

BLACKHEATH AND CRYSTAL PALACE CIRCUIT

England & Wales · Charity number 1137991

Details

Other names	BLACKHEATH AND LEWISHAM CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2010-09-14
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address Burnt Ash Methodist Church Hall
Burnt Ash Hill
London
SE12 0QD

Phone 02088517043

Email office.bcpc@btinternet.com

Website bhcpmethodist.org.uk

Activities

Objects: The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the date of union the advancement of -(a) the Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church;(b) any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, district, circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church;(c) any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church;(d) any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church.

Activities: A grouping of 9 local Churches forming a circuit within the London District of the Methodist Church in Great Britain. The grouping exists for mutual support in fulfilling the mission of the Church in this part of London. There are four ministers in the Circuit, supported by a team of local preachers, circuit stewards and a leadership team from the member churches.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Services, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£250,000	£284,431	-	-
2024-08-31	£255,791	£270,970	-	-
2023-08-31	£242,391	£269,139	-	-
2022-08-31	£232,563	£262,060	-	-
2021-08-31	£231,798	£246,041	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Craig Gaffney	Chair	2021-09-01
ALECIA AUSTIN		
ANDREW HARVEY TREDINNICK		2013-02-08
Alfred Edmund Macauley-James		2022-09-01
BARBARA MELANIE CHARLICK		2013-03-08
BRENDA RENSHAW		2013-02-08
Bernadetta Banda		2022-09-01
COMFORT OPPONG MBE		2018-06-12
CYNTHIA DAVIS		2013-02-15
Christopher John Watkins		2021-06-25
Claire Pennycard		2022-09-01
DR LINDA ANN RYAN		2013-02-08
Dr GARRY JAMES JOHN YOUNG PHD		
ESME RUSSELL-MITRA BA		
Eunice Millet		2023-01-01
Evelyn RICHARDS		2016-06-01
Felix Densu		2025-12-01
GRAHAM JOHN SPARKES		
Gifty Quartey		2023-06-20
Helena Matilda Green		2019-09-01
JEANNETTE DOROTHY WARREN		2023-10-29
JESSICA MATUMIKA LIMBA		
Judith Crane - St Hill		2023-09-01
KWESI ESHUN		2021-09-01
Lorna Anna Lezina White		2023-09-01
MARGARET PRICE		2013-02-08
MARIAN ANN YOUNG		2013-02-15

Name	Role	Appointed
MARION JOYCE THOMPSON		2013-02-08
MARY ELIZABETH SPARKES		2018-03-22
MR GERALD HARDY		2013-02-15
MR PADDY BOOTHE		
Margaret Baker		2024-11-09
Margaret Olive BOREHAM		2016-09-01
RUTH ELAINE POTTER		2013-02-15
Rev Charles Mpunji Djikubi Ilunga		2020-09-01
Rev William Davis		2022-09-01
Robert John Munro		2024-05-21
Roseline Dada		2024-09-01
SAIRA BOHAN-CROFT		2013-02-08
SANDRA FLOY		2013-03-01
Samuel Newlove Agbonlahor		2023-09-01
Sylvester James Oppong		2022-09-01
Winston Adeyemi Fraser		2016-06-10
Winston Samuel Graham		2024-11-01
vicky Hayford		2023-09-01

BLACKHEATH AND CRYSTAL PALACE CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1137991

Accounts

BLACKHEATH AND CRYSTAL PALACE CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

REGISTERED CHARITY No. 1137991

ANNUAL REPORT

for the period 1st September 2024 to 31st August 2025

Introduction

I am pleased to be able to present the Annual Report for our Methodist Circuit, and trust that you will find the contents to be of interest.

It is my strongly held belief that the churches of our circuit remain firm in faith and resolute in their determination to offer the Gospel message to the people of South London.

Revd Craig Gaffney,
Superintendent Minister

The registered address for correspondence is:

Circuit Administrator,
Blackheath & Crystal Palace Circuit Office,
Burnt Ash Methodist Church Hall,
Burnt Ash Hill,
London, SE12 0QD

The trustees who serve the charity are those specifically appointed to positions within the circuit, those who represent each of the nine church communities, plus ministers of religion who reside within the circuit or who have served within the Methodist Church and who have retired to live in the area.

Aims and organisation

The registered objectives of the Charity for the Methodist Church:

The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been
since the Date of Union

the advancement of:

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

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

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

The charity's mission statement states that

The Blackheath and Crystal Palace Circuit promotes Methodism and Christian communities by actively Empowering, Supporting, Resourcing and Encouraging its member churches to increase awareness of God's saving grace through Christ and His everlasting love.

The Charity's approach to achieving that mission is by:

- Providing the best possible resources to enable Christian worship, witness and service in each of our nine Church communities.
- Organising and resourcing regular public acts of worship open to members of the church and non-members alike.
- The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.
- Encouraging training and preparation for all aspects of church life.
- The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.
- Exercising Christian ministry throughout the community without discrimination.
- Mutually encouraging and supporting the ministry of the whole people of God.
- Fostering the Connexional spirit of Methodism within the Circuit and beyond.
- Nurturing ecumenical and other faith relationships.

