

# **THE METHODIST CHURCH – HIGH WYCOMBE CIRCUIT**

## **CHARITY COMMISSION TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT 2022**

### **Section B – Structure, Governance and Management**

The Circuit is one of 19 Circuits in the Northampton District. The Circuit is ultimately accountable to the Methodist Conference.

Risk management is considered as part of its overall duties by the Circuit Leadership Team which takes appropriate professional advice whenever it feels that this is necessary.

The Circuit has for many years adopted a safeguarding policy in respect of children and has encouraged and indeed ensured that all Churches within the Circuit have also adopted a suitable policy. In 2012 it adopted and has since annually updated a revised policy covering both Children and Vulnerable Adults. Suitable training is arranged to support those holding office.

### **Section C – Objectives and Activities**

The objects are set out in The Methodist Church Act 1976 (Clause 4), a synopsis of which is “advancement of religion and any charitable purpose of the Methodist Church or Church organisation (see Methodist Church Act 1976).”

The Circuit provides advice, support and resources to the 9 Churches that form the Circuit and through them undertakes a range of religious activities for the benefit of the general public/mankind.

Methodist Circuits are not defined as external grant making bodies. Surplus funds, both short term and longer term are invested with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes as required by Standing Orders.

The majority of the work of the Circuit, other than that undertaken by ordained ministers and paid lay workers, is undertaken by voluntary lay people.

### **Section D – Achievements and Performance**

The Circuit has continued to support a wide range of activities undertaken by the Churches within the Circuit. In 2021-22 this has involved .....

One minister is due to leave in August 2023 and a new probationer minister will be stationed from September 2023.

The Circuit continues to look for areas of proven growth and where there is potential for development. The Circuit has continued to support lay workers in two churches and the funding of the Superintendent's PA.

The Circuit has continued its commitment to fund a diaconal appointment, though this is ending in March 2023. The appointee has developed outreach work both by encouraging and training lay people, and by working alongside ecumenical partners. In addition he was actively involved in supporting the work of local Work Place Chaplains. As this time there is no plan to replace him.

### **Section E – Financial Review**

The Circuit aims to maintain in a general fund at least three months routine expenditure to cover timing delays in receipt of funds.

The other main fund is the Circuit Model Trust Fund (formerly known as the Circuit Advance Fund) which is derived from the sale of redundant properties within the Circuit and its use is governed by the purposes defined in Standing Orders.

The Circuit raises funds through the Circuit assessment which is contributions from all the Churches within the Circuit to meet the agreed budget for the year.

The majority of the Circuit's expenditure is related to the employment of staff and their associated accommodation etc. expenses plus a contribution to the costs of both the District and the Connexion collected through the District Assessment.

## **Section F – Future Development**

The Circuit continues to seek an effective strategy for its future development and direction. In 2021-2022 the Circuit engaged in a review of activities under the banner of the Connexional God for All initiative, and by the end of the year all churches had reviewed their plans for the next twelve months. The work identified through these exercises will continue to be developed as a priority and appropriate financial plans developed to enable them to be taken forward over the coming years both by the churches and the Circuit Leadership Team.

-oOo-

**The Methodist Church - High Wycombe Circuit**

**Statement of Financial Activities**

**for the Year ended 31st August 2022**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
Circuit Assessments		187,744		187,744	189,220
Manse Rental Income	7	37,140		37,140	37,140
Grants Received	2	35,450		35,450	45,450
Bank and Trust Interest		194		194	247
Special Collections			4,356	4,356	445
Sundry Income		696		696	2,814
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>261,224</b>	<b>4,356</b>	<b>265,579</b>	<b>275,317</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
Stipends, National Insurance & Pensions		144,995		144,995	142,668
Lay Workers & Supernumerary	6	2,350		2,350	5,700
District Assessment		44,706		44,706	53,540
Manse repairs and maintenance	9	62,360		62,360	33,413
Travel		4,345		4,345	2,267
Administration		1,328		1,328	1,581
Quinquennial inspections		7,446		7,446	5,712
Telephones and internet		3,435		3,435	3,543
Training		500		500	0
Pulpit supply and plans		60		60	0
Grants and Donations	8	8,835		8,835	68,705
Collection paid over			4,356	4,356	445
Removal costs		3,950		3,950	0
Other expenditure		691		691	1,411
Depreciation		0		0	0
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<b>285,001</b>	<b>4,356</b>	<b>289,356</b>	<b>318,983</b>
<b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>(23,777)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>(23,777)</b>	<b>(43,667)</b>
<b>INCREASE / (DECREASE) IN VALUE OF FUNDS</b>					
Manse revaluation	5	335,963		335,963	332,936
Model Trust Fund	3	(56,069)		(56,069)	(15,329)
Other Trust Funds	4	50	3	53	38
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>256,167</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>256,170</b>	<b>273,977</b>
<b>FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD</b>		<b>3,912,702</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,912,702</b>	<b>3,638,725</b>
<b>FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>4,168,870</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4,168,872</b>	<b>3,912,702</b>

