

MID-LINCOLNSHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ended 31ST AUGUST 2023

Introduction

The Trustees are pleased to present the Annual Report of the Trustees of the Mid-Lincolnshire Methodist Circuit (hereinafter referred to as "The Circuit") for the year ended 31st August 2023

Aims and organisation

The Governing Document of the Charity is the Deed of Union of the Methodist Church 1932 and the Methodist Church Act 1976. The purposes of the Methodist Church are, and shall be deemed to have been since the Date of Union, the advancement of:

a) The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and discipline of The Methodist Church; b) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, District, Circuit, local or other organisation of The Methodist Church;

c) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to The Methodist Church;

d) Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to The Methodist Church

There are 8 places of worship in the area covered by the Circuit, and they are all open to anyone who may wish to visit them without any charge. The Circuit produces a quarterly preaching plan to ensure that regular acts of worship take place at all the churches and chapels in its geographical area and that the following activities take place to further the objectives set out above:-

The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses, and small groups. The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved. Taking religious assemblies in local schools.

Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services. Provision of chaplaincy services where appropriate.

Public Benefit

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Brief financial review of the year

The main source of income in this and every year is the assessment paid by the churches within the Circuit area. In the year to 31st August 2023, the assessments totalled £78,050(2022: £102,995). A District Mission Grant of £8,000 per annum is received for a Deacon. The main expenditure relates to the stipends of presbyters, together with related employment costs, including the provision of manses, and the reimbursement of travelling and other costs, totalling £81898(2022; £110,091). Other costs include the contributions to the District, and to the Methodist Church Fund £22,800(2022: £32,969) Stipends have increased annually in line with conference approved percentages and lay employees are paid, in accordance with Methodist Standing Orders, no less than the hourly rates set by the Living Wage Foundation.

As of 31 August 2022, the net current, unrestricted, assets of the Circuit were £375,544 (2022: £108,697), compared with total expenditure for the year of £236,803 (2022: £167,195).

Plans for 2023/2024

Circuit financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that there will be a change in the staffing levels of ministers. There will be no Ministerial cover from September 2024. The sale of the Old Bolingbroke Chapel will bring further financial security for the Circuit. Conversations with surrounding Circuits to provide pastoral and Ministerial cover once the Superintendent Minister and Deacon leave in August 2024.

Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document for the Circuit is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976). Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD). Day to day management of the Circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team (comprising the ministers and Circuit Stewards) and the Local Preachers meeting.

Trustee Training

A range of guidance is produced by Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the Circuit, including the leaflet 'The Role of a Trustee in The Methodist Church'.

Related Parties

The Circuit is part of the Lincolnshire District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference. 8 Churches are linked to the Circuit and are listed in Appendix B to this Report.

Risk Management

Major risks, both physical and financial, are identified and recorded and professional advice taken as required. There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded. Income and Expenditure is monitored in total and is compared with the approved annual budget to detect trends as part of the risk management process to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

1. the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults
2. the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
3. the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is

informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.

4. The Circuit will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line

with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration

with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.

5. The Circuit will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child

or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any

investigation.

6. The Circuit will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an

appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.

7. The Circuit will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.

8. The Circuit will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the

proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a

child, young person, or vulnerable adult.

9. In all these principles the Circuit will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice

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

The Circuit commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy for the Circuit is to hold approximately six month's average expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on manses and / or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of the failure of churches to meet their quarterly assessment liabilities in full.

Legal and Administrative

The Circuit's financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2018 have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis permitted for charities whose gross income does not exceed £250,000.

Full Name of Charity: Mid-Lincolnshire Methodist Circuit

Registration Charity Number: 1136058

Date of registration: 21st May 2010

Main communication address: 84 Curtis Drive, Coningsby, Lincolnshire, LN4 4DU

(Until 1st August 2024)

The members of the Circuit meeting are the Managing Trustees, membership being made up of circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches shown in Appendix A to this Report

Circuit Ministers and officers

Active Circuit Ministers

Rev Gordon Davis (Superintendent)

Deacon Jane Paine

Circuit Stewards

Mrs Julie Close-Mitchell

Mr Ian Brown

Mrs Kate O'Flynn

Mrs Pauline Brown – Treasurer

Mrs Pauline Brown acted as the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the Circuit during the year.