Public Benefit

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

Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document for the circuit is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976)

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD).

The practical management of the charity is undertaken by a Circuit Leadership Team comprising the ministers of religion, who are each appointed initially for five years - but who may stay for longer, the circuit stewards who are appointed each year by the Circuit Meeting and the Circuit Treasurer who is also appointed annually.

The circuit was successful in satisfying all of its key responsibilities, i.e. in the provision of ministers, co-ordinating the preaching plan, maintaining the manses, monitoring the governance of each of the nine churches, as well as supporting and encouraging each church in their mission of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. The circuit has been represented at District Synod.

Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the circuit, specifically the leaflet 'The Role of a Trustee in The Methodist Church' is available to all new Circuit meeting members via the Circuit website, as induction to their role as trustees.

The handbook 'Role of a Circuit Steward' has been made available to all Circuit Stewards.

Related Parties

The Circuit is part of the London District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The following Methodist Churches are linked to the circuit

Anerley Methodist Church
Burnt Ash Methodist church
Eltham Park Methodist Church
Forest Hill Methodist Church
Hither Green Methodist Church
Lewisham Methodist Church
Sunfields Methodist Church
Upper Norwood Methodist Church
Wesley Hall Methodist Church

The circuit has denomination regulatory oversight of the work of the churches within the circuit but has no legal or operational control of those churches and their governing bodies except in extreme circumstances.

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Finance and Property Committee with professional advice taken as required.

There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

Income and Expenditure is being monitored in total and is compared with the approved annual budget on a half yearly basis 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:

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults

- the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
- We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.
- We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- We will seek to strongly encourage consideration for, and training in, principles of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.
- In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice

The Blackheath & Crystal Palace 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 Blackheath & Crystal Palace 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.

Brief financial review of the year

Income

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment of £250,000 paid in full by the Circuit churches.

Expenditure

Expenditure in the year was £284,431.

73% Of expenditure was on stipends, travel costs. etc.

20% was the Circuit contribution to the District and Connexion, of which a significant part is used to fund the work of the wider Methodist Church.

The other expenditure, 7%, includes administration and manse costs.

Fund balances

As at 31 August 2025, the net current assets of the Circuit (including the Circuit Model Trust Fund) were £149,796 compared to £164,773 at the start of the year. All churches honoured their assessments during the year. In addition, the circuit received £16,498 from Forest Hill Church as repayment of funds owed.

Sufficient reserves are held to cover day-to-day expenditure, unexpected maintenance costs and to provide funding for any projects required to meet the Circuit's Mission Statement.

Plans for 2025/26

Circuit financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that there are three full time ordained staff and one part administration staff with anticipated cost of living stipend increases.

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The circuit accounts to 31 August 2025 were prepared on an accrual basis, in line with Charity Commission requirements, as we anticipate circuit income consistently to exceed £250,000. The accounts show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities and are compliant with FRS 102. Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2025, the trustees believe that the Circuit is a going concern.

Full Name of Charity: Blackheath & Crystal Palace Circuit

Registration Charity Number: 1137991

Date of registration: 1 September 2012

Main communication address: The Circuit Administrator, Burnt Ash Methodist Church Hall,
Burnt Ash Hill, London, SE12 0QD

The members of the Blackheath & Crystal Palace Methodist Circuit meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches.

Fully membership is shown as Appendix A to this report.

Active Circuit Ministers Rev Richard Grocott

Rev Charles Ilunga

Rev Craig Gaffney

Rev William Davis

Circuit Stewards Dr Garry Young (Senior)

Mrs Jeannette Warren

Mrs Margaret Boreham

Mrs Helena Green

Mr Sam Newlove-Agbonlahor

Dr Linda Ryan

Mrs Jessica Matumika-Limba *ex officio*

Administrator: Dr Linda Ryan

Names of the circuit stewards who acted as the principal officers overseeing the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the circuit during the year (treasurer) was Mrs Jessica Matumika-Limba.

Independent examiner: Mr George Ajassi, FCCA

Investment Bankers Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
Trustees for Methodist Church purposes

Current bank accounts Barclays

Reserves Policy

As at 31 August 2025, the total cash balance was £149,796, made up as follows:

1. Central Finance Board – £82,335
2. HSBC Current Account & Cash – £13,032
3. Circuit Model Trust Fund Cash – £54,428

Circuit funds have decreased by £14,000 from the opening balance of £164,673, reflecting the current year deficit. The circuit also holds investments managed by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes valued at £25,252 as of 31 August 2025

The total unrestricted General Funds available to the circuit, including investments, amount to £175,048 (£149,796 + £25,252).

Level of Reserves

General Fund reserves of **£175,048** support the smooth operation of the circuit and have been designated as follows:

1. District Assessment Reserve – £60,000

This reserve ensures the circuit can meet the 2025/26 District Assessment obligation of £56,680.

