

BURY ST.EDMUNDS METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales · Charity number 1135971

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2010-05-17

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

Contact

Address The Circuit Office
Trinity Methodist Church
Brentgovel Street
Bury St Edmunds
IP33 1EB

Phone 01284731082

Email circuit.admin@hotmail.com

Website www.online.church123.com/burystedmundsmethodistcircuit

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: Christian presence in Suffolk, mission to fellow humankind and all creation.

Classification

- **How:** Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Religious Activities, Environment/conservation/heritage, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, The General Public/mankind

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-08-31	£192,640	£213,333	-	-
2023-08-31	£1,121,044	£205,333	£2,187,528	3
2022-08-31	£177,560	£278,518	-	-
2021-08-31	£155,802	£191,552	-	-
2020-08-31	£190,740	£168,885	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Jason Christopher Vinyard	Chair	2021-09-01
Christopher Spencer		2024-10-10
DAPHNE JAY		
DAVID WAKEFORD		
Donald Leslie Day		2019-09-09
Edward Freeman		2017-06-21
Francis Arnold Carr		2024-10-10
JENNIFER MAUREEN BENFIELD		2020-09-07
JOHN DAVIES		2013-09-16
Joy Inameti		2018-09-06
Joyce May Wood		2019-06-25
MARIAN HIGH		
MARY KEER		
MICHAEL DRAIN		
Neil Martin		2014-06-23
Norman Langridge		2014-06-23
PAULINE AMES		
PETER SANDERSON		2014-06-23
REV RUTH KAREN RIDGE		2016-02-29
ROBERT WOOD		
Rev Julie Ann Minns		2021-06-07
Rev Rita Carr		2014-09-18
Richard Anthony Wild		2020-03-03
Roland David Sore		2025-03-25
Rosemary Elizabeth Anne Kearsley		2017-06-29
SHARON MARTIN		2012-05-22
STELLA DAVIS		2012-05-23

Name	Role	Appointed
Susan Yvonne Foreman		2020-09-07
VAUGHAN TONG		
Valerie Anne Southgate		2018-09-06

BURY ST.EDMUNDS METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1135971

Accounts

BURY ST EDMUNDS METHODIST CIRCUIT (*Registered Charity 1135971*)
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

CIRCUIT MINISTERS

Reverend Canon Jason Vinyard 14 Well Street Bury St Edmunds IP33 1EQ
 Reverend Rita Carr 12 Shakespeare Road Stowmarket IP14 1TJ
 Reverend Ruth Ridge 4 Kedington Court Acton CO10 0XB

CIRCUIT STEWARDS

Mr Francis Carr 12 Shakespeare Road Stowmarket IP14 1TJ
 Mrs Jane Brooker
 Mr Andrew Walker 14 Horsecroft Road Bury St Edmunds IP33 2DU

CIRCUIT TREASURERS

Mr Richard Meadows 16 Greene Mews Bury St Edmunds IP33 1QL
 Mr Richard Wild (Assistant) Palmers Cottage The Green Woolpit IP30 9RQ

THE TRUSTEES are those persons appointed by the Circuit Meeting under Methodist Church rules.

THE CIRCUIT is the primary unit in which local churches express and experience their interconnection in the body of Christ for the purposes of mission, mutual encouragement and help. The Circuit comprises 9 churches and had a team of two and a half Ministers covering a mainly rural area of some 500 square miles. There were 3 active supernumerary ministers and 11 local preachers. From time to time Sunday services are held on a local arrangement basis if no minister or local preacher can be found.

THE CHURCHES' membership and attendance numbers were as follows:

Church	Membership November 2023	Membership November 2024	Attendance November 2023	Attendance November 2024
Bradfield	7	4	9	6
Glemsford	8	8	12	14
Ixworth	12	12	7	7
Christchurch Needham Market LEP	34	34	22	22
Northumberland Avenue	18	17	25	25
Old Newton	17	17	14	12
St John's Sudbury	67	62	45	45
Stowmarket	33	38	29	32
Trinity Bury St Edmunds	107	107	50	60
Totals	303	299	213	223

Churches' annual assessment contributions to Circuit expenses are set out in note 1 to the accounts.

Churches in the Circuit continue to be inclusive, welcoming and register to officiate equal marriage services; some circuit churches have officiated same-sex marriages, and some churches have

welcomed new families and new members. Across the circuit churches services of Baptism, Confirmation have taken place, and several funerals for local members and community. The Circuit Churches serve their local communities in several ways: from Old Newton's craft groups; affordable lunch clubs and Trinity's and Ixworth's affordable weekly café days, St John's family work, Northumberland Avenue Tots group, and some provide warm spaces. The circuit churches also provide community spaces an example, Trinity hosts a community choir., and community groups such as AA, Bury Drop In – that supports vulnerably housed and homeless which links with local organisations and NHS to provide support and routes to housing and employment and health care. Within some of the circuit churches, participation in Bible Studies and House groups has flourished, meaning new groups have been formed, and pastoral groups continue. There are continued programmes of improvements to properties for accessibility to premises and also during worship services and all the necessary annual checks. An example of works completed range from new fire alarm, underfloor heating, AV screens, sound baffles, to decorating.

CIRCUIT ACTIVITIES

Circuit Newsletter: The circuit publishes a monthly newsletter covering its own activities it organises together with activities taking place in, or planned by, the local churches and ecumenical churches. This ensures that church members and friends know what is going on across the Circuit as a whole and can support the activities of other churches as well as their own. It also includes information for services and events across the East Anglia District, and links to other Methodist Organisations including the Joint Public Issues Team and Methodist Homes. Amongst other events there is a monthly environmental and eco article and gardening page fusing our spirituality and place in Suffolk. The front cover features artwork from people within the circuit supporting our local creativity, and theology of creation and incarnation, and the national Methodist Artwork collection bringing in wider theological perspective.

Continuing Local Preachers' and Ministers' Development: The Justice, Dignity and Solidarity report agreed and adopted at Methodist Conference continues to be the focus for on-going development; Unconscious Bias and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Training has been carried out by Local Preachers, Church Stewards and Ministers. The Local Preachers and Worship Leaders and ministers meet quarterly for business such as ongoing training, forward planning, and for pastoral support, and further development and learning fellowship and study. During the year a local church member gave testimony to become a preacher on note, exploring a calling to the ministry of local preaching, and a mentor and tutor from among the meeting was appointed. During this year the Local Preachers Meeting reformatted the agenda to give time to business and a more balanced time to worship, spirituality and wellbeing.

Safeguarding and GDPR: The Circuit Safeguarding Officer, the Superintendent, Ministers and Safeguarding Officers within the Circuit churches ensure all DBS certificates are up to date, and also The Foundational and Advanced Module Safeguarding courses are completed. The Circuit Safeguarding Policy is reviewed annually and the September meeting and adopted and is on the circuit website, Annual GDPR checks have been completed.

EDI and Unconscious Bias:

Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Unconscious Bias has been completed by most of the Circuit's Presbyters and Stewards. A positive step and it is good to see people engaging with this training. The training is undertaken by individuals online, and some 'face to face' training has taken place. Those who have completed the course are very positive about it, with the key take away being our use of language and the learning from legally protected characteristics and accessibility of worship and premises.

The Environmental and Eco Circuit Policy: Four Eco Church days were held at Bradfield Methodist Chapel to support the group, made up of representatives from each circuit church. This

Circuit initiative has the name B.eco.ME. Target is to widen participation and work towards planning for Net Zero by 2030, taking into consideration the recommendations for Methodist Church report and mission – A Justice Seeking Church. Creation services feature in each circuit church, led by our Eco lead and we have an annual Circuit Service around the Season of Creation, towards increasing awareness of ecological matters and the theology of this, while developing towards Net Zero targets as agreed at Conference. The Trustees of the church in which the Circuit Office is housed continue to apply Eco Church – some churches within the circuit have obtained silver and bronze certificates, and as this focus develops the Circuit identifies that over Net-Zero, the Circuit will focus on Eco-Church and Eco-Theology.

Circuit Office: progress towards Eco Circuit certification continues – during this year continued replacement to low energy LED lighting has taken place, and the building has underfloor heating and full eco insulation in roofs. Focus is towards low energy usage, sustainably sourced materials, carbon neutral papers, recycling. Circuit office continues working with A Rocha Christian environmental charity (Eco Church) and policy is to continue to develop this across the circuit. The Circuit Office uses a GDPR compliant shredder. During the year to fulfil the lone worker policy, new door locks were fitted, viewing glass to office doors, and a cctv system compliant with GDPR.

Circuit Website: The Circuit Website is continually updated and has resources available such as ‘the theology of safeguarding’ and information on circuit church events, services and links to partner organisations. The Circuit Newsletter and Preaching Plan is uploaded monthly, with GDPR compliance.

Circuit Services: are held for fellowship of all the circuit churches and have included a creation service, and a contemplative service with a meal afterwards, and Circuit Harvest service in which a local preacher received their 50 years of Local Preaching certificate, Ash Wednesday and Holy Week services.

Staff Meetings: The ministers in active appointment meet every two weeks, for fellowship, support, to share news from across the circuit churches, for strategic thinking, for plan making, and for time of prayer.

Circuit Leadership Team: made up of Circuit Ministers, Circuit Stewards, Circuit Treasures, meets regularly and before each Circuit Meeting to develop circuit policy and agreements on circuit matters, to recommend any conference policy and to continue to develop policies such as risk assessment and lone worker policies. It also meets to develop circuit strategy.

Children and Community Worker: Circuit contributes £2’000 to St John’s Children and Community Worker. The circuit assists in supporting a Community Worker at St John's, Sudbury, who works with a team to engage with the local community through a toddler group, after school club and drop in coffee and activities group. The team also runs regular Messy Church sessions.

Line Management: The circuit ensures line management of the Circuit PA/Administrator.

Supervision as set out by Methodist Conference: The circuit superintendent regularly meets presbyteral staff for Pastoral Supervision as agreed at Connexional Conference for formation and continued ministerial development.

Ecumenical work: is continued across all churches in the circuit, sharing acts of worship, Advent, Lent and Easter combined bible studies, World Day of Prayer, Week of Christian Unity, Good Friday Walk of Witness and mission events such as Messy Church, Open the Book in schools, and services at A Rocha Nature Reserve. Strong links have been developed with St Edmundsbury Cathedral.