A full list of Trustees is

Helen Clough

Ian Brown

Rev. Gordon Davis

Deacon Jane Paine

Marion Ambrose

Lynne Mowbray

Lawrie Lambert

Julie Close-Mitchell

Susan Johnson

Bunty Martin

Josephine Towle

Ann Loveley

Bronwyn Wallis

Keith Stephenson

Margaret Wikeley

David Wikeley

Pauline Brown

Les Robinson

Ivan Clough

Carol Clough

Sue MacFall

Kate O'Flynn

Jacquie Walton

Irene Heap

Mo Fricke

Anne Keene

David Turner

Wendy Turner

Eileen **Kelsey**
Rev. Geoff **Boxer**
Rev. Cecil **Mundy**
Rev. David **Lawton**

APPENDIX A

LIST OF TRUSTEES

Independent Examiner

Tristran Russell BA Hons FCCA
c/o Dexter & Sharpe Chartered Accountants
Rollestone House, Bridge Street, Horncastle, LN9 5HZ

Investment Bankers

Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
HSBC, Market Place, Horncastle

APPENDIX B

LIST OF CHURCHES IN THE CIRCUIT

Halton Holegate
Horncastle
Raithby
Spilsby
UMC at Coningsby
Woodhall Spa
Wragby (Bardney and Bardney Dairies – Class of Wragby)

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Mid Lincolnshire Methodist Circuit	Circuit
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2023

Lincolnshire	District	Circuit no	17 / 04
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

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If not a registered charity Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs Gift Aid number

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(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Ministers:

Rev Gordon Davis (Superintendent)
Jane Paine (Deacon)

Circuit Stewards:

Julie Close-Mitchell
Ian Brown
Pauline Brown

Treasurer:

Pauline Brown

SECTION A			Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
	RECEIPTS	Note	£	£	£	£	£
a2	Assessment/Share		78,050			78,050	102,995
a3	Capital receipts			404,311		404,311	
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		1,243	3,820	1,176	6,239	1,482
a5	Grants		8,000			8,000	8,000
a6	Other receipts		7,050			7,050	2,704
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS		94,343	408,131	1,176	503,650 (a8)	115,181

SECTION B							
b1	PAYMENTS						
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs		81,898			81,898	110,091
b3	Manse Costs		7,751			7,751	9,011
b4	Administration etc		6,730	1,216	88	8,034	7,727
b5	District Assessment		22,800			22,800	32,969
b6	Grants & donations		4,000			4,000	
b7							
b8	Other payments		8,358	103,962		112,320	7,397
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS		131,537	105,178	88	236,803 (b9)	167,195

SECTION C							
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a7-b9)	(37,194)	302,953	1,088	266,847	(52,014)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		69,074	39,623		108,697 (c6)	160,711
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	31,880	342,576	1,088	375,544	108,697
c4	Transfers and adjustments		51,088	(50,000)	(1,088)	(c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	82,968	292,576		375,544 (c8)	108,697 (c6)

SECTION D						
d	FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (these amounts should not be included in total receipts/payments above)					
d1	Balance brought forward from last year					
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations					
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations					
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)					

SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATION REPORTING TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING

SECTION E

Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Circuit Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross receipts and payments totals of the Circuit. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold of £250,000, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the Circuit and connected Circuit Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1						
e2						
e3						
e4						
c5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds					(e11)	(e12)
e9 Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	503,650 (a8)	236,803 (b9)	266,847	(c7)	108,697 (c6)	375,544 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	503,650	236,803	266,847		108,697 (x)	375,544 (y)
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2023

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	7,966	12,926
f3 Bank Deposit Account	467	472
f4 Central Finance Board	50,140	58,788
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	50,124	303,358
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL	108,697 (c6)	375,544 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance totals above) (e12)	(e11)	(e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	108,697 (x)	375,544 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2022	At 31 August 2023
g1 Investments (include Endowments)	71868	70557
g2 Land and Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	674,164	479,688
g3 Other Assets	1,446	1,446
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5 Other Liabilities	(480)	(480)
	746998	551,211
f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board	Total Cash Funds	108697
f5 Include only CFB Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	Total Funds	855695
g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trust accounts this is inserted in line f5)		926,755

Name of Circuit MID-LINCOLNSHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT No 17/04

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2023 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit meeting.

Signature of treasurer Pauline M. Mann Date 15.11.2023

Name and address of treasurer Pauline M. Mann, 2 Tolp. O-Moor Passages,
Woolston, Sls, Lincolnshire Post Code LN10 6EX

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 were/will be* presented to the Circuit meeting held on 7.11.2023

Signature of the Chair of the meeting G. H. Davis

Name of the Chair of the meeting G. H. Davis Date 15/11/23

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

..... Circuit

Charity Number

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the MID-LINCOLNSHIRE Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2023 set out on pages 1 to 3. As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Circuit MID LINCOLNSHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT No 17/04

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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

I have ~~have not~~ obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner Tristan James Russell

Name of independent examiner TRISTRAN JAMES RUSSELL

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FCCA

Name of firm (where appropriate) Dexter + Sharpe

Address 20-22 BRIDGE STREET, HORNCASTLE, LINCOLNSHIRE

Post Code LN9 5HZ

Date 13 November 2023

* delete or circle as appropriate

Form reviewed

May-23