2. Cash Flow Reserve – £70,000

To ensure timely payment of ministers' stipends, NIC, pension contributions, and related costs, a cash flow reserve equivalent to approximately 42% of these expenses has been set aside. Stipends account for around 80% of total circuit costs.

3. Manse Maintenance & Ad Hoc Reserve – £45,000

In line with quinquennial requirements, manses must be maintained to an appropriate standard. Regular repairs are undertaken as needed, and the anticipated long-term vacancy of one manse reinforces the need for adequate funds to be held in reserve

Declaration

The trustees declare that

- they have understood all of the requirements associated with the submission of the annual return and all of the statements contained within it; and
- the information provided in the relevant parts of the annual return is correct and complete to the best of their knowledge and belief and has been brought to the attention of the charity trustees who have each individually verified this and given their informed express consent to this submission with full knowledge, understanding and acceptance of the contents of the privacy notice.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signatures:



Rev. Craig Gaffney
(Chairman)



Mr. Jessica Matumika-Limba
(Treasurer)

Date: 19th February 2026

APPENDIX A

Names of the trustees who managed the charity in the year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025:

Rev. Richard Grocott	Rev. Craig Gaffney
Rev. William Davis	Rev Charles ILunga
Mrs Claire Pennycard	Dr Garry Young
Mrs Margaret Boreham	Mr. Milton Boothe
Mr Graham Sparkes	Mr Andrew Tredinnick
Mrs Marian Young	Miss Ruth Potter
Dr. Linda Ryan	Mrs Esme Russell-Mitra
Mrs Barbara Charlick	Mr Samuel Newlove-Agbonlahor
Mrs Marion Thompson	Mrs Margaret Baker
Mrs Brenda Renshaw	Mr. Gerald Hardy
Mrs Saira Bonhan-Croft	Mrs Jessica Matumika Limba
Ms Bernadetta Banda	Mr. Winston Fraser
Mrs Alecia Austin	Mr Graham Green
Ms Cynthia Davis	Mr Andrew Gibbs
Mrs Judith Crane-St.Hill	Mr Kwesi Eshun
Mrs Margaret Price	Mrs Jean Taylor
Miss Sandra Clifton	Ms Sandra Floy
Mrs Evelyn Richards	Mrs Valerie Tredinnick
Mrs Hilary Waterhouse	Mrs Mary Sparkes
Mrs Comfort Oppong	Mrs Sibongile Mnguni
Mrs Helena Green	Mr Sylvester Oppong
Mr Alfred Macauley-James	Mr Chris Watkins
Mrs Gifty Quartey	Ms Eunice Millett
Miss Lorna White	Mrs Jeannette Warren
Ms Vicky Hayford	Mr Robert Munro
Mrs Rosie Dada	Mr Winston Graham

Black Heath & Crystal Palace Circuit

Charity Registration No 1137991

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year ending 31 August 2025

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2025

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024-25
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
1	Donations and legacies	723	0	0	0	0	723
2	Income from monetary investments	2,655	3,017	0	0	0	5,672
3	Income from investment properties	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Assessments on Churches	250,000	0	0	0	0	250,000
5	Capital Receipts	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Grants received	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Other income	17,385	0	0	0	0	17,385
8	Total income	270,763	3,017	0	0	0	273,780
Expenditure							
9	Grants and donations	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Salaries and associated costs	206,972	0	0	0	0	206,972
11	Property maintenance	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Connexional assessment & model trust levy	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	District Assessment & Levy	57,608	0	0	0	0	57,608
14	Depreciation	958	0	0	0	0	958
15	Office expenses	14,170	0	0	0	0	14,170
16	Other outgoings	2,493	2,230	0	0	0	4,723
17	Total charitable expenditure	282,201	2,230	0	0	0	284,431
18	Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		787				787
19	Gains/(losses) on investment properties						
20	Net income/(expenditure)	(11,438)	1,573	0	0	0	(9,864)
21	Transfers between funds						0
22	Other gains/(losses)						
23	Net movement in funds	(11,438)	1,573	0	0	0	(9,864)
24	Total funds brought forward						0
25	Total funds carried forward	(11,438)	1,573	0	0	0	(9,864)