Bradfield Retreat: The circuit has been exploring ways to make fuller use of its buildings. Bradfield chapel is situated in the countryside with good parking, meeting rooms and good transport links and the circuit has been exploring how this could be used to provide facilities for retreats and quiet days. The circuit Eco group, B.eco.ME have met here on a number of occasions and churches have used the premises for away days. At circuit meetings there has been agreement and plans develop towards the creation of a retreat centre and refurbishment of ancillary cottage at Bradfield Methodist Church to create a sustainable source of revenue for the mission of the circuit.

Grants to Circuit churches: During the year Circuit agreed grants for some Circuit churches towards property improvements and Children and Family work.

The Martins Methodist Homes Association: The senior circuit steward is the chaplain at The Martins and links continue to restore since the pandemic and Circuit Ministers and Supernumeraries offer Holy Communion to residents on a weekly basis and utilise Churches Together ecumenical links with other ordained colleagues from across Bury St Edmunds.

Culford Methodist School: A local preacher in the circuit is chaplain and head of RE at Culford and links continue to develop. The Superintendent is welcomed at Culford, shares in services such as The Annual Carol Service, presides at Holy Communion for school staff at start of term, and meets the chaplain and other staff, on a regular basis. The Circuit Superintendent worked with a student confirmation group and nine students were confirmed.

Circuit staff and Volunteers: We are incredibly grateful for the time, talents, gifts and prayers, overall strategic thinking, management and fellowship they share across the circuit.

CIRCUIT PROPERTY MATTERS

Work continued on the refurbishment of the manse in Well Street, including major repairs, using traditional methods, to the boundary walls largely of flint and stone fragments from the dissolved abbey. Expenditure remained within the Budget of £100,000 authorised by Circuit Meeting.

Two years previously the annual report noted that the future of the closed Cotton church premises was under consideration. Proposals for retention, for example as a community facility, were considered but were not seen as capable of coming to fruition. The Circuit Meeting agreed that the church should go for sale on the open market and Cotton Methodist Church was sold with all legal compliance signed off by Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes in August 2024. Quinquennials are up to date.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Circuit's Financial objective remains to meet its day to day running costs from income on ongoing activities. These are mainly assessments received from the individual churches but also rental income on the Sudbury manse and interest income on reserves.

The accounts showed a surplus of £1,195 from ongoing activities compared to £9,059 the previous year. The lower surplus was due to continued expenditure on the Well Street Manse and Higher Administrative Costs coupled with general cost of living expenses.

Other costs totalled £21,888, including grants made to churches of £13,500 left us with an overall shortfall of £20,693 reducing the value of net current assets from £237,529 to £216,836

Although the Circuit remained in a strong financial position the Circuit Finances' continued to be closely monitored.

RESERVES POLICY

The reserves shown within the Net Current Assets of £216836 are earmarked as follows:

Description	Amount
6 months expenditure	£90,000.00
Eco Projects Etc.	£60,000.00
Mission Work	£30,000.00
Extra administration provision	£25,000.00
Removal Fund	£2,500.00
Manse expenditure	£7,500.00
Total	£215,000.00

BURY ST EDMUNDS METHODIST CIRCUIT 14/03

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted 2023-24 £	Restricted 2023-24 £	Total 2023-24 £	Total 2022-23 £
PART A ONGOING ACTIVITIES					
INCOME FROM ONGOING ACTIVITIES					
Assessments	1	162,545		162,545	166,523
Rent from manse - net	2	14,936		14,936	13,589
Interest		11,504		11,504	7,708
Other		73		73	224
TOTAL INCOME FROM ONGOING ACTIVITIES		189,058	0	189,058	188,044
EXPENDITURE ONGOING ACTIVITIES					
District assessment		31,475		31,475	31,562
<i>Ministerial support</i>					
Ministers' stipends and pensions	3	94,891		94,891	95,078
District travel fund	4	5,250		5,250	4,500
Manse council tax and water		6,407		6,407	6,140
Manse maintenance	5	23,777		23,777	17,220
Manse insurance		2,722		2,722	2,439
Telecommunications		1,166		1,166	1,042
Supernumerary preaching fees		791		791	703
Removal costs	6	0		0	1,708
<i>Administration and other</i>					
Administrator (part time)	3	15,964		15,964	11,938
Office expenses and TMCP fee		3,457		3,457	4,054
Quinquennial inspections		1,182		1,182	1,073
Donations and gifts		300		300	725
Bank charges		81		81	87
Examination fee		250		250	200
Other		150		150	516
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ONGOING ACTIVITIES		187,863	0	187,863	178,985
SURPLUS / DEFICIT ONGOING ACTIVITIES		1,195	0	1,195	9,059
PART B OTHER ACTIVITIES					
Annual District Advance Fund Levy	7	-2,483		-2,483	-2,472
Ongoing costs - Cotton premises	8	-6,632		-6,632	-14,016
Grants to Churches	9	-13,500		-13,500	-9,372
Pension Reserve Fund refund		3,582		3,582	0
Mission initiatives		-791		-791	-488
Gains on fixed asset valuations	10	0		0	933,000
Circuit Office works at Trinity		-2,064		-2,064	0
SURPLUS/DEFICIT OTHER ACTIVITIES		-21,888	0	-21,888	906,652
TOTAL NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT ON YEAR		-20,693	0	-20,693	915,711
ADD FUNDS START OF YEAR		2,187,529	0	2,187,529	1,271,818
FUNDS AT END OF YEAR		2,166,836	0	2,166,836	2,187,529
FUNDS AT END OF YEAR EXCLUDING FIXED ASSETS (BUILDINGS)					
	11	216,836	0	216,836	237,529

BURY ST EDMUNDS METHODIST CIRCUIT 14/3
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	31 August 2024			31-Aug-23
		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £	Total £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors and prepayments		15,587		15,587	4,932
Central Finance Board account		121,293		121,293	162,690
Model Trust Funds - held by TMCP		101,800		101,800	99,323
HSBC current account		16,492		16,492	8,562
Cash		0		0	0
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		255,172	0	255,172	275,507
Creditors due under 1 year	12	38,336		38,336	37,979
TOTAL NET CURRENT ASSETS		216,836	0	216,836	237,529
Fixed assets - Manses	13	1,950,000		1,950,000	1,950,000
TOTAL NET ASSETS		2,166,836	0	2,166,836	2,187,529

REPRESENTED BY

General fund	14	115,036		115,036	138,206
Model Trust Funds - held by TMCP		101,800		101,800	99,323
Manses titles - held by TMCP	13	1,950,000		1,950,000	1,950,000
TOTAL		2,166,836	0	2,166,836	2,187,529

Signed:

Senior Circuit Steward

BURY ST EDMUNDS METHODIST CIRCUIT 14/3

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2023-24

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Accounting policies

Basis of accounting These financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention, except as noted below in respect of the valuation of manses, and in accordance with Statements of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities, and applicable UK accounting standards and the Charities Act 1993. The estimated net realizable value of the manses has been incorporated in the accounts. There has been no change in accounting policies from the previous year.

Reserves Total net current assets at the end of the year were £216,836. Circuit policy is to hold unrestricted reserves equivalent to about six month's expenditure. The Circuit has drawn up a reserves policy which considers how funds in excess of that can best be used to meet its charitable objectives and these are reported in the annual report.

Incoming resources All incoming resources are recognized once the Circuit has entitlement to them, it is certain they will be received and the monetary value of incoming resources can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Resources expended Liabilities are recognized as resources expended as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation which commits the Circuit to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to that category.

Irrecoverable VAT Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resource expended for which it was incurred.

Tangible fixed assets Tangible fixed assets are capitalized if they have a cost in excess of £2,000 and can be used for more than one year. The only such assets are the manses in Bury St Edmunds, Stowmarket and Sudbury.

1 Assessments

Assessments are based on perceived ability to pay as indicated by the average income of each church over the previous five years. Allowance is made for any extraordinary income such as bequests and grants. The total assessment required to support circuit is then shared between the churches pro-rata to income. Assessments received were:

	2023-24(£)	2022-23(£)
Bradfield	6,968	7,298
Glensford	3,000	3,000
Ixworth	5,780	5,825
Needham Market	6,510	9,184
Northumberland Avenue	12,564	12,316
Old Newton	11,328	11,636
St John's Sudbury	44,416	44,940
Stowmarket	14,208	14,404
Trinity Bury St Edmunds	57,771	57,920
Total	162,545	166,523

2 Rent from manse

The figure is net - £16,200 less agent's fees £1,264.

3 Staff costs	2023-24(£)	2022-23(£)
Stipends and salary	83,919	81,260
Pension contributions	19,027	18,587
Employers NI	6,866	6,216
Allowances	582	536
Apprenticeship levy	461	417
Total	110,855	107,016

Number of full-time equivalents	3	3
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4 District Travel Fund

This is the Circuit's contribution towards the Fund run by District (based on the number of Ministers in each Circuit) from which actual travel costs are paid.

5 Manse maintenance

An allocation of £20,000 a year for manse maintenance was introduced on 1 September 2022 to be held as a designated fund within the general fund. The accounts show total expenditure of £40,997 in 2022-23 and 2023-24 meaning the fund was £997 overdrawn by 31 August 2024. This will be carried forward.

6 Removal fund

A designated fund was set up on 1 September 2023, within the general fund, for Ministers' removals. It contained £2,500 at 31 August 2024.

7 District Advance Fund

A levy of 2.5% on the first £100,000, 5% between £100,000 and £250,000 and 7.5% above £250,000 is applied by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) to the Circuit Advance Fund as at 1 September and paid to the East Anglia District Advance Fund.

8 Cotton

Expenditure was on the empty building insurance policy, and heating and maintenance to preserve the building's fabric. The building was sold by auction on 25 September 2024 - £236,000 gross was realized.

9 Grants to churches

Grants to churches were: £4,500 lay worker and repairs at Sudbury, £4,000 repairs at Ixworth, and £5,000 towards a new kitchen at Trinity.

10 Gains on fixed assets

The gains on fixed assets in 2022-23 reflected a revaluation of the manses.

11 Funds excluding fixed assets

This information has been included at the request of the Circuit Meeting. Members wished to see clearly the funds actually held by the Circuit excluding the estimated value of the manses.

12 Creditors

This includes assessment payments from the churches as required by Standing orders of £36,112 made in August 2024 towards Circuit expenditure after 1 September 2024.

13 Manses

The manses are owned by the TMCP but are managed on their behalf by the Trustees of the Bury St Edmunds Methodist Circuit. As such their value is only reported in these accounts as a convenience to the owners TMCP. As indicated in last year's accounts the value of the manses had been reviewed in the light of local market conditions and the refurbishment of the Well Street manse and increased to £1,950,000. (See also note 10 above.)

