

# **MID-LINCOLNSHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT**

## **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

**For the year ended 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2024**

### **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 2024. On 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024, Rev Gordon Davis and Deacon Jane Paine retired as ministers. From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024 there were no ministers stationed in the circuit and Rev Graham Miles and Rev Richard Mottershead shared the responsibilities for pastoral care in the circuit.

### **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 9 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 assessments paid by the churches within the Circuit area. In the year to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024, the assessments totalled £41,750 (2023: £78,050). A District Mission Grant of £8,000 per annum was received for a Deacon, which has now ceased. 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 £86,710 (2023: £89,649). Other costs include the contributions to the District, and to the Methodist Church Fund £27,555 (2023: £22,800). 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 2024, the net current, unrestricted, assets of the Circuit were £473,853 (2023: £375,544), compared with total expenditure for the year of £217,613 (2023: £236,803).

## **Plans for 2024/2025**

Circuit financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that the reduction in staffing changes have occurred. There is no Ministerial cover from September 2024. The sale of the Old Bolingbroke Chapel was completed before the end of August 2024. The year will see the future of the circuit decided in the absence of stationing of ministers.

## **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. 9 Churches are linked to the Circuit and are listed in Appendix A 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 2024 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: 21<sup>st</sup> May 2010

Main communication address: 13 Woodland View, Spilsby, Lincs, PE23 5GD

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 B 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.

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

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

Bankers: HSBC, Market Place, Horncastle

## **APPENDIX A**

### **LIST OF CHURCHES IN THE CIRCUIT**

Halton Hologate

Horncastle

Raithby

Spilsby

UMC at Coningsby

Woodhall Spa

Wragby

Bardney (Class of Wragby)

Bardney Dairies (Class of Wragby)

## **APPENDIX B**

### **LIST OF TRUSTEES**

Rev. Gordon Davis	to 31/8/24
Deacon Jane Paine	to 31/8/24
Helen Clough	Circuit Meeting Secretary
Ian Brown	Circuit Steward
Pauline Brown	Circuit Steward
Julie Close-Mitchell	Circuit Steward
Kate O'Flynn	Circuit Steward
Marion Ambrose	
Lynne Mowbray	
Lawrie Lambert	
Susan Johnson	
Bunty Martin	
Josephine Towle	
Bronwyn Wallis	
Keith Stephenson	
Margaret Wikeley	
David Wikeley	
Ivan Clough	
Carol Clough	
Sue MacFall	
Jacqui Walton	
Irene Heap	
Mo Fricke	to 31/8/24
Anne Keene	
David Turner	to 31/8/24
Wendy Turner	
Eileen Kelsey	
Rev. Geoff Boxer	Supernumerary
Rev. Cecil Mundy	Supernumerary
Rev. David Lawton	Supernumerary

From 1/9/24

Rev Graham Miles

Rev Richard Mottershead

THE METHODIST CHURCH  
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Mid Lincolnshire Methodist Circuit	Circuit
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 August 2024

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

1136058

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

(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 Davies (Superintendent)
Jane Paine (Deacon)

Circuit Stewards:

Julie Close-Mitchell
Ian Brown
Pauline Brown
Kate O'Flynn

Treasurer:

Pauline Brown
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ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 August 2024

Mid Lincolnshire Methodist  
Circuit

Circuit

SECTION A			Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
a1	RECEIPTS	Note	£	£	£	£	£
a2	Assessment/Share		41,750			41,750	78,050
a3	Capital receipts			235,977		235,977	404,311
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		4,492	12,896	1,518	18,906	6,239
a5	Grants		8,000			8,000	8,000
a6	Other receipts		11,289			11,289	7,050
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS		65,531	248,873	1,518	315,922 (a8)	503,650

SECTION B								
b1	PAYMENTS							
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs		81,211				81,211	81,898
b3	Manse Costs		5,499				5,499	7,751
b4	Administration etc		34	14,328	85		14,447	8,034
b5	District Assessment		27,555				27,555	22,800
b6	Grants & donations							4,000
b7								
b8	Other payments		18,510	70,391			88,901	112,320
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS		132,809	84,719	85		217,613 (b9)	236,803

SECTION C							
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a7-b9)	(67,278)	164,154	1,433	98,309	266,847
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		82,968	292,576		375,544 (c6)	108,697
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	15,690	456,730	1,433	473,853	375,544
c4	Transfers and adjustments		101,433	(100,000)	(1,433)	(c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	117,123	356,730		473,853 (c8)	375,544 (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	<b>BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)</b>				



## 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 2024 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						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds					(e11)	(e12)
e9 Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	315,922 (a8)	217,613 (b9)	98,309	(c7)	375,544 (c6)	473,853 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	315,922	217,613	98,309		375,544 (x)	473,853 (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 2024

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	12,926	16,459
f3 Bank Deposit Account	472	472
f4 Central Finance Board	58,788	88,869
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	303,358	368,053
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL	375,544 (c6)	473,853 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance totals above) (e12)	(e11)	(e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	375,544 (x)	473,853 (y)

## SECTION G

## OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2023	At 31 August 2024
g1 Investments (include Endowments)	70557	72615
g2 Land and Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	479,688	479,688
g3 Other Assets	1,446	1,446
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5 Other Liabilities	(480)	(480)

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

f5 Include only CFB Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trust accounts this is inserted in line f5)

Other Assets

Cash Funds

Total Funds

551,211

375,544

926,755

553,269

473,853

1,027,122

Name of Circuit ..... MID LINCOLNSHIRE CIRCUIT ..... No. 17/04 .....

## Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2024 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 Brown ..... Date 9.12.2024 .....

Name and address of treasurer PAULINE M BROWN 2 TOR O MOOR GARDENS .....  
WOODHALL SPA LINCOLNSHIRE ..... Post Code LN10 6RX .....

### Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 ~~were~~ will be\* presented to the Circuit meeting held on 9/12/2024.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting ..... [Signature] .....

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev Graham P Mills ..... Date 09-12-2024 .....

### Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

..... MID LINCOLNSHIRE ..... 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 2024 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 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 J Russell

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Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FECA

Name of firm (where appropriate) Dexter + Scarph

Address Rougemont House, 20-22 Bridge Street, Horncastle

LINCOLNSHIRE Post Code LN9 5HZ

Date 25/10/2024

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THE METHODIST CHURCH  
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
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Name and address of treasurer PAULINE M BROWN 2 TOR O MOOR GARDENS .....  
WOODHALL SPA LINCOLNSHIRE ..... Post Code LN10 6RX .....

### Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 ~~were~~ will be\* presented to the Circuit meeting held on 9/12/2024.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting ..... [Signature] .....

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev Graham P Mills ..... Date 09-12-2024 .....

### Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

..... MID LINCOLNSHIRE ..... 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 2024 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 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:

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Signature of independent examiner Tristan J Russell

Name of independent examiner Tristan James Russell

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FECA

Name of firm (where appropriate) Dexter + Scarpe

Address Rougemont House, 20-22 Bridge Street, Horncastle

LINCOLNSHIRE Post Code LN9 5HZ

Date 25/10/2024

\* delete or circle as appropriate