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2025

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Notes to the Accounts		General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Totals 2024/25 £	Totals 2023/24 £	
Fixed Assets									
Circuit Manses & Equipment	1	2,447,087					2,447,087	2,388,344	
Investment properties							0		
Investments			25,252				25,252	25,205	
Total fixed assets		2,447,087	25,252	0	0	0	2,472,339	2,413,549	
Current Assets									
Debtors	2	64,015					64,015		
Prepayments	3	1,515					1,515		
Investments with TMCP			54,528				54,528	53,742	
Central Finance Board Deposits		82,336					82,336	97,999	
Cash at Bank and in hand		13,004					13,004	13,032	
Total current assets		160,869	54,528	0	0	0	215,398	164,773	
Current liabilities									
Creditors (due in under 1 year) & Accruals	4	2,035					2,035		
Grants payable within one year							0		
Total current liabilities		2,035	0	0	0	0	2,035	0	
Net current assets/liabilities		158,835	54,528	0	0	0	213,363	164,773	
Total assets less current liabilities		2,605,922	79,780	0	0	0	2,685,702	2,578,322	
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)									
Grants payable after one year							0		
Loans to the Circuit							0		
Net assets		2,605,922	79,780	0	0	0	2,685,702	2,578,322	
Funds of the Circuit									
General Fund (Unrestricted)		2,605,922					2,605,922	2,499,375	
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			79,780				79,780	78,947	
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)				0			0		
Total Unrestricted Funds							2,685,702	2,578,322	
Restricted Funds					0		0		
Endowment Funds						0	0		
Total Funds		2,605,922	79,780	0	0	0	2,685,702	2,578,322	

Signed



Circuit Treasurer

Jessica Matumbe

Signed



Circuit Superintendent

Chair: Rev. Craig Gaffney

BlackHeath & Crystal Palace

Important note:

Comparatives for the summary of assets and liabilities of each category of fund of the charity and for the detail in the movements in material individual funds. Therefore notes BS10 and BS 11 need to be reproduced to cover the previous year.

GUIDANCE NOTES

Please see separate document 'suggested framework for Circuit annual report'. This shows examples of items to include in the annual report. Use this as guidance to write the annual report.

1 Depreciation		
Cost of Photocopier	01/09/2024	£ 4,788.00
Disposals/Additions/Revaluation/Transfers		-
Charge for the year - 5 years Straight line		957.60
NBV Closing Balance	31/08/2025	3,830.40
Manses		
Win Road		646,002.00
Mottingham Lane		571,149.00
Eversley Road		585,128.00
Kings Hall Road		640,978.00
Current Valuation	01/09/2024	2,443,257.00
2 Debtors		
		£
Roots for Churches		1,515.00
Circuit assessment		62,500.00
		64,015.00
3 Prepayments		
Roots for Churches		1,515.00
		1,515.00
4 Creditors due <1 year		
Minister expenses		1,100.00
Water		934.79
		2,034.79

The Blackheath & Crystal Palace Circuit

Notes to the accounts for the year ending 31 August 2025

1) Basis of accounting and accounting policies

I. Accounting standards

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting and reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the financial reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective from 01 January 2015) – (charities SORP(FRS 102))

II. Public benefit entity

The Blackheath & Crystal Palace Circuit meets the definition of public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes below.

III. Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that the investments are shown at their market value at the end of the year. The accrual basis has been used, and the trustees present accounts that show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

IV. Content

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

V. Public benefit entity

This is the first year that the FRS102 has been applied to the Circuit's accounts. These accounts are compliant with FRS 102. The previous year's published accounts have been restated to be on the same basis; details of the adjustments appear in Note XVI. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable charity law in England this being the charities Act 2011 and SI 2008/629(Charities Accounting and Reporting Regulations).

VI. Going Concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2025, the trustees believe that the Circuit is a going concern

The Blackheath & Crystal Palace Circuit

Notes to the accounts for the year ending 31 August 2025

VII. Consolidation

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

VIII. Income recognition

Income is brought into account when there is entitlement, and the amount is reliably measurable once it is more likely than not that the economic benefit will be forthcoming. Individual amounts categorised as other income in SOFA will be shown separately if they are considered material

IX. Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, where the amount is reliably measurable and it is considered more likely that there will be outflow of economic benefit.

X. VAT

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

XI. Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost £4,500

The freehold residential property is shown in the accounts at deemed historical cost representing each property's gross carrying values as at 01 September 2024, being that the property's insurance reinstatement value. No depreciation is provided because the trustees consider the current residual value of the property in its condition to be less than its historical cost and, in the absence of any evidence of impairment, any depreciation provision for the buildings component of the property would be immaterial.

The Circuit has made use of the deemed cost option on transitioning to FRS102 as outlined above

XII. Monetary Investments

The Circuit's investments are in monetary assets classified as basic financial instruments under FRS102 and are held by the Trustees for the Methodist Church

The Blackheath & Crystal Palace Circuit

Notes to the accounts for the year ending 31 August 2025

Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees. The valuation, at market value, are those provided by TMCP.

XIII. Receivables and Payables; Bank and Cash (Basic Financial Instruments)

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the circuit or prepaid. Creditors that are current liabilities are measured at cash expected to be paid, the liquid funds of the bank balances and deposit fund balances are shown at realisable values.

XIV. Methodist Connexional Funds

The Methodist Church Connexion raises assessments against Circuits and these are paid quarterly to their Districts. The Circuits raise assessments against Churches in the Circuit. The District quarterly remits to The Methodist Church Fund most of the sum received from the Circuit. A small sum is retained by the District to meet its own costs.