14 General funds

Allocation of general funds:

Manse maintenance - designated (note 5) deficit	- £997
Removal fund - designated (note 6)	£2,500
Other	<u>£113,533</u>
	£115,036

15 Trustees

None of the Trustees, or persons connected with them, received any remuneration or other benefits from the Circuit or any connected organization as a result of their office during the year.

DECLARATIONS

1. TREASURER

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

Signature R Sore
pp Circuit Treasurer

Date 25.3.2005

2. INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BURY ST EDMUNDS METHODIST CIRCUIT

This report is on the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Examiner

The Circuit's Trustees are responsible for the preparations of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is required. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under Section 145 of the Charities Act.

Basis of the Independent Examiner's Report

My examination comprised a review of the accounting records kept by the Circuit Treasurer and a comparison of the accounts with those records. The procedures undertaken do not provide evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion in the view given by those accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

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

- a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 46 of the Charities Act, and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the Accounting Act have not been met, or
- b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signature J Knights

Date 8.5.2005

James Knights
Eldo House
Kempson Way
Bury St Edmunds
IP32 7AR

3. PRESENTATION TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING FOR APPROVAL

I confirm the accounts have been presented to the Circuit Meeting on 12 March 2024 and were approved.

J Vinyard

Revd Jason Vinyard
Superintendent Minister

Signature of the Chairperson of the meeting

BURY ST.EDMUNDS METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1135971

Accounts

**BURY ST EDMUNDS METHODIST CIRCUIT (Registered Charity 1135971)
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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 Reverend Rita Carr 12 Shakespeare Road Stowmarket
 IP14 1TJ
 Reverend Ruth Ridge 4 Kedington Court Acton CO10 0XB

CIRCUIT STEWARDS

Mr Bill Humm 52 Farriers Road Stowmarket IP14 2NS (to March 2023)
 Mrs Jane Brooker
 Mr Francis Carr 12 Shakespeare Road Stowmarket IP14 1TJ
 Mr Andrew Walker 14 Horsecroft Road Bury St Edmunds IP33 2 DU

CIRCUIT TREASURERS

Mr Richard Meadows 16 Greene Mews Bury St Edmunds IP33 1QL
 Mr Richard Wild (Assistant) Palmers Cottage The Green Woolpit IP30 9RQ

THE TRUSTEES are those persons appointed by the Circuit Meeting under Methodist Church rules. In March 2023 Mr Bill Humm moved from the Circuit to be nearer his family. The Trustees are grateful for all the work Mr Humm did for the Circuit, for example as senior steward and local preacher, on top of all his duties for his local church at Stowmarket.

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2022	213	224		

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Circuit Newsletter: The circuit publishes a monthly newsletter covering its own activities it organises together with activities taking place in, or planned by, the local churches. This ensures that church members and friends know what is going on across the Circuit as a whole and can support the activities of other churches as well as their own. It also includes information for services and events across the district, and links to other Methodist Organisations such as the Joint Public Issues Team and Methodist Homes. Amongst other things there is a monthly environmental and eco article. The front cover features artwork from people within the circuit.

Continuing Local Preachers' and Ministers' Development: The Justice, Dignity and Solidarity report agreed and adopted at Methodist Conference continues to be the focus for on-going development; Unconscious Bias and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Training is being carried out by all Local Preachers, Church Stewards and Ministers. The Local Preachers and Worship Leaders and ministers meet quarterly for business such as ongoing training, forward planning and for pastoral support, fellowship and study.

Safeguarding and GDPR: The Circuit Safeguarding Officer, the Superintendent, Ministers and Safeguarding Officers within the Circuit churches ensure all DBS certificates are up to date, and also The Foundational and Advanced Module Safeguarding courses are completed. Annual GDPR checks have been completed.

EDI and Unconscious Bias

Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Unconscious Bias has been completed by over half of the Circuit's Presbyters and Stewards. A positive step and it is good to see people engaging with this training. The training is undertaken by individuals online, and some 'face to face' training has taken place. Those who have completed the course are very positive about it, with the key take away being our use of language.

The Environmental and Eco Circuit Policy: Four Eco Church days were held at Bradfield to build a group of interested individuals. This Circuit initiative has the name B.eco.ME. Target now is to widen participation and work towards planning for Net Zero by 2030, taking into consideration the recommendations for Methodist Church report and mission - A Justice Seeking Church. Creation services feature in each circuit church, led by our Eco lead and we have an annual Circuit Service around the Season of Creation, towards increasing awareness of ecological matters and the theology of this, while developing towards Net Zero targets as agreed at Conference. The Trustees of the church in which the Circuit Office is housed, will apply for Eco Church, while other churches within the circuit have obtained silver and bronze certificates.

Circuit Office progress towards Eco Circuit certification continues - as the Circuit Office is situated in a Circuit church, we factor that both need consideration to obtain Eco Circuit Certification - both for the 'Office' and the 'Whole' building - during this year continued replacement to low energy LED lighting has taken place, and the building had a substantial refurb some years where underfloor heating and full eco insulation was added. The Office photocopy has many environmental factors - low energy, sustainably sourced components, and material, carbon neutral papers, recycling. Circuit office continues working with A Rocha Christian environmental charity (Eco Church)

and policy is to develop this across the circuit. The Circuit Office uses a GDPR compliant shredder.

Circuit Website: The Circuit Website is continually updated and has resources available such as 'the theology of safeguarding' and information on circuit church events, services and links to partner organisations. The Circuit Newsletter and Preaching Plan is uploaded monthly, with GDPR compliance.

Circuit Services are held for fellowship of all the circuit churches and have included a creation service, and a contemplative service with a meal afterwards – these are to supplement the weekly services within the local congregations.

Staff Meetings: The ministers in active appointment meet every two weeks, for fellowship, support, to share news from across the circuit churches, for strategic thinking, for plan making, and for time of prayer.

Circuit Leadership Team: made up of Circuit Ministers, Circuit Stewards, Circuit Treasures, meets regularly and before each Circuit Meeting to develop circuit policy and agreements on circuit matters, to recommend any conference policy and to continue to develop policies such as risk assessment and lone worker policies. It also meets to develop circuit strategy.

Children and Community Worker: Circuit contributes £2'000 to St John's Children and Community Worker. The circuit assists in supporting a Community Worker at St John's, Sudbury, who works with a team to engage with the local community through a toddler group, after school club and drop in coffee and activities group. The team also runs regular Messy Church sessions.

Line Management: The circuit ensures line management of the Circuit PA/Administrator and plans are in place to develop our lone worker policy.

Supervision as set out by Methodist Conference: The circuit superintendent regularly meets presbyteral staff for Pastoral Supervision as agreed at Connexional Conference for formation and continued ministerial development.

Ecumenical work is continued across all churches in the circuit, sharing acts of worship, lent and easter combined bible studies, World Day of Prayer, Week of Christian Unity, Good Friday Walk of Witness and mission events such as Messy Church, Open the Book in schools, and services at A Rocha Nature Reserve. Strong links have been developed with St Edmundsbury Cathedral.

Bradfield Retreat: The circuit has been exploring ways to make fuller use of its buildings. Bradfield chapel is situated in the countryside with good parking, meeting rooms and good transport links and the circuit has been exploring how this could be used to provide facilities for retreats and quiet days. The circuit Eco group, B.eco.ME have met here on a number of occasions and churches have used the premises for away days. At circuit meetings there has been agreement and plans develop towards the creation of a retreat centre and refurbishment of ancillary cottage at Bradfield Methodist Church to create a sustainable source of revenue for the mission of the circuit.

Grants to Circuit churches: During the year Circuit agreed grants for several Circuit churches towards property improvements.

The Martins Methodist Homes Association: The senior circuit steward is the chaplain at The Martins and links continue to restore since the pandemic and Circuit Ministers and Supernumeraries offer Holy Communion to residents on a weekly basis and utilise Churches Together ecumenical links with other ordained colleagues from across Bury St Edmunds

Culford Methodist School: A local preacher in the circuit is chaplain and head of RE at Culford and links continue to develop. The Superintendent is welcomed at Culford, shares in services such as The Annual Carol Service, presides at Holy Communion for school staff at start of term, and meets the chaplain and other staff, on a regular basis

Churches in the Circuit continue to be inclusive, welcoming and some have now registered to take equal marriage services and welcomed new families and new members. There are continued programmes of improvements to properties and all the necessary annual checks. An example of works completed range from new underfloor heating to decorating. The Circuit Churches serve their local communities in several ways: from craft groups; affordable lunch clubs and cafes, warm spaces; pastoral support groups and hosting community groups such as AA, Bury Drop In – that supports vulnerably housed and homeless which links with local organisations and NHS to provide support and routes to housing and employment and health care. Participation in Bible Studies and House groups has flourished, meaning new groups have been formed.

Circuit staff and volunteers: We are incredibly grateful for the time, talents, gifts and prayers, overall strategic thinking, management and fellowship they share across the circuit.

CIRCUIT PROPERTY MATTERS

Work continued on the refurbishment of the manse in Well Street, including the re-equipment of the downstairs bathroom and a start on major repairs, using traditional methods, to the boundary walls largely of flint and stone fragments from the dissolved abbey. Expenditure remained within the Budget of £100,000 authorised by Circuit Meeting.

Last year's annual report noted that the future of the closed Cotton church premises was under consideration. Proposals for retention, for example as a community facility, were considered but were not seen as capable of coming to fruition. In June the Circuit Meeting agreed that the church should go for sale on the open market. Cotton Methodist Church, Northumberland Methodist Church and Glemsford Methodist Church all had their quinquennials.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Circuit's financial objective is to meet its day to day running costs, referred to in the accounts as expenditure on on-going activities, from income from on-going activities, namely assessments, interest and rental income from the Sudbury manse. The accounts show a surplus of £9,059 on on-going activities. This was due to increased interest receipts and an underspend of £2,780 of the manse maintenance provision - transferred to the designated fund. Taking account of other activities, in Part B of the accounts, there was an overall net surplus of £915,711. However, this included a gain of £933,000 following a revaluation of the manses. Without that the accounts would have shown a deficit of £17,289. The value of net current assets at the start of the year were £254,818 and £237,529 by the end of the year. The Circuit remained in a strong financial position. However, the state of the Circuit's finances are closely

monitored to ensure that appropriate and timely action could be taken to ensure continuing sustainability.

RESERVES POLICY

In last year's annual report we published the allocation of reserves at 31.08.22:

- 90,000 6 months' expenditure in hand
- 50,000 Eco etc projects
- 30,000 Mission
- 20,000 Post Covid relief
- 25,000 Extra administration provision
- 24,000 Remaining work at Well Street.
- 239,000 Total

This was out of total funds at that date of £254,000.

