915	-	-	3,915

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Notes to the Accounts for the year ending 31 August 2020 (continued)

9 Stipends & Salaries

Ministers - Stipends were paid to 2 Methodist Presbyters (2.0 FTE) (2018-19 2 Presbyters (2.5 FTE)):-

	Unrestricted General Fund	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2020	Unrestricted General Fund	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Stipends & Allowances	53,019			53,019	51,074			51,074
National Insurance	4,852			4,852	4,621			4,621
Pension Costs	13,370			13,370	13,002			13,002
	71,241	0	0	71,241	68,697	0	0	68,697

In addition, a United Reformed Church Minister worked in the Circuit during 2017/18 on a part time basis - see note 12.

Lay employees - Salaries were paid to 6 Lay Employees (3.7 FTE) (2017-18 2.5 FTE).

Salaries	57,042		24,635	81,677	56,487		23,964	80,451
National Insurance	3,243		2,200	5,443	2,866		2,133	4,999
Pension Costs	2,021		1,478	3,499	2,143		1,438	3,581
	62,306	0	28,313	90,619	61,496	0	27,535	89,031
Total	133,547	0	28,313	161,860	130,193	0	27,535	157,728

No employees received employee benefits of more than £60,000. There is no accrual for holiday pay as it is immaterial. All staff are paid at or above the Living Wage.

Pensions

Most ordained presbyters are members of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme, which is a defined benefit scheme. The Supreme Court held in 2014 that Methodist ministers are not employees of the Church. For simplicity, however, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions and pension contributions, the terms 'employer' and 'employee' are used as they would be in an employing body.

On the other hand, lay employees are contractually employees and have the option of joining a pension scheme which the Circuit has arranged with The Pension Trust.

9a Costs of Superintendent, Presbyters and Trustees

The Superintendent of the Circuit, the other Presbyters and the remaining members of the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) are considered as Key Management Personnel. The Superintendent chairs meetings of the CLT and Circuit Meetings. The members of the Circuit Meeting are the trustees of the Circuit. The stipends, employer's NIC and employer's pension contributions and other expenses of the Presbyters of the Circuit are paid by the Circuit.

The manse is provided by the Circuit and the Circuit maintains the property (one manse in the Circuit is owned by the United Reformed Church (URC) and is maintained jointly under a sharing agreement). The value of Council Tax and water charges is not disclosed here as HMRC does not regard this as a benefit-in-kind in the hands of the minister.

Payments to Trustees

Apart from the Presbyters, Circuit Administrator, and Circuit Lay Workers, no member of the Circuit Meeting was in receipt of any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the Circuit, although certain travelling and administration costs were reimbursed in particular cases.

Three trustees (Circuit Administrator and 2 Pastoral Layworkers) are employees of the Circuit and are in receipt of salaries and other employment related expenses.

	2020	2019
Number of trustees who were paid expenses	6	7
Expense payments primarily relate to reimbursement for travel, stationery and computing costs.		
Total amount paid	£ 8,061	£ 8,744

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Notes to the Accounts for the year ending 31 August 2020 (continued)

10 District Assessment & Levy

In common with other circuits in the District, the Circuit pays an annual assessment to the Wolverhampton & Shewsbury District of the Methodist Church, which is based on the number of Methodist Presbyters and Lay Workers within each circuit. The Levy is calculated on a sliding scale percentage of the balance of the Circuit's CMTF at 31 August in the previous accounting year.

	Unrestricted General Fund	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2020	Unrestricted General Fund	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2019
District Assessment	40,266	-	-	40,266	40,131	-	-	40,131
District Levy	-	4,567	-	4,567	-	4,760	-	4,760
	40,266	4,567	-	44,833	40,131	4,760	-	44,891

11 URC Mission & Ministry

Two churches in the Circuit - St John's and Trinity, are Methodist/URC Local Eccumenical Partnerships. The URC Synod makes an annual charge relating to its general costs and specifically to the cost of ministry provided to the two churches concerned, where applicable. In the year to 31 August 2020: NIL (2019: NIL) of a URC Minister's time was allocated in respect of the URC presence within the Circuit and this cost, together with other URC costs allocated on a deemed 50/50 Methodist/URC membership, is regarded as a Circuit cost.

The total cost for the year ended 31st August 2020 was £6,787 (2019: 10,796).

12 Property Costs

The Circuit is Managing Trustee for 3 manse or former manse. In addition to one manse which houses one of the Circuit's Ministers, one former manse is used as the Circuit Office, whilst another is let on a short-term basis pending it being brought back into use as a manse. A further manse in the Circuit is owned by the URC and is maintained jointly under a sharing agreement.

	2020 £	2019 £
Insurance, Council Tax & Utilities	10,111	10,380
General Maintenance & other property	9,346	4,316
	19,457	14,696

The Circuit holds a Property Refurbishment Fund (a designated fund of the Circuit) to provide for unforeseen and significant repairs which may be required from time to time. During the year £nil was transferred into this fund from the General Fund, bringing the total to £15,000 (2019: £15,000) at the end of the year.