XV. Ministers' manse costs

The circuit is required to provide accommodation for each minister in the Circuit and their families, and this is seen a benefit to the Circuit. Ministers are expected to occupy the manse provided for them. The Circuit bears the cost of repairs, maintenance, building Insurance, Council Tax and water charges. These figures are not separately disclosed as benefits-in-kind for ministers as HMRC does not seek to tax these receipts in the hands of the ministers.

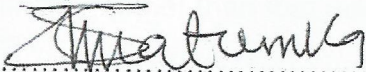
Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2024

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023-24
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
1	Donations and legacies	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Income from monetary investments	4,184	0	0	0	0	4,184
3	Income from investment properties	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Assessments on Churches	250,000	0	0	0	0	250,000
5	Capital Receipts	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Grants received	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Other charitable income	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Total income	254,184	0	0	0	0	254,184
Expenditure							
9	Grants and donations	3,188	0	0	0	0	3,188
10	Salaries and associated costs	212,878	0	0	0	0	212,878
11	Property maintenance	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Connexional assessment & model trust levy	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	District Assessment & Levy	47,740	0	0	0	0	47,740
14	Depreciation	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Office expenses	4,095	0	0	0	0	4,095
16	Other outgoings	1,920	0	0	0	0	1,920
17	Total charitable expenditure	269,820	0	0	0	0	269,820
18	Gains/(losses) on monetary investments	0	1,345	0	0	0	1,345
19	Gains/(losses) on investment properties						
20	Net income/(expenditure)	(15,636)	1,345	0	0	0	(14,291)
21	Transfers between funds						0
22	Other gains/(losses)						
23	Net movement in funds	(15,636)	1,345	0	0	0	(14,291)
24	Total funds brought forward						0
25	Total funds carried forward	(15,636)	1,345	0	0	0	(14,291)

Name of Circuit ... **BLACKHEATH & CRYSTAL PALACE** ... No 35/28 ..

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-based accounts for the year to 31 August 2025 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  Date..... 11/11/25

Name and address of treasurer Ms... **Jessica Matumika, 30... Westmead Court.**
..... Post Code **SE6 4EB**

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 were/will * be presented to the Circuit meeting held on:

Signature of the Chair of the meeting: 

Name of the Chair of the meeting: **Rev Craig Gaffney**..... Date 15.01.26.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the **BLACKHEATH & CRYSTAL PALACE** Circuit

Charity Number ...1137991.....

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the **Blackheath & Crystal Palace** Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2025 set out on pages ... to 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**BLACKHEATH & CRYSTAL PALACE** ... No ...**35/28**....

Independent Examiner's Statement

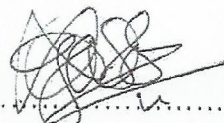
[The Circuit's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of (**ACCA**)]. *Delete [] if not applicable.*

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; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination *Delete if not applicable i.e. all R&P accounts*
- the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts *Delete if not applicable i.e. all R&P accounts.*

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 

Name of independent examiner: **Mr George Ajassi**

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner:.....**FCCA**.....

Name of firm (where appropriate):

Address: ...**7 Woodside Mews**

..... Post Code: **DA12 5FH**...

Date: ...**11 November 2025**.....

* delete or circle as appropriate

BLACKHEATH AND CRYSTAL PALACE CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1137991

Accounts

BLACKHEATH AND CRYSTAL PALACE CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

REGISTERED CHARITY No. 1137991

ANNUAL REPORT

for the period 1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024

Introduction

I am pleased to be able to present the Annual Report for our Methodist Circuit, and trust that you will find the contents to be of interest.

It is my strongly held belief that the churches of our circuit remain firm in faith and resolute in their determination to offer the Gospel message to the people of South London.

Revd Richard Grocott,
Superintendent Minister

The registered address for correspondence is:

Circuit Administrator,
Blackheath & Crystal Palace Circuit Office,
Burnt Ash Methodist Church Hall,
Burnt Ash Hill,
London, SE12 0QD

The trustees who serve the charity are those specifically appointed to positions within the circuit, those who represent each of the nine church communities, plus ministers of religion who reside within the circuit or who have served within the Methodist Church and who have retired to live in the area.

Aims and organisation

The registered objectives of the Charity for the Methodist Church:

‘The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the Date of Union’

the advancement of:

- a) The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and discipline of The Methodist Church;
- b) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, District, Circuit, local or other organisation of The Methodist Church;
- c) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to The Methodist Church;
- d) Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to The Methodist Church

The charity's mission statement states that:

The Blackheath and Crystal Palace Circuit promotes Methodism and Christian communities by actively Empowering, Supporting, Resourcing and Encouraging its member churches to increase awareness of God's saving grace through Christ and His everlasting love.

The Charity's approach to achieving that mission is by:

- Providing the best possible resources to enable Christian worship, witness and service in each of our nine Church communities.
- Organising and resourcing regular public acts of worship open to members of the church and non-members alike.
- The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.
- Encouraging training and preparation for all aspects of church life.
- The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.
- Exercising Christian ministry throughout the community without discrimination.
- Mutually encouraging and supporting the ministry of the whole people of God.
- Fostering the Connexional spirit of Methodism within the Circuit and beyond.
- Nurturing ecumenical and other faith relationships.