Total funds at 31.08.23 were £238,000.

£17,000 of the Well Street allocation had been spent by that date. Post-Covid factors have now worked out of the system, and as a matter of good practice the circuit reserves are now

- 90,000 6 months expenditure in hand
- 60,000 Eco etc projects
- 30,000 Mission
- 25,000 Extra administration provision
- 7,000 Remaining work at Well Street
- 212,000 Total

BURY ST EDMUNDS METHODIST CIRCUIT 14/03

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2022-23		2021-22	
		Unrestric- ted £	Restrict- ted £	Total £	Total £
PART A ONGOING ACTIVITIES					
INCOME FROM ONGOING ACTIVITIES					
Assessments	1	166,523	0	166,523	158,903
Rent from manse - net	2	13,589	0	13,589	14,375
Interest		7,708	0	7,708	1,207
Other	3	0	224	224	15
TOTAL INCOME FROM ONGOING ACTIVITIES		187,820	224	188,044	174,500
EXPENDITURE ONGOING ACTIVITIES					
District assessment		31,562	0	31,562	30,385
<i>Ministerial support</i>					
Ministers' stipends and pensions	4	95,078	0	95,078	91,538
District travel fund	5	4,500	0	4,500	4,700
Manse council tax and water		6,140	0	6,140	6,213
Manse maintenance	6	17,220	0	17,220	97,644
Manse insurance		2,439	0	2,439	2,199
Telecommunications		1,042	0	1,042	1,296
Supernumerary preaching fees		703	0	703	829
Removal costs		1,708	0	1,708	0
<i>Administration and other</i>					
Administrator (part time)	4	11,938	0	11,938	7,089
Office expenses and TMCP fee		4,054	0	4,054	3,797
Quinquennial inspections		1,073	0	1,073	325
Donations and gifts	3	501	224	725	0
Bank charges		87	0	87	77
Examination fee		200	0	200	0
Other		516	0	516	406
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ONGOING ACTIVITIES		178,761	224	178,985	246,498
SURPLUS / DEFICIT ONGOING ACTIVITIES		9,059	0	9,059.00	-71,998
PART B OTHER ACTIVITIES					
Annual District Advance Fund Levy	7	-2,472	0	-2,472	-6,718
Funds transfer - from Cotton	8	0	0	0	1,835
Ongoing costs - Cotton premises	8	-14,016	0	-14,016	-5,614
Grants to Churches	9	-9,372	0	-9,372	-14,500
Pension Reserve Fund contribution		0	0	0	-3,300
Mission initiatives		-488	0	-488	-663
Gains on fixed asset valuations	12	933,000	0	933,000	0
TOTAL NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT ON YEAR		915,711	0	915,711	-100,958
ADD FUNDS START OF YEAR		1,271,818	0	1,271,818	1,372,776
FUNDS AT END OF YEAR		2,187,529	0	2,187,529	1,271,818

BURY ST EDMUNDS METHODIST CIRCUIT 14/3
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	31 August 2023			31 August 2022
		Unrestrict- ed funds	Restric- ed funds	Total	Total
		£	£	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors and prepayments		4,932	0	4,932	3,302
Central Finance Board account		162,690	0	162,690	162,173
Model Trust Funds - held by TMCP		99,323	0	99,323	107,821
HSBC current account		8,562	0	8,562	20,727
Cash		0	0	0	87
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		275,507	-	275,507	294,110
Creditors due under 1 year	10	37,979	0	37,979	39,292
TOTAL NET CURRENT ASSETS		237,529	-	237,529	254,818
Fixed assets - Manses	12	1,950,000	0	1,950,000	1,017,000
TOTAL NET ASSETS		2,187,529	0	2,187,529	1,271,818

REPRESENTED BY

General fund		135,426	0	135,426	146,997
Manse maintenace fund - designated	11	2,780	0	2,780	0
Model Trust Funds - held by TMCP		99,323	0	99,323	107,821
Manses titles - held by TMCP	12	1,950,000	0	1,950,000	1,017,000
TOTAL		2,187,529	0	2,187,529	1,271,818

Signed: *Francis Carr*

Date:
12.3.24

Senior Circuit Steward

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BURY ST EDMUNDS METHODIST CIRCUIT 14/3

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2022-23

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Accounting policies

Basis of accounting These financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention, except as noted below in respect of the valuation of manses, and in accordance with Statements of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities, and applicable UK accounting standards and the Charities Act 1993. The estimated net realizable value of the manses has been incorporated in the accounts. There has been no change in accounting policies from the previous year.

Reserves Total net current assets at the end of the year were £237,529. Circuit policy is to hold unrestricted reserves equivalent to about six month's expenditure. The Circuit has drawn up a reserves policy which considers how funds in excess of that can best be used to meet its charitable objectives and these are reported in the annual report.

Incoming resources All incoming resources are recognized once the Circuit has entitlement to them, it is certain they will be received and the monetary value of incoming resources can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Resources expended Liabilities are recognized as resources expended as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation which commits the Circuit to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to that category.

Irrecoverable VAT Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resource expended for which it was incurred.

Tangible fixed assets Tangible fixed assets are capitalized if they have a cost in excess of £2,000 and can be used for more than one year. The only such assets are the manses in Bury St Edmunds, Stowmarket and Sudbury.

1 Assessments

Assessments are based on perceived ability to pay as indicated by the average income of each church over the previous five years. Allowance is made for any extraordinary income such as bequests and grants. The total assessment required to support circuit is then shared between the churches pro-rata to income. Assessments received were:

	2021-22(£)	2022-23(£)
Bradfield	7,162	7,298
Glensford	2,000	3,000
Ixworth	6,000	5,825
Needham Market	10,690	9,184
Northumberland Avenue	11,270	12,316
Old Newton	11,654	11,636
St John's Sudbury	41,760	44,940
Stowmarket	13,304	14,404
Trinity Bury St Edmunds	55,062	57,920
Total	158,902	166,523

2 Rent from manse

The figure is net £14,950 less agent's fees £1,361.

3 Other receipts and donations and gifts

Restricted receipts comprise collection at Circuit service (£99) and donation towards a benevolence payment (£125). Donations and gifts paid from restricted and unrestricted funds as shown.

4 Staff costs	2021-22(£)	2022-23(£)
Stipends and salary	73,911	81,260
Pension contributions	17,951	18,587
Employers NI	5,874	6,216
Allowances	513	536
Apprenticeship levy	378	417
Total	98,627	107,016

Number of full-time employees	2.8	3
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5 District Travel Fund

This is the Circuit's contribution towards the Fund run by District (based on the number of Ministers in each Circuit) from which actual travel costs are paid.

6 Manse maintenance

Expenditure over the two years of £114,864 included the cost of an extensive programme of essential repairs and refurbishment works at the Well Street Manse (£ 92,925) and a new bathroom and kitchen at the Stowmarket Manse (£20,564).

7 Contributions to District Advance Fund

A levy of 2.5% on the first £100,000, 5% between £100,000 and £250,000 and 7.5% above £250,000 is applied by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) to the Circuit Advance Fund as at 1 September and paid to the East Anglia District Advance Fund.

8 Cotton

Expenditure was on the empty building insurance policy and heating and maintenance to preserve the building's fabric while decisions were taken about its future.

9 Grants to churches

Grants to churches were: £2,000 lay worker and £1,000 towards new boiler at Sudbury and £6,000 towards lighting and soundproofing and £372 legal fees at Stowmarket.

10 Creditors

This item includes advance payments totaling £36,405 from churches of their first quarterly assessments for 2023-24.

11 Manse maintenance fund

A manse maintenance fund has been set up. There is an annual allocation of £20,000 with any in-year underspend or overspend being credited or debited to the fund.

12 Manses

The manses are owned by the TMCP but are managed on their behalf by the Trustees of the Bury St Edmunds Methodist Circuit. As such their value is only reported in these accounts as a convenience to the owners TMCP. As indicated in last year's accounts the value of the manses has been reviewed in the light of local market conditions and the refurbishment of the Well Street manse and increased to £1,950,000.

13 Trustees

None of the Trustees, or persons connected with them, received any remuneration or other benefits from the Circuit or any connected organization as a result of their office during the year.

DECLARATIONS

1. TREASURER

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

Signature R J Meadows
Circuit Treasurer

Date 15 October 2023

2. INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BURY ST EDMUNDS METHODIST CIRCUIT

This report is on the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Examiner

The Circuit's Trustees are responsible for the preparations of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is required. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under Section 145 of the Charities Act.

Basis of the Independent Examiner's Report

My examination comprised a review of the accounting records kept by the Circuit Treasurer and a comparison of the accounts with those records. The procedures undertaken do not provide evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion in the view given by those accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

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

- a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 46 of the Charities Act, and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the Accounting Act have not been met, or
- b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signature Stephen Cook
Stephen Cook MA FCA 84 Whiting Street Bury St Edmunds IP33 1NZ

Date 6 March 2024

3. PRESENTATION TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING FOR APPROVAL

I confirm the accounts have been presented to the Circuit Meeting on 12 March 2024 and were approved.

Signature of the Chairperson of the meeting

Revn Canon Jason Vinyard

BURY ST.EDMUNDS METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1135971

Accounts

BURY ST EDMUNDS METHODIST CIRCUIT (*Registered Charity
1135971*)

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

CIRCUIT MINISTERS

Reverend Jason Vinyard 14 Well Street Bury St Edmunds IP33
1EQ
Reverend Rita Carr 12 Shakespeare Road Stowmarket IP14 1TJ
Reverend Ruth Ridge 4 Kedington Court Acton CO10 0XB

CIRCUIT STEWARDS

Mr Bill Humm 52 Farriers Road Stowmarket IP14 2NS
Mrs Jane Brooker 34 Churchill Drive Sudbury CO10 1NZ
Mr Francis Carr 12 Shakespeare Road Stowmarket IP14 1TJ
Mr Andrew Walker 14 Horsecroft Road Bury St Edmunds IP33
2DU

CIRCUIT TREASURERS

Mr Richard Meadows 16 Greene Mews Bury St Edmunds IP33
1QL
Mr Richard Wild (Assistant) Palmers Cottage The Green Woolpit
IP30 9RQ

THE TRUSTEES are those persons appointed by the Circuit Meeting under Methodist Church rules. The Circuit Meeting is grateful to Jane Brooker, Francis Carr and Andrew Walker for coming forward as stewards. The Circuit post of Secretary remains vacant.