# The Methodist Church - High Wycombe Circuit

## Balance Sheet at 31st August 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Tangible Fixed Assets</b>		3,695,588	3,359,625
<b>Current Assets:</b>			
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		373,172	429,188
Central Finance Board		56,442	78,212
HSBC		32,103	28,080
CAF Bank Cash		29,794	32,481
CAF Bank Gold		40,071	20,058
Stipends paid in advance		12,543	11,994
Manse rental fees paid in advance		0	0
Sundry debtors		0	0
Manse Refurbishments paid in advance		0	0
		<u>4,239,714</u>	<u>3,959,638</u>
<b>Less Current Liabilities:</b>			
Circuit assessments prepaid		42,936	46,936
Manse Rental Income		0	0
Accrued manse maintenance expenses		27,905	0
Accrued General Expenses		0	0
Accrued Quinquennial costs		0	0
Accrued special collection		0	0
Sundry liabilities		0	0
		<u>70,841</u>	<u>46,936</u>
		<u><u>4,168,872</u></u>	<u><u>3,912,702</u></u>
<b>FINANCED BY:</b>			
<b>Unrestricted Funds:</b>			
General Fund	9	100,112	123,889
Manse Fund	5	3,695,588	3,359,625
Model Trust Fund	3	<u>342,986</u>	<u>399,055</u>
		4,138,686	3,882,569
<b>Other Funds</b>			
Trust 17252 Chilton Memorial Trust Fund	4	2,832	2,830
Trust 12975 (Sale of Land) Fund	4	6,203	6,191
Trust 20825 Alma Stevens bequest	4	<u>21,151</u>	<u>21,112</u>
		30,186	30,133
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<u><u>4,168,872</u></u>	<u><u>3,912,702</u></u>

## The Methodist Church - High Wycombe Circuit

### Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2022

#### 1. Accounting policies

##### **a) Basis of accounting**

The Accounts have been prepared under the Historic Cost Convention except where assets have been stated at valuation. This is in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (the FRSSE) (effective 1 January 2015).

##### **b) Valuation of Mansees**

The six mansees owned by the Circuit have been valued on the basis of the market values of comparable properties situated in their respective areas, taking account of the change in house prices during the year as indicated by The Nationwide House Price Index.

##### **c) Designation of Funds according to Charity Law**

The General Fund is an unrestricted fund.

The Chilton Memorial Trust Fund is a Permanent Endowment.

The Model Trust Fund, Trust (Sale of Land) Fund, and the Alma Stevens bequest are unrestricted funds.

#### 2. Grants Received

£35,450 was taken from the Model Trust Fund, £30,000 to cover the cost of employing the Deacon, and £5,450 to cover grants to churches.

#### 3. Model Trust Fund (formerly the Circuit Advance Fund)

Movements on the Model Trust Fund during the year were as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Balance brought forward	399,055	414,384
Interest received (net of TMCP charges)	560	49
Net proceeds of sale of properties	0	454,191
Less amounts drawn to support mission and outreach:		
Diaconal appointment	-30,000	-30,000
Circuit - Any Other Purpose	-5,450	-434,936
Less District Levy	-21,179	-4,632
Balance Carried Forward	<u>342,986</u>	<u>399,055</u>

#### 4. Other Trust Funds.

These comprise monies which were originally donated, collected or allocated for a specific, purpose.

Movements during the year were as follows:

	2022	2021
<b>a) Chilton Memorial Trust 17252 (permanent endowment)</b>		
Balance brought forward	2,830	2,829
Interest credited (net of TMCP charge)	5	4
Interest paid to Circuit	-3	-3
Balance carried forward	<u>2,832</u>	<u>2,830</u>
<b>b) Trust 12975 (sale of land)</b>		
Balance brought forward	6,191	6,183
Interest credited (net of TMCP charge)	11	8
Balance carried forward	<u>6,203</u>	<u>6,191</u>
Trust 12975 resulted from the sale of land by the former Bourne End Methodist Church. Following the closure of the Church, the Trust was transferred to the Circuit and the capital is available to the circuit as laid down in standing orders.		
<b>c) Trust 20825 Alma Stevens bequest</b>		
Balance brought forward/Capital Transferred	21,112	21,084
Interest credited (net of TMCP charge)	39	29
Interest paid to Circuit	0	0
	<u>21,151</u>	<u>21,112</u>

Trust 20825 was a bequest to Naphill Methodist Church. Following the closure of the church in July 2018 the Trust was transferred to the Circuit and is now available to the Circuit as laid down in standing orders.

8

## The Methodist Church - High Wycombe Circuit

### Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2022

#### 5. Tangible Fixed Assets - Manse

	2022	2021
Balance brought forward	3,359,625	3,026,689
Increase/Decrease in valuation	335,963	332,936
Balance carried forward	3,695,588	3,359,625

The value of the manse owned by the circuit has been revalued using the Nationwide House price index for August as in previous years. The year on year change was +10.0%

#### 6. Lay workers and supernumeraries

The Circuit has not directly employed any layworkers during the year. The Superintendent's PA was employed from September to February, for whom the Circuit paid Flackwell Heath and then Marlow who administer the Circuits lay employees.

#### 7. Manse Rental Income

Both manse were occupied for the whole of the year.

#### 8. Grants and Donations

A further grant of £2,250 was made in support of the Flackwell Heath Young Families Worker, a grant of £3,315 was made in support of the Marlow Children and Families Worker, and a total of £1,179 for a number of small grants to churches for IT equipment under the God for All initiative, together with a contribution of £90 towards a leaving gift. As in previous years, a donation of £2,000 was made to support the work of Wycombe Homeless Connection.

#### 9. Manse Repairs and the Manse Reserve

This year there was substantial expenditure on the manse at 98 Wycombe Road, amounting to over half of the Manse Reserve Fund. The remainder has been consolidated into the General Fund, and the accounts shown for 2021 are amended to make them comparable.

### Independent Examiner's Unqualified Report to the Trustees of The Methodist Church - High Wycombe Circuit

#### Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirements of Section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) do not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under Section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

#### Independent Examiner's Statement

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

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 41 of the Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



Date

6 JAN 2023

ROY SHOCOME FRA  
7 CHERRY TREE CLOSE  
HUGHENDEN VILLAGE  
BUCKS HP14 4LP