Public Benefit

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

Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document for the circuit is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976). Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD).

The practical management of the charity is undertaken by a Circuit Leadership Team comprising the ministers of religion, who are each appointed initially for five years - but who may stay for longer, the circuit stewards who are appointed each year by the Circuit Meeting and the Circuit Treasurer who is also appointed annually. Co-opted members include the Circuit Safeguarding Officer and the Circuit Manses Officer.

The circuit was successful in satisfying all of its key responsibilities, i.e. in the provision of ministers, co-ordinating the preaching plan, maintaining the manses, monitoring the governance of each of the nine churches, as well as supporting and encouraging each church in their mission of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. The circuit has been represented at District Synod.

Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the circuit, specifically the leaflet 'The Role of a Trustee in The Methodist Church' is available to all new Circuit meeting members via the Circuit website, as induction to their role as trustees.

The handbook 'Role of a Circuit Steward' has been made available to all Circuit Stewards.

Related Parties

The Circuit is part of the London District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The following Methodist Churches are linked to the circuit

Anerley Methodist Church
Burnt Ash Methodist Church
Eltham Park Methodist Church
Forest Hill Methodist Church
Hither Green Methodist Church
Lewisham Methodist Church
Sunfields Methodist Church
Upper Norwood Methodist Church
Wesley Hall Methodist Church

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Finance and Property Committee with professional advice taken as required.

There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

Income and Expenditure is being monitored in total and is compared with the approved annual budget on a half yearly basis 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:

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults
- the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
- We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.
- We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.

- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- We will seek to strongly encourage consideration for, and training in, principles of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.
- In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice

The Blackheath & Crystal Palace 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 Blackheath & Crystal Palace 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.

Brief financial review of the year

Income

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment of £255,791 paid in full by the Circuit churches.

Expenditure

Expenditure in the year was £270,970.

61.3% of expenditure was on stipends, travel costs. etc.

17.6% was the Circuit contribution to the District and Connexion, of which a significant part is used to fund the work of the wider Methodist Church.

The other expenditure, 21.1%, includes administration and manse costs.

Fund balances

As at 31 August 2024, the net current assets of the Circuit (including the Circuit Model Trust Fund) were £164,673 compared to £179,852 at the start of the year.

Although there has been a reduction in Fund Balances, sufficient reserves are held to cover day-to-day expenditure, unexpected maintenance costs and to provide funding for any projects required to meet the Circuit's Mission Statement.

Plans for 2024/25

Circuit financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that there are four full time ordained staff and one part administration staff with anticipated cost of living stipend increases.

Basis of preparation and legal framework

Although the Charity's gross income was more than £250,000 in the year to 31 August 2024, Receipts and Payments reporting has been used rather than Accruals as forecasted revenue for the next two years is anticipated to be less than £250k. This is primarily because of a planned reduction in ministerial numbers from 1 September 2025, with the resultant reduction in circuit assessment.

Full Name of Charity: Blackheath & Crystal Palace Circuit

Registration Charity Number: 1137991

Date of registration: 1 September 2012

Main communication address:

The Circuit Administrator,
Burnt Ash Methodist Church Hall,
Burnt Ash Hill,
London, SE12 0QD

The members of the Blackheath & Crystal Palace Methodist Circuit meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches.

Fully membership is shown as Appendix A to this report.

Active Circuit Ministers	Rev Richard Grocott Rev Charles ILunga Rev Craig Gaffney Rev William Davis
Circuit Stewards	Dr Garry Young (Senior) Mrs Margaret Boreham Mrs Helena Green Mr Samuel Newlove-Agbonlahor Dr Linda Ryan (from 11 th April 2024) Mrs Jessica Matumika-Limba <i>ex officio</i>
Administrator:	Dr Linda Ryan

Name of the circuit steward who acted as the principal officer overseeing the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the circuit during the year (treasurer) was Mrs Jessica Matumika-Limba.

Independent examiner	Mr David West, 67 Heathwood Gardens, London, SE7 8ET
Investment Bankers	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church Trustees for Methodist Church purposes
Current bank accounts	Barclays

Reserves Policy

As at 31 August 2024, the circuit had the following cash reserves:

	Balances at 31 Aug 2024
Bank accounts (General Fund)	£ 12,832
CFB account (General Fund):	£ 97,999
Circuit Model Trust Fund:	£ 53,742

In addition, investments valued at £25,206 were held in the Circuit Model Trust Fund, so that the total funds available to the Circuit were approximately £189,879

The Circuit holds the following sums as designated reserves:

1. District Assessment Reserve (£60,000), being the equivalent of one year's assessment payable by the Circuit to the London District.
2. Cash Flow Reserve (£70,000) being an operational reserve covering approximately 42% of normal annual cash flow of about £166,000, other than the District Assessment, provided for above.
3. Manse Repair Reserve (£60,000) to cover unforeseen expenditure above the regular programme of work so as to ensure the proper and adequate provision of ministerial housing.