THE CIRCUIT is the primary unit in which local churches express and experience their interconnection in the body of Christ for the purposes of mission, mutual encouragement and help. The Circuit comprises 9 churches and has a Methodist team of two and a half ministers covering a mainly rural area of some 500 square miles. There were 3 active supernumerary ministers and 11 local preachers. From time to time services are held on a local arrangement basis if no minister or local preacher can be found.

THE CHURCHES

The churches, their membership and attendance numbers were as follows.

	Membership November		Attendance
November	2021	2022	2021
Bradfield 9		7 7	
Glensford 12		8 8	N A
Ixworth 7		14 12	

Needham Market 22	36	34	because
Northumberland Avenue 25	20	18	
Old Newton 14	18	17	of Covid
St John's Sudbury 45	70	67	
Stowmarket 29	32	33	
Trinity Bury St Edmunds 50	124	107	
Total 213		329	303

Churches' annual assessment contributions to Circuit expenses are set out in note 1 to the accounts. The Circuit Meeting is grateful to churches for maintaining their payments during difficult times.

CIRCUIT ACTIVITIES

Activities across the Circuit are largely back on track following the Covid disruptions. Circuit services on Zoom were retained. These were held fortnightly on Sunday evenings, sometimes with communion. They are enormously appreciated by people unable to travel. Circuit now issues a greatly expanded bi-monthly newsletter. This enables the individual churches to report on and to share their experiences widely and to publicise forthcoming events so that they can be attended by members and friends from across the Circuit.

CIRCUIT PROPERTY

At the start of the year the Circuit was faced with a backlog of work on the manses. At Stowmarket the boiler and kitchen needed to be replaced. The Well Street manse had been badly neglected and required substantial repairs and refurbishment to stop further deterioration and to bring living conditions up to an acceptable level. The manse at Sudbury continued to be rented out. The Circuit remained responsible for the maintenance and management of the premises at Cotton, which had closed for worship at the end of 2019-20. The future of the building is currently being reviewed.

CIRCUIT FINANCES

The Circuit's financial objective is to meet expenditure on its ongoing activities from its ongoing income, both accounted for in Part A of the statement of financial activities, though it is open to Circuit Meeting to supplement the amount available from reserves if there is a case for doing so. Part A of the accounts show a deficit of £72,030. This was due entirely to the high expenditure of £97,644 on the manses, which exceeded the original budget provision by £76,600. (see the previous paragraph.) The extra expenditure and its draw down from reserves had been authorised by the Circuit Meeting. Part B of the statement of

financial activities shows income and expenditure on other activities.
Taking account of these the accounts show an overall deficit of £100,958.

Net current assets at the end of the year were £254,818. Allocations, in accordance with the Circuit's Reserves Policy, by the Circuit Meeting were as follows:

£	
90,000	six months' expenditure as recommended by Connexion (working capital)
50,000	Eco-church projects
30,000	Mission - faith and spiritual nourishment
20,000	Post Covid relief where need can be demonstrated
25,000	Extra administration support over three years
24,000	Remaining work on the Well Street manse
239,000	Total of allocations.

BSECircuit 08.03.23

BURY ST EDMUNDS METHODIST CIRCUIT 14/03
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	Note	2021-22 Unrestric- ted	2021-22 Restrict- ted
<u>PART A ONGOING ACTIVITIES</u>			
INCOME FROM ONGOING ACTIVITIES			
		£	£
Assessments	1	158,903	0
Rent from manse		15,600	0
Interest		1,207	0
Other		15	0
TOTAL INCOME FROM ONGOING ACTIVITIES		175,725	0
EXPENDITURE ONGOING ACTIVITIES			
District assessment		30,385	0
<i>Ministerial support</i>			
Ministers' stipends and pensions	2	91,538	0
District travel fund	3	4,700	0
Manse council tax and water	4	6,213	0
Manse maintenance	5	97,644	0
Manse insurance		2,199	0
Telecommunications		1,296	0
Supernumerary preaching fees		829	0
Removal costs			
<i>Administration and other</i>			
Administrator (part time)	2	7,089	0
Office expenses and TMCP fee		3,797	0
Quinquennial inspections		325	0
Donations and gifts		0	0
Management rented manse		1,225	0
Bank charges		77	0
Other		406	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ONGOING ACTIVITIES		247,723	0
SURPLUS / DEFICIT ONGOING ACTIVITIES		-71,998	0
<u>PART B OTHER ACTIVITIES</u>			
Annual District Advance Fund Levy	6	-6,718	0
Funds transfer - from Cotton	7	1,835	0
Ongoing costs - Cotton premises	7	-5,614	0
Grants to Churches	8	-14,500	0
Pension Reserve Fund contribution	9	-3,300	0
Mission initiatives		-663	0
TOTAL NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT ON YEAR		-100,958	0
ADD FUNDS START OF YEAR		1,372,776	0
FUNDS AT END OF YEAR		1,271,818	0

BURY ST EDMUNDS METHODIST CIRCUIT 14/3
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 AUGUST 2022

31 August 2022:

		Unrestric- ted Funds £	Restric- ted funds £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and prepayments		3,302	0
Central Finance Board account		162,173	0
Model Trust Funds - held by TMCP		107,821	0
HSBC current account		20,727	0
Cash		87	0
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		294,110	0
Creditors due under 1 year	10	39,292	0
TOTAL NET CURRENT ASSETS		254,818	0
Fixed assets - Manses		1,017,000	0
TOTAL NET ASSETS		1,271,818	0

REPRESENTED BY

General fund	11
Benevolence fund	12
Model Trust Funds - held by TMCP	
Manses titles - held by TMCP	13

TOTAL

Signed: *V Humm*

Senior Circuit Steward

2021-22	2020-21
Total	Total
£	£
158,903	126,561
15,600	15,600
1,207	924
15	2
175,725	143,087
30,385	32,015
91,538	90,068
4,700	3,050
6,213	5,305
97,644	21,475
2,199	2,072
1,296	977
829	257
	5,217
7,089	4,797
3,797	9,788
325	1,275
0	100
1,225	1,576
77	0
406	798
247,723	178,770
-71,998	-35,683
-6,718	-7,688
1,835	14,015
-5,614	-3,094
-14,500	-2,000
-3,300	0
-663	0
-100,958	-34,450
1,372,776	1,407,226
1,271,818	1,372,776

2		31 Au-
	Total	gust 2021
		Total
	£	£
	3,302	2,672
	162,173	152,426
	107,821	193,264
	20,727	32,875
	87	90
	294,110	381,327
	39,292	25,551
	254,818	355,776
	1,017,000	1,017,000
	1,271,818	1,372,776

	145,997	162,512
	1,000	0
	107,821	193,264
	1,017,000	1,017,000
	1,271,818	1,372,776

Date: Mar 12, 23

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BURY ST EDMUNDS METHODIST CIRCUIT 14/3

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2021-22

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Accounting policies

Basis of accounting These financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention, except as noted below in respect of the valuation of manses, and in accordance with Statements of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities, and applicable UK accounting standards and the Charities Act 1993. The estimated net realizable value of the manses has been incorporated in the accounts. There has been no change in accounting policies from the previous year.

Reserves Total net current assets at the end of the year were £254,818. Circuit policy is to hold unrestricted reserves equivalent to about six month's expenditure. The Circuit has drawn up a reserves policy which considers how funds in excess of that can best be used to meet its charitable objectives.

Incoming resources All incoming resources are recognized once the Circuit has entitlement to them, it is certain they will be received and the monetary value of incoming resources can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Resources expended Liabilities are recognized as resources expended as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation which commits the Circuit to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to that category.

Irrecoverable VAT Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resource expended for which it was incurred.

Tangible fixed assets Tangible fixed assets are capitalized if they have a cost in excess of £2,000 and can be used for more than one year. The only such assets are the manses in Bury St Edmunds, Stowmarket and Sudbury.

1 Assessments

Assessments are based on perceived ability to pay as indicated by the average income of each church over the previous five years. Allowance is made for any extraordinary income such as bequests and grants. The total assessment required to support circuit is then shared between the churches pro-rata to income.

Assessments received were:

	2021-22(£)	2020-21(£)
Bradfield	7,162	6,047
Glemsford	2,000	2,000
Ixworth	6,000	5,251
Needham Market	10,690	8,367
Northumberland Avenue	11,270	8,226
Old Newton	11,654	8,661
St John's Sudbury	41,760	35,018
Stowmarket	13,304	9,786
Trinity Bury St Edmunds	55,062	43,205
Total	158,902	126,561

Total income in 2020-21 was some £31,500 less than expected due to the closure of Cotton Church and relief granted to churches unable to pay the full amount due to Covid.

2 Staff costs

	2021-22(£)	2020-21(£)
Stipends and salary	74,802	71,898
Pension contributions	17,951	17,378
Employers NI	5,874	5,590
Total	98,627	94,866
Number of full-time employees	2.8	2.75

3 EADTF East Anglia District Travel Fund

The District operates a pooling arrangement whereby every Circuit contributes the same amount per minister and the ministers claim on the fund for their actual travel expenditure incurred. The cost in both years was much reduced due to Covid-19.

4 Manse council tax and water

Payments increased because of the loss of the council tax single occupier rebate and higher water consumption by a family.

5 Manse maintenance

Expenditure included the cost of an extensive programme of essential repairs and refurbishment works at the Well Street Manse (£75,545) and a new bathroom and kitchen at the Stowmarket Manse (£20,564). The resulting deficit on ongoing activities of £71,998 has been met from reserves.

6 Contributions to District Advance Fund

A levy of 2.5% on the first £100,000, 5% between £100,000 and £250,000 and 7.5% above £250,000 is applied by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) to the Circuit Advance Fund as at 1 September and paid to the East Anglia District Advance Fund.

7 Cotton

The transfer of funds from the accounts (now closed down) of the closed Church included the outstanding gift aid claim. Expenditure was mainly on the empty building insurance policy and minimal heating to protect the building's fabric.

8 Grants to churches

Grants to churches were: £10,000 lift refurbishment at Trinity; £2,000 lay worker at Sudbury and £2,500 essential repairs at Stowmarket.

9 Pension Reserve Fund

All circuits and churches were asked by Conference to contribute what they felt they could afford to this fund.

10 Creditors

This item includes advance payments totaling £36,760 from churches of their first quarterly assessments for 2022-23.

11 General Fund

The fund now includes provision of £1,250 to meet Ministers' future removal costs. The fund will be built up by this amount each year until it is needed.