13 Telephone & Travelling Expenses

	Unrestricted General Fund	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2020 £	Unrestricted General Fund	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2019 £
Telephone Costs	3,376	-	-	3,376	4,238	-	-	4,238
Travelling Expenses	6,025	-	264	6,289	9,700	-	333	10,033
	9,401	-	264	9,665	13,938	-	333	14,271

14 Other Expenditure

	Unrestricted General Fund	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2020 £	Unrestricted General Fund	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2019 £
Youth/Children's Work	522	-	-	522	211	-	205	416
Maternity Leave Cover	0	-	-	0	0	-	-	0
Independent Examination	690	-	-	690	660	-	-	660
Training	870	-	-	870	458	-	-	458
Ministers' Removal Costs	0	-	-	0	0	-	-	0
St Johns M&D Fund	0	-	-	0	0	-	-	0
Miscellaneous	2,894	283	300	3,477	1,831	291	-	2,122
	4,976	283	300	5,559	3,160	291	205	3,656

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Notes to the Accounts for the year ending 31 August 2020 (continued)

15 Tangible Fixed Assets

Cost or valuation

	Residential Land £	Other Land £	Manses* £	Other Buildings** £	Other fixed assets including motor vehicles £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Payments on account and assets under construction £	Total £
Balance brought forward	150,000	-	175,000	275,000	-	-	-	600,000
Additions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluations (+/-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals (-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers * (+/-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance carried forward	150,000	-	175,000	275,000	-	-	-	600,000

Accumulated depreciation

	**Basis		SL or RB	SL or RB	SL or RB	SL or RB		
	** Rate							
Balance brought forward	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation charge for year (-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluations (+/-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals (-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers* (+/-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance carried forward	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Net book value

Brought forward	150,000	-	175,000	275,000	-	-	-	600,000
Carried forward	150,000	-	175,000	275,000	-	-	-	600,000

*Manses comprise one manse in Gnosall.

**Other buildings comprise two former manses; one now used as the Circuit Office and one which is temporarily being let. It is anticipated that the latter may be brought back into use as a manse within the next two years.

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Notes to the Accounts for the year ending 31 August 2020 (continued)

16 Debtors & Prepayments

	Unrestricted General Fund	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2020	Unrestricted General Fund	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Stipend paid in error	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prepayments - Stipends etc paid in advance	6,025	-	-	6,025	5,865	-	-	5,865
Other Prepayments	1,344	-	-	1,344	1,711	-	-	1,711
	<u>7,369</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7,369</u>	<u>7,576</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7,576</u>

17 Loans to Churches

Church	Date Granted	Amount	Period	Balance B/fwd	Repaid this year	Balance C/fwd
Gnosall (property repairs)	21.04.16	£5,000	4 Years	<u>1,250</u>	<u>1,250</u>	<u>0</u>

18 Central Finance Board and Bank Balances

	Unrestricted General Fund	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2020	Unrestricted General Fund	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Central Finance Board	<u>137,722</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,603</u>	<u>154,325</u>	<u>196,864</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26,990</u>	<u>223,854</u>
NatWest Bank	3,349	-	-	3,349	4,713	-	-	4,713
CAF Bank	67,304	-	-	67,304	8,393	-	-	8,393
HSBC Bank	472	-	-	472	1,344	-	-	1,344
Cash	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>71,125</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>71,125</u>	<u>14,450</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>14,450</u>

19 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP)

The funds that support the Circuit Model Trust Fund are held by TMCP in the Trustees Interest Fund on which interest is credited each month. TMCP is the legal owner and custodian trustee of all Methodist model trust property, including legacies, endowments and accumulated funds.

20 Creditors, Accruals and Income in advance

It is expected that all sums accrued at 31st August 2020 will be paid in the year to 31 August 2021

	Unrestricted General Fund	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2020	Unrestricted General Fund	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income in Advance								
Assessments in advance	41,989	-	-	41,989	41,989	-	-	41,989
Rent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Creditors & Accruals								
Funds held for Churches	(4,779)	-	-	(4,779)	14,767	-	-	14,767
URC M & M Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
A/c's Examination	720	-	-	720	690	-	-	690
Travelling Expenses	266	-	0	266	729	-	54	783
Utilities & insurance	720	-	-	720	853	-	-	853
Other Property Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Salaries	-	-	-	0	865	-	-	865
Other	1,220	-	-	1,220	300	-	-	300
	<u>40,137</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>40,137</u>	<u>60,193</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>60,247</u>

21 Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

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

STAFFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

Notes to the Accounts for the year ending 31 August 2020 (continued)

22. Summary of Fund movements

Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted Fund Name	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Closing Balance	Purpose of the fund
	£	£	£	£	£	
General	712,759	236,030	219,120		729,669	General purposes
Circuit Model Trust Fund	141,348	1,180	4,850		137,678	General purposes
Property Refurbishment Fund	15,000				15,000	Provision for future refurbishments/major repairs
St John's M&D Fund	31,196				31,196	Mission & Development at St John's, Stone
Superintendent's Discretionary	992				992	Discretionary spend in cases of local need etc.
Totals	901,295	237,210	223,970		914,535	

Restricted Funds

Restricted Fund Name	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Closing Balance	Purpose of the fund
Children's Worker Fund	26,936	18,544	28,877		16,603	Funded from private donations for the employment of a Schools Worker, employed by the Circuit but based in Berkswich Church

Total of all Funds	928,231	255,754	252,847		931,138
---------------------------	----------------	----------------	----------------	--	----------------

23. Related Parties

Related Parties include The Methodist Connexion, the Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury District, Churches within the Circuit (listed below), CFB and TMCP.

Churches within the Circuit:	Barlaston
	Berkswich
	Bishops Offley
	Eccleshall
	Gnosall
	Milwich (Anglican/Methodist)
	Rising Brook
	*Rowley Street (closed 31.08.2019)
	St Johns, Stone (Methodist/URC)
	Trinity, Stafford (Methodist/URC)
	Weston
	*Woodseaves (closed 31.12.2018)

24. Leasing Commitments

At 31 August 2020 the Charity had commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:-

	£
Total liability payable over 2 years	2,208