The Circuit considers this level of total reserves of £190,000, to be appropriate for its current needs. It is the expectation that the combined value of the General Fund and Circuit Model Trust Fund of £189,879 will reduce gradually in future.

Declaration

The trustees declare that

- they have understood all of the requirements associated with the submission of the annual return and all of the statements contained within it; and
- the information provided in the relevant parts of the annual return is correct and complete to the best of their knowledge and belief and has been brought to the attention of the charity trustees who have each individually verified this and given their informed express consent to this submission with full knowledge, understanding and acceptance of the contents of the privacy notice.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signatures:



Rev. Richard Grocott
(Chairman)



Mr. Jessica Matumika-Limba
(Treasurer)

Date: 27th February 2025

APPENDIX A

Names of the trustees who managed the charity in the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024:

Rev. Richard Grocott	Rev. Craig Gaffney
Rev. William Davis	Rev Charles ILunga
Mrs Claire Pennycard	Dr Garry Young
Mrs Margaret Boreham	Mr. Milton Boothe
Mr Graham Sparkes	Mr Andrew Tredinnick
Mrs Marian Young	Miss Ruth Potter
Dr. Linda Ryan	Mrs Esme Russell-Mitra
Mrs Barbara Charlick	Mr Samuel Newlove-Agbonlahor
Mrs Marion Thompson	Ms Brenda Onatade
Mrs Brenda Renshaw	Mr. Gerald Hardy
Mrs Saira Bonhan-Croft	Mrs Jessica Matumika Limba
Ms Bernadetta Banda	Mr. Winston Fraser
Mrs Alecia Austin	Mr Graham Green
Ms Cynthia Davis	Mr Andrew Gibbs
Mrs Judith Crane-St.Hill	Mr Kwesi Eshun
Mrs Margaret Price	Mrs Jean Taylor
Miss Sandra Clifton	Ms Sandra Floy
Mrs Evelyn Richards	Mrs Valerie Tredinnick
Mrs Hilary Waterhouse	Mrs Mary Sparkes
Mrs Comfort Oppong	Mrs Sibongile Mnguni
Mrs Helena Green	Mr Sylvester Oppong
Mr Alfred Macauley-James	Mr Chris Watkins
Mrs Gifty Quartey	Ms Eunice Millett
Miss Lorna White	Mrs Jeannette Warren
Ms Vicky Hayford	Mr Robert Munro
Mrs Rosie Dada	

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS**

Blackheath & Crystal Palace Circuit	Circuit
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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2024**

London	District	Circuit no	35/28
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1137991

If not a registered charity **His 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 Rrichard Grocott
Rev William Davis
Rev Charles Ilunga
Rec Craig Gaffney

Circuit Stewards:

Dr GarRy Young
Mrs Margaret Boreham
Mrs Helena Green
Dr Linda Ryan

Treasurer:

Mrs Jessica Matumika Limba

SECTION A		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
a1	RECEIPTS	£	£	£	£	£
a2	Assessment/Share	250,000			250,000	235,750
a3	Capital receipts					
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	4,184	1,345		5,529	5,841
a5	Grants					
a6	Other receipts	262			262	800
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS	254,446	1,345		255,791 (a8)	242,391

SECTION B		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs	166,109			166,109	155,330
b3	Manse Costs	36,244			36,244	29,432
b4	Administration etc	14,920			14,920	31,297
b5	District Assessment	47,740			47,740	48,264
b6	Grants & donations	2,000			2,000	2,000
b7						
b8	Other payments	3,957			3,957	2,816
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS	270,970			270,970 (b9)	269,139

SECTION C		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a7-b9)	1,345		(15,179)	(26,748)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	127,456	52,396		179,852 (c6)	206,600
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	53,741		164,673	179,852
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	53,741		164,673 (c8)	179,852 (c6)

Dr Linda Ryan

SECTION D		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
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 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)		255,791 (a8)	270,970 (b9)	(15,179)	(c7)	179,852 (c6)		164,673 (c8)	
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT		255,791	270,970	(15,179)		179,852 (x)		164,673 (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	100	100
f2	Bank Current Account	5,557	12,832
f3	Bank Deposit Account		
f4	Central Finance Board	121,798	97,999
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	52,397	53,742
f6	Other funds		
f7	SUB TOTAL	179,852 (c6)	164,673 (c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance totals above) (e12)	(e11)	(e12)
Dr I	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	179,852 (x)	164,673 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

		At 1 September 2023	At 31 August 2024
g1	Investments (include Endowments)	23,395	25,206
Mrs	Land and Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	2,200,000	2,388,344
g3	Other Assets-Amounts due re Forest Hill Repairs	16,498	16,498
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5	Other Liabilities		

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)

Name of Circuit Blackheath & Crystal Palace No. 35/28

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 [Signature] Date 30/01/25

Name and address of treasurer Jessica Matumwa
30 Westmead Court, Adenmore Road Post Code SE6 4EB

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 27th February 2025

Signature of the Chair of the meeting [Signature]

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev. Richard Grocott Date 27/2/25

~~Dr Linda Ryan~~
Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

BLACKHEATH & CRYSTAL PALACE Circuit

Charity Number 1137991

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages ... to 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 BLACKHEATH & CRYSTAL PALACE No .. 35/28

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.