12 Benevolence Fund

A Circuit Benevolence Fund has been set up to enable the Superintendent Minister to make confidential discretionary grants to relieve poverty and distress. The current funds of £1,000 have been transferred from the general fund and as such are of designated rather than restricted status. However, it is intended their use should be limited to purposes of a benevolence nature.

13 Manses

The manses are owned by the TMCP but are managed on their behalf by the Trustees of the Bury St Edmunds Methodist Circuit. As such their value is only

reported in these accounts as a convenience to the owners TMCP. The book value is stated as £1,017,000, which the Trustees consider to be prudently conservative. In the event of a sale the Circuit would receive 80% of the first £100,000 of net proceeds and 60% of the remainder. Valuations will be reviewed in 2022-23.

14 Trustees

None of the Trustees, or persons connected with them, received any remuneration or other benefits from the Circuit or any connected organization as a result of their office during the year.

DECLARATIONS

1. TREASURER

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

Signature *R J Meadows*
Circuit Treasurer

Date *1 November 2022*

2. INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BURY ST EDMUNDS METHODIST CIRCUIT

This report is on the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Examiner

The Circuit's Trustees are responsible for the preparations of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is required. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under Section 145 of the Charities Act.

Basis of the Independent Examiner's Report

My examination comprised a review of the accounting records kept by the Circuit Treasurer and a comparison of the accounts with those records. The procedures undertaken do not provide evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion in the view given by those accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

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

- a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 46 of the Charities Act, and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the Accounting Act have not been met, or
- b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signature *S J Cook*

Date *8 March 2023*

Stephen Cook MA FCA 84 Whiting Street Bury St Edmunds IP33 1NZ

3. PRESENTATION TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING FOR APPROVAL

I confirm the accounts have been presented to the Circuit Meeting on 23 March 2023 and were approved.

Signature of the Chairperson of the meeting *Revn Jason Vinyard 23 March 2023*

BURY ST.EDMUNDS METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1135971

Accounts

BURY ST EDMUNDS METHODIST CIRCUIT (*Registered Charity 1135971*)
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

CIRCUIT MINISTERS FOR THE YEAR

Reverend Debbie Borda 14 Well Street Bury St Edmunds IP33 1EQ
Reverend Rita Carr 12 Shakespeare Road Stowmarket IP14 1TJ
Reverend Ruth Ridge 4 Kedington Court Acton CO10 0XB

CIRCUIT STEWARDS FOR THE YEAR

Mr Bill Humm 52 Farriers Road Stowmarket IP14 1TJ
Mr Andy Flack 16 Crown Mill Elmswell IP30 9GF

CIRCUIT TREASURER FOR THE YEAR

Mr Richard Meadows 16 Greene Mews Bury St Edmunds IP33 1QL

THE TRUSTEES are those persons appointed by the Circuit Meeting under Methodist Church rules by the Circuit Meeting.

THE CIRCUIT is the primary unit in which local Churches express and experience their interconnection in the body of Christ, for purposes of mission, mutual encouragement and help. The Circuit has a Methodist team of two and a half ministers covering a mainly rural area of some 500 square miles. There were 3 active supernumeraries and 10 local preachers with two more on trial. From time to time services are held on a local arrangement basis. There are nine churches, Cotton having closed from the 1 September 2020. Reverend Debbie Borda retired at the end of August 2021. She had led the Circuit for six years as its Superintendent. We are grateful to Debbie for her witness, leadership and her attention to peoples' welfare throughout the Circuit. Her last service was held in July followed by a farewell tea in August. The post of Circuit Superintendent has been taken over by the Reverend Jason Vinyard. Andy Flack and the Circuit Secretary, Ruth Logan, stood down at the end of the year following moves to new homes outside the Circuit. We are grateful for their diligence in managing the Circuit's affairs.

CIRCUIT ACTIVITIES

Circuit activities continued to be dominated by Covid restrictions. Churches reopened for some services in September 2020, with appropriate safeguards and risk assessments. However, lockdown resulted in further closures from late December with Christmas services being conducted on-line or over Zoom. Services started to be resumed in April 2021, at first monthly and then, from mid-July, weekly. To continue meeting peoples' spiritual, pastoral and social needs the Circuit maintained throughout the year Sunday services over Zoom together with a weekly newsletter and service sheets. Special care was taken by ministers and pastoral teams to keep in touch with people via emails and telephone calls, particularly with those living alone. These measures continued to result in an increased ministerial work load. Sadly two of the Circuit's Supernumerary Ministers, Reverend Peter Dainty and Reverend Jack Bingham, passed away. The use of Zoom for Circuit Leadership Team meetings and Circuit Meetings enabled Circuit's administrative wheels to continue to run smoothly.

THE CHURCHES

Membership numbers were as follows:

	NOVEMBER 2020	NOVEMBER 2021
Bradfield	7	7
Glemsford	8	8
Ixworth	14	14
Needham Market	37	36
Northumberland Avenue	20	20
Old Newton	20	18
St John's Sudbury	71	70
Stowmarket	29	32
Trinity Bury St Edmunds	120	124
Total	326	329

There was no October 2020 count of church attendance numbers.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Most of the local churches supplemented Circuit activities with initiatives of their own, using Zoom or on-line facilities for church services and for maintaining regular activities such as bible study groups and house groups. Towards the end of the year some activities such as toddler groups restarted. In other cases planning was in hand for early resumption of face to face meetings. At Bradfield two key members sadly died in September 2020 and the Church was grateful that it was possible to meet so members could support each other. Encouraging local links with the Anglican benefice were made. Glemsford enjoyed a joint on-line Christingle service with the parish Church. A baptism was held in the early summer, a joyful but challenging occasion. The Minister regularly led assemblies in local schools. At St John's the Community Worker's contract was extended by a year. Links with the local family centre and neighbourhood chaplaincy team were built up. Two outdoor family trail events were held. Messy church, shared with other churches in the town, was held on-line and there was a shared Christingle service with one of the Town's Anglican churches. At Stowmarket by the end of August 2021 regular events were in the course of being resumed, or at an advanced stage of planning, including after worship coffee. A notable event was a delayed baptism. At Old Newton plans for a return to normality were similarly advanced including links with the parish church. At Christchurch a new screen and computer were installed, with clips greatly enhancing services when no singing was allowed. Resumed activities included toddler sessions – particularly important for new mothers who had seen little peer support during lockdown. At Ixworth a website was set up hosting on-line events. These included a virtual Christmas Tree festival and a Spring festival, the former raising funds for initiatives in Haiti, Uganda, Pakistan and Nigeria. At Northumberland Avenue the Woman's Fellowship resumed at the end of June with outside meetings. The Church hosted the farewell Circuit service for its Superintendent, Debbie Borda, and a farewell tea party for the Churches of which she was Minister (Trinity, Northumberland Avenue and Ixworth). At Trinity monthly services were held from September to December 2020 resuming by May 2021, with a return to weekly services in July. Failure of the lift resulted in services being moved to the down stair hall. Fund raising was put in hand to cover the cost of repairs and the Church is grateful for the generous responses. Repairs to the roof went ahead. Members enjoyed the lovely farewell tea for Debbie at Northumberland Avenue.

CIRCUIT FINANCES

The accounts show a deficit of £35,750, which has been met from reserves. There was a shortfall of some £31,000 in income from assessments due to relief granted to churches unable to pay their full amounts because of Covid, and the closure of Cotton Church. There was extra expenditure on manse maintenance at Well Street because the boiler had to be replaced at short notice and extra work was carried out in preparation for the new Minister and his family. Funds of £14,015 were transferred to the Circuit following the closure of Cotton. These are being used to finance ongoing costs, eg maintenance and insurance, while the future of the premises is decided. Total funds in hand at 31 August 2021 were £354,476. Their future allocation in furthering the Circuit's objectives is being reviewed by the Trustees. It is too soon to judge the effects that Covid will have had on Circuit finances. With a small exception it seems likely that churches will pay in full their August and November 2021 and February and May 2022 assessments. The Circuit is very grateful to the churches. The Circuit is drawing up a five year rolling financial projection to ensure that its development plans are consistent with its expected financial position taking into account, in particular, forecasts of assessment income from the churches.

BURY ST EDMUNDS METHODIST CIRCUIT 14/03

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	Note	2020-21 Unrestric- ted £	2020-21 Restric- ted £	2020-21 Total £	2019-20 Total £
INCOME					0
Assessments	1	126,561	0	126,561	174,843
Collections		0	0	0	256
Rent from manse		14,300		14,300	11,700
Interest		920	4	924	3,130
Other		2	0	2	811
TOTAL INCOME FROM ONGOING ACTIVITIES		141,783	4	141,787	190,740
EXPENDITURE					
District assessment		32,015	0	32,015	32,666
Ministerial support					
Ministers' stipends and pensions	2	90,068	0	90,068	87,659
EAD Travel Fund	3	3,050	0	3,050	3,895
Manse water and council tax		5,305	0	5,305	5,643
Manse insurance		2,072	0	2,072	2,083
Manse maintenance	4	21,475	0	21,475	6,563
Telecommunications		977	0	977	997
Pulpit supply		257	0	257	532
Removal costs		5,217	0	5,217	0
Administration and other					
Administrator (part time)	2	4,797		4,797	5,331
Office expenses and TMCP fee		9,788	0	9,788	5,483
Examination fee		0	0	0	200
Quinquennial inspections		1,275	0	1,275	1,140
Grants	5	2,000	0	2,000	2,000
Donations and gifts		100	0	100	674
Management rented manse		1,576	0	1,576	2,378
Other		798	0	798	538
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ONGOING ACTIVITIES		180,770	0	180,770	157,782
SURPLUS / DEFICIT ONGOING ACTIVITIES		- 38,987	4 -	38,983	32,958
EXTRAORDINARY ACTIVITIES					
Annual District Advance Fund Levy	6	-7,688	0	-7,688	-11,103
Funds transfer - Cotton CFB account	7	5,113	0	5,113	0
Funds transfer - Cotton TMCP account	7	0	8,902	8,902	0
Ongoing costs closed chapel - Cotton		-3,094	0	-3,094	0
NET SURPLUS ON YEAR		- 44,656	8,906 -	35,750	21,855
ADD FUNDS START OF YEAR		1,407,226	0	1,407,226	1,385,371
FUNDS AT END OF YEAR		1,362,570	8,906	1,371,476	1,407,226

BURY ST EDMUNDS METHODIST CIRCUIT 14/3
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 AUGUST 2021

	Note	31 August 2021		31 August 2020	
		Unrestric	Restric	Total	Total
		ted funds	ted funds		
		£	£	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors and prepayments		2,672	0	2,672	1,919
Central Finance Board		152,426	0	152,426	185,626
Funds held by Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP)					
Circuit Advance Fund		184,358	0	184,358	203,765
TMCP funds transferred from Cotton		0	8,906	8,906	0
Bank account and cash		32,965	0	32,965	12,827
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		372,421	8,906	381,327	404,137
Creditors due under 1 year	8	26,851	0	26,851	13,911
NET CURRENT ASSETS		345,570	8,906	354,476	390,226
Fixed assets - Manses	9	0	1,017,000	1,017,000	1,017,000
TOTAL ASSETS - NET		345,570	1,025,906	1,371,476	1,407,226

REPRESENTED BY:

General fund				161,212	186,461
Circuit Advance Fund held by TMCP				184,358	203,765
TMCP funds transferred from Cotton				8,906	0
Manses - titles held by the Custodian Trustees TMCP				1,017,000	1,017,000
TOTAL				1,371,476	1,407,226

Signed:

Date: Mar 29, 22

V Humm

Senior Circuit Steward

BURY ST EDMUNDS METHODIST CIRCUIT 14/3

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2020-21

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Accounting policies

Basis of accounting These financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention, except as noted below in respect of the valuation of manses, and in accordance with Statements of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities, and applicable UK accounting standards and the Charities Act 1993. The estimated net realizable value of the manses has been incorporated in the accounts. There has been no change in accounting policies from the previous year.

Funds The Circuit Advance Fund was previously considered to be a Restricted Fund set aside for specific purposes. However, it has become clear that the fund is not a restricted one. It can be used for any of the Circuit's legal charitable objectives.

Reserves Total net current assets at the end of the year were £354,476. Circuit policy is to hold unrestricted reserves equivalent to about six months expenditure. The Circuit is currently drawing up a reserves policy in order to establish how funds in excess of that could best be used to meet its charitable objectives.

Incoming resources All incoming resources are recognized once the Circuit has entitlement to them, it is certain they will be received and the monetary value of incoming resources can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Resources expended Liabilities are recognized as resources expended as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation which commits the Circuit to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to that category.

Irrecoverable VAT Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resource expended for which it was incurred.

Tangible fixed assets Tangible fixed assets are capitalized if they have a cost in excess of £2,000 and can be used for more than one year. The only such assets are the manses in Bury St Edmunds, Stowmarket and Sudbury.

1 Assessments

Assessments are based on perceived ability to pay as indicated by the average income of each church over the previous five years. Allowance is made for any extraordinary income such as bequests and grants. The total assessment required to support circuit is then shared between the churches pro-rata to income. Assessments received were:

	2020-21(£)	2019-20(£)
Bradfield	6,047	7,860
Cotton	0	5,624
Glemsford	2,000	3,000
Ixworth	5,251	6,612
Needham Market	8,367	11,701
Northumberland Avenue	8,226	11,068
Old Newton	8,661	12,760
St John's Sudbury	35,018	45,716
Stowmarket	9,786	14,782
Trinity Bury St Edmunds	43,205	55,720
Total	126,561	174,843

Total income in 2020-21 was some £31,500 less than expected due to the closure of Cotton Church and relief granted to churches unable to pay the full amount due to Covid.

2 Staff costs	2020-21(£)	2019-20(£)
Stipends	71,898	
Pension contributions	17,378	
Employers N I	5,590	
Total	94,866	92,990
Number of full-time employees	2.75	2.75

3 EADTF East Anglia District Travel Fund

The District operates a pooling arrangement whereby every Circuit contributes the same amount per minister and the ministers claim on the fund for their actual travel expenditure incurred. The cost in both years was much reduced due to Covid-19.

4 Manse maintenance

Expenditure in 2020-21 included the replacement of the boiler and gas fire at Well Street which failed their annual inspections and some works in preparation for the new Minister.

5 Grants

A grant of £2,000 was made towards the Youth Worker project at St John's.

6 Contributions to District Advance Fund

A levy of 2.5% on the first £100,000, 5% between £100,000 and £250,000 and 7.5% above £250,000 is applied by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) to the Circuit Advance Fund as at 1 September and paid to the East Anglia Advance Fund.

7 Funds transfer

Funds were transferred to the Circuit following the closure of Cotton. Funds from Cotton's TMCP account have been accounted for as restricted while their status is examined.

8 Creditors

Of the creditors £23,805 is advance payments by churches of part of the first quarterly assessments for 2021-22 and the September's rent payment of £1,300 on the Sudbury manse.

9 Manses

The manses are owned by the TMCP but are managed on their behalf by the Trustees of the Bury St Edmunds Methodist Circuit. As such their value is only reported in these accounts as a convenience to the owners TMCP. The book value is stated as £1,017,000, which the Trustees consider to be prudently conservative. In the event of a sale the Circuit would receive 80% of the first £100,000 of net proceeds and 60% of the remainder. Their value to the Circuit if sold would be about £630,000.

10 Capital commitments

A further year's instalment (£2,000) has been awarded to the Youth Worker project. There are no contingent liabilities.

11 Trustees

None of the Trustees, or persons connected with them, received any remuneration or other benefits from the Circuit or any connected organization as a result of their office during the year.

DECLARATIONS

1. TREASURER

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

Signature R J Meadows
Circuit Treasurer

Date 27 September 2021

2. INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BURY ST EDMUNDS METHODIST CIRCUIT

This report is on the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Examiner

The Circuit's Trustees are responsible for the preparations of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is required. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under Section 145 of the Charities Act.

Basis of the Independent Examiner's Report

My examination comprised a review of the accounting records kept by the Circuit Treasurer and a comparison of the accounts with those records. The procedures undertaken do not provide evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion in the view given by those accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

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

- a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 46 of the Charities Act, and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the Accounting Act have not been met, or
- b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signature Stephen Cook

Date 13 December 2021

Stephen Cook MA FCA 84 Whiting Street Bury St Edmunds IP33 1NZ

3. PRESENTATION TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING FOR APPROVAL

I confirm the accounts have been presented to the Circuit Meeting on 29 March 2022 and were approved.

Signature of the Chairperson of the meeting Revd Jason Vinyard Date 29 March 2022

BURY ST.EDMUNDS METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1135971

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

CIRCUIT MINISTERS

Reverend Debbie Borda 14 Well Street Bury St Edmunds IP33 1EQ
Reverend Rita Carr 12 Shakespeare Road Stowmarket IP14 1TJ
Reverend Ruth Ridge 4 Kedington Court Acton CO10 0XB

CIRCUIT STEWARDS FOR THE YEAR

Miss Isabel Hebden 3 Singleton Court Great Cornard Sudbury CO10 0EN
Mr Bill Humm 52 Farriers Road Stowmarket IP14 2NS
Mr Andy Flack 16 Crown Mill Elmswell IP30 9GF

CIRCUIT TREASURER

Mr John Moore 11 Saffrons Close Woolpit Suffolk IP30 9RA (Until March 2020)
Mr Richard Meadows 16 Greene Mews Bury St Edmunds IP33 1QL (From March 2020)

THE TRUSTEES are those persons appointed from time to time under Methodist Church rules by the Circuit Meeting.

THE CIRCUIT The Circuit is the primary unit in which local Churches express and experience their interconnection in the body of Christ, for purposes of mission, mutual encouragement and help. The Circuit has a Methodist team of two and a half ministers covering a mainly rural area of some 500 square miles. There were 3 active supernumeraries and 11 local preachers with a further two on trial. During the year several churches conducted services based on local arrangements. There were ten churches until the end of the year when Cotton closed down (see below). Rev Rita Carr was re-appointed from 1 September 2019 for five years to 2024. Rev Ruth Ridge was appointed on 1 September 2019 working half time at Bradfield, Glemsford and St John's Sudbury. Rev Debbie Borda was reinvited for a further year to 2021. Isabel Hebden offered to remain as Senior Circuit Steward for an additional year, until 2020. Ruth Logan, Circuit secretary, continues to support the stewards.

THE CHURCHES During the year membership numbers and congregations were as follows:

Church	Membership in August		October count
	2020	2019	2019
Bradfield	7	8	10
Cotton	0	12	14
Glemsford	8	8	11
Ixworth	14	15	11
Needham Market (EP)	37	18	38
Northumberland Avenue	20	23	22
Old Newton	20	24	32
St John's Sudbury	75	75	50
Stowmarket	29	28	20
Trinity Bury St Edmunds	120	128	55
Total	330	339	263

CIRCUIT ACTIVITY

GENERAL: The year came to be dominated by the Covid-19 outbreak with churches shutting down in March. The Circuit took immediate action to ensure maintenance of its Mission “to Live and Share the Good News of God’s Love in Christ” by doing all it could, given the circumstance, to meet peoples’ spiritual, pastoral and social needs. Steps taken included the production of a weekly newsletter, interactive Sunday services conducted over ZOOM, mid-week coffee and chat sessions also over ZOOM. For those without the internet the newsletter and service sheets were sent by post. Ministers and Class Leaders were in frequent touch by telephone, particularly with those living alone. During August work started on preparing church premises for reopening for services in September with the required safeguards and risk assessments in place, an enormous task for ministers and church officers.

To help churches cope with the loss of income from collections, hall lettings and foregone fund raising events Circuit Meeting agreed that the assessments due in August should be limited to amounts churches could afford to pay with the shortfall of some £28,000 being met from Circuit reserves.

BURY ST EDMUNDS SECTION: Trinity have continued to host the Bury Drop in, as well as weekly coffee mornings and lunch club which were well attended until lockdown. Messy Church was held monthly until March. House groups have been thriving and there are now 4 groups meeting regularly (since lockdown via Zoom).

Northumberland Avenue have held a number of Fayres, reaching out to the community, and a weekly table tennis afternoon. Since lockdown services are on Zoom.

Ixworth’s Christmas tree festival and Carol service were successful. Their weekly coffee and chat meetings were popular in the village, and since March have moved on to Zoom. Similarly, their fortnightly Bible Study meetings continue on Zoom.

STOWMARKET SECTION: Stowmarket Church have continued their program of refurbishment. They held an afternoon tea in October to celebrate their revamped church hall, which made the Bury Free Press. They finally got permission to remove the Church pews and replace them with chairs. Over lockdown the frequency of Bible Study meetings was increased to weekly and has been well attended.

Old Newton held its first Messy Church in January. It has continued to provide food and fellowship at various events and combined this with fund raising for local charities.

Cotton also held fund raising events over the year, including a concert in aid of a local Cancer charity, and a Christmas Carol singing afternoon. Sadly, Cotton Church Council concluded that the Church should close from the end of August. Quite simply the Church had run out of people able to manage its affairs. Stowmarket manse has had a new bathroom fitted.

SUDBURY SECTION: The fourth of five annual grants each of £2,000 was made to support the community worker at St John’s. She continued to build strong community links through two weekly toddler group sessions, a community choir (youth and adult groups) and a weekly drop in for the isolated and vulnerable, offering coffee and craft and film mornings. The community team also took on organization of messy church and managed two sessions before the COVID lockdown started. During lockdown, the community worker worked alongside the local foodbank and supermarkets to provide fresh food deliveries to families in need. St John’s also hosted a successful harvest supper, a Christmas musical evening and a leap day tea as well as their annual Autumn Fayre. Pre lockdown our worship continued its usual pattern with quarterly alternative evening services in addition to weekly worship. During lockdown good pastoral links have been maintained thanks to the pastoral visitors and in addition to the weekly service members have been able to access a short service of evening prayer weekly via Facebook.

Glemsford also continued a regular pattern of weekly evening services and the congregation continued to work closely with the parish to run monthly services at a care home in the village and half-termly Messy Church sessions. In addition to this we shared in an Advent course, designed to attract those on the fringes of the church, including Messy Church parents and had begun a Lent course on the theme of Faith and Environment. Once again, during lockdown pastoral links have been well maintained. Bradfield hosted a very successful harvest weekend with a harvest Supper on two services. A good collection of produce was able to be sent to Bury Storehouse. The regular pattern of Sunday worship continued until lockdown and members provided good pastoral care and practical support for each other during that time. We also shared in an ecumenical Advent service at Stanningfield which was well supported by both churches.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

The accounts show a surplus of £21,855. The November, February and May assessments were based on a requirement to pay for the old complement of three ministers whereas two and a half were in post and there were net rent receipts of some £9,300 from letting the Sudbury manse. The shortfall in the August assessment receipts (see above) will fall on the Circuit's 2020-21 accounts. We are grateful to John Moore for all his hard work and careful stewardship of the Circuit's finances as Treasurer for some ten years. John also played a leading part in the management of the Circuit's estate, including some very difficult and time consuming disposals of closed chapels.

BURY ST EDMUNDS METHODIST CIRCUIT 14/3						
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020						
	Note	2019-20 Unrestric- ted	2019-20 Restric- ted	2019-20 Total	2018-19 Total	
		£	£	£	£	
Income:						
Assessments	1	174,843	0	174,843	173,328	
Collections		256	0	256	283	
Rent from manse		11,700	0	11,700	0	
Interest		940	2,190	3,130	2,958	
Other	2	811	0	811	383	
Income from ongoing activities		188,550	2,190	190,740	176,952	
Expenditure:						
District Assessment		32,666	0	32,666	32,108	
<i>Ministerial support</i>						
Ministers' stipends and pensions	3	87,659	0	87,659	100,002	
EAD travel fund	4	3,895	0	3,895	8,580	
Manse water and council tax		6,193	0	6,193	6,833	
Manse insurance		2,083	0	2,083	1,796	
Manse maintenance		6,013	0	6,013	10,194	
Telecommunications		997	0	997	885	
Pulpit support		532	0	532	2,241	
<i>Administration and other</i>						
Administrator (part-time)	3	5,331	0	5,331	5,148	
Office expenses and TMCP fee		4,954	529	5,483	5,434	
Maintenance closed chapels		0	0	0	2,427	
Grants	5	2,000	0	2,000	4,770	
Examination fee		200	0	200	200	
Donations and gifts		674	0	674	250	
Quinquennial inspections		1,140	0	1,140	800	
Management rented manse		2,378	0	2,378	0	
Other		538	0	538	0	
Outgoings ongoing activities		157,253	529	157,782	181,668	
Surplus ongoing activities		31,297	1,661	32,958	-4,716	
Extraordinary items:						
Sale of Thurston chapel (land)		0	0	0	56,000	
Costs of sale of Thurston		0	0	0	-7,072	
CFP levy on sale of property		0	0	0	-7,838	
Annual District Advance Fund Levy	6	0	-11,103	-11,103	-10,706	
Replacement of Stowmarket manse		0	0	0	-8,551	
NET SURPLUS ON YEAR		31,297	-9,442	21,855	17,117	
Transfer between funds	7	51,500	-51,500	0	0	
Add funds at start of year b/f		103,664	1,281,707	1,385,371	1,368,254	
FUNDS AT END OF YEAR		186,461	1,220,765	1,407,226	1,385,371	
BURY ST EDMUNDS METHODIST CIRCUIT 14/3						
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 AUGUST 2020						
	Note	31 August 2020			31.8.19	
		Unrestric- ted funds	Restric- ted funds	Total	Total	
		£	£	£	£	
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors and prepayments		1,919	0	1,919	2,258	
Central Finance Board		185,626	0	185,626	135,840	
Funds held by Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		0	203,765	203,765	264,707	
Bank current account and cash		12,827	0	12,827	13,875	
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		200,372	203,765	404,137	416,680	
Creditors (due under 1 year)	8	13,911	0	13,911	48,309	
NET CURRENT ASSETS		186,461	203,765	390,226	368,371	
Fixed assets - Manses	9	0	1,017,000	1,017,000	1,017,000	
TOTAL ASSETS - NET		186,461	1,220,765	1,407,226	1,385,371	
Represented by :						
General funds				186,461	103,664	
Circuit Advance Fund held by TMCP				203,765	264,707	
Manses - titles held by the Custodian Trustees TMPC				1,017,000	1,017,000	
TOTAL				1,407,226	1,385,371	

BURY ST EDMUNDS METHODIST CIRCUIT 14/3

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2019-20

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Accounting policies

Basis of accounting These financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention, except as noted below in respect of the valuation of manses, and in accordance with Statements of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities, and applicable UK accounting standards and the Charities Act 1993. The estimated net realizable value of the manses has been incorporated in the accounts. There has been no change in accounting policies from the previous year.

Funds The Circuit Advance Fund is considered to be a Restricted Fund set aside for specific purposes. All other funds are considered to be Unrestricted Funds for any use in furtherance of Circuit objectives.

Reserves Circuit policy is to hold unrestricted reserves equivalent to about six months expenditure. Unrestricted funds at the end of the year were almost twice that. However as a result of the Covid-19 restrictions the Circuit will need to draw on reserves to compensate for the loss of assessment income from churches. Forecast receipts for 2020-21 are already some £28,000 below the forecast sum needed to break even.

Incoming resources All incoming resources are recognized once the Circuit has entitlement to them, it is certain they will be received and the monetary value of incoming resources can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Resources expended Liabilities are recognized as resources expended as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation which commits the Circuit to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to that category.

Irrecoverable VAT Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resource expended for which it was incurred.

Tangible fixed assets Tangible fixed assets are capitalized if they have a cost in excess of £1,000 and can be used for more than one year. The only such assets are the manses in Bury St Edmunds, Stowmarket and Sudbury.

1 Assessments

Assessments are based on perceived ability to pay as indicated by the average income of each church over the previous five years. Allowance is made for any extraordinary income such as bequests and grants. The total assessment required to support circuit is then shared between the churches pro-rata with income.

	2019-20(£)	last year(£)
Bradfield	7,860	7,780
Cotton	5,624	5,620
Glemsford	3,000	4,096
Ixworth	6,612	6,592
Needham Market	11,701	10,200
Northumberland Avenue	11,068	10,440
Old Newton	12,760	12,728
St John's Sudbury	45,716	44,712
Stowmarket	14,782	13,876
Trinity Bury St Edmunds	55,720	56,456
Total	174,843	173,328

2 Other income

Other income includes a donation of £410.

3 Staff costs

	2019-20(£)	last year(£)
	92,990	105,150
Number of full-time employees	2.75	3.25

4 EADTF East Anglia District Travel Fund

The District operates a pooling arrangement whereby every Circuit contributes the same amount per minister and the ministers claim on the fund for their actual travel expenditure incurred. The cost in 2019-20 reflected less travel due to Covid-19 and a reduction in the number of ministers.

5 Grants

A grant of £2,000 was made towards the Youth Worker project at St John's from Restricted Funds.

6 Contributions to District Advance Fund

A levy of 2.5% on the first £100,000, 5% between £100,000 and £250,000 and 7.5% above £250,000 is applied by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) to the Circuit Advance Fund as at 1 September and paid to the East Anglia Advance Fund.

7 Circuit Advance Fund drawdown

The Circuit received approval to draw from the Fund £2,000 for the grant for the Youth Worker (see 5 above), £10,000 towards the costs of administering the Circuit and £39,500 for the expected loss of assessment income due to Covid-19.

8 Creditors

Of the creditors £11,500 is advance payments by churches of parts of their first quarterly assessments for 2020-2021. The balance of £2,411 is a combination of outstanding cheques, resources used but not invoiced and a minor provision.

9 Manses

The manses are owned by the TMCP but are managed on their behalf by the Trustees of the Bury St Edmunds Methodist Circuit. As such their value is only reported in these accounts as a convenience to the owners TMCP. The book value is stated as £1,017,000, which the Trustees consider to be prudently conservative. In the event of a sale the Circuit would receive 80% of the first £100,000 of net proceeds and 60% of the remainder. Their value to the Circuit if sold would be about £630,000.

10 Capital commitments

One year's instalment (£2,000) remains of the Youth Worker project. There are no contingent liabilities.

11 Trustees

None of the Trustees, or persons connected with them, received any remuneration or other benefits from the Circuit or any connected organization as a result of their office during the year.

DECLARATIONS

1. TREASURER

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

Signatures *signed R J Meadows*
Circuit Treasurer

Date 26 October 2020

2. INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BURY ST EDMUNDS METHODIST CIRCUIT

This report is on the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Circuit's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is required. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under Section 145 of the Charities Act.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination comprised a review of the accounting records kept by the Circuit Treasurer and a comparison of the accounts with those records. The procedures undertaken do not provide evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion in the view given by those accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

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

- a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 46 of the Charities Act, and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the Accounting Act have not been met, or
- b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signature *signed Stephen Cook*

Date 19 January 2021

Stephen Cook MA FCA 84 Whiting Street Bury St Edmunds IP33 1NZ

3. PRESENTATION TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING FOR APPROVAL

I confirm the accounts have been presented to the Circuit Meeting on and were approved.

Signature of the Chairperson of the meeting. *Signed Debbie Borda*

Date 24.03.21