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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 *David West*

Name of independent examiner DAVID WEST

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 44 STRONGBOW ROAD

..... ELTHAM LONDON Post Code SE9 1DT

Date 28/1/25

* delete or circle as appropriate

Circuit Accounts

The Circuit Accounts are completed pending independent examination as per the attachment. Though the circuit revenue reached the threshold of £250k, receipts and payments reporting has been used and not accruals, for the mere fact that the forecasted revenue for the next two years will be less than £250k due to the reduction in the number of ministers as per circuit structuring which will also result in reduction in the circuit assessment. As per Charity Commission, we can only change to accruals reporting if we are expecting higher revenues for the foreseeable periods and not only one period.

The accounts for 2023/24 shows a deficit £15,637. The standard form of accounts has a figure of (£16,524), for some unknown reasons during the year the payroll bureau were paying the property manager for Upper Norwood from the circuit accounts. After I rectified this Upper Norwood later refunded the money to the circuit account and the balance of £887 was paid after 31 August so it will be reflecting in the 2024/25 accounts.

- 1 No major repairs were done in the manses and the repairs costed £16,373
- 2 Water, telephone and council tax costed £19,871
- 3 Circuit administration costs were £14,920

General Fund & Circuit Model Trust Fund

As of 31 August 2024, deposits and cash totalled £164,673, as per the draft accounts for the year. There was also a CFB investment held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes valued at £25,206, which is unrestricted. The Total Funds available to the circuit were therefore £164,673 + £25,206 = £189,879

At the year end, the unrestricted General Fund, including the CFB investment, the Circuit Model Trust Fund stood at £164,673 and the investment was £25,206

Level of reserves

General Fund reserve levels are listed below which amount to £189,879 and are ideal for the smooth operations of the circuit. The reserves have been designated as per below:

District Assessment Reserve (£60,000)

The Circuit has an obligation to meet the annual District assessment. For 2024/25 the assessment is £57,608. Due to the increment in the District assessment from last year I have had to revise the reserve policy.

Cash Flow Reserve (£70,000)

To ensure the circuit to meet the obligation of remitting ministers' stipends it is ideal to set aside funds for this purpose. An operational reserve, of approximately 42% of the

Minsters Stipends, Nlc, pension and other expenses ensures the smooth running of circuit operations. Stipends constitute 80% of circuit costs. This reserve has been reviewed in this year.

Manse Repair and other Ad hoc Reserve (£60,000)

To meet the requirements of the quinquennial reports, the manses are supposed to be maintained at a certain standard. Repairs to the manses are done regularly as and when need be, hence, the need to have funds at disposal. This has worked well in past and continues to do so at present

Periodic Review of the Policy

It will be ideal to review the reserve policy in the coming year due to circuit restructuring happening in 2024/26

Jessica Matumika, 20 January 2024

BLACKHEATH AND CRYSTAL PALACE CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1137991

Accounts

BLACKHEATH AND CRYSTAL PALACE CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

REGISTERED CHARITY No. 1137991

ANNUAL REPORT

for the period 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023

Introduction

I am pleased to be able to present the Annual Report for our Methodist Circuit, and trust that you will find the contents to be of interest.

It is my strongly held belief that the churches of our circuit remain firm in faith and resolute in their determination to offer the Gospel message to the people of South London.

Revd Richard Grocott,
Superintendent Minister

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since the Date of Union

the advancement of:

- a) The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and discipline of The Methodist Church;
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c) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to The Methodist Church;

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The Blackheath and Crystal Palace Circuit promotes Methodism and Christian communities by actively Empowering, Supporting, Resourcing and Encouraging its member churches to increase awareness of God's saving grace through Christ and His everlasting love.

The Charity's approach to achieving that mission is by:

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The circuit was successful in satisfying all of its key responsibilities, i.e. in the provision of ministers, co-ordinating the preaching plan, maintaining the manses, monitoring the governance of each of the nine churches, as well as supporting and encouraging each church in their mission of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. The circuit has been represented at District Synod.

Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the circuit, specifically the leaflet 'The Role of a Trustee in The Methodist Church' is available to all new Circuit meeting members via the Circuit website, as induction to their role as trustees.

The handbook 'Role of a Circuit Steward' has been made available to all Circuit Stewards.

Related Parties

The Circuit is part of the London District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The following Methodist Churches are linked to the circuit

Anerley Methodist Church
Burnt Ash Methodist church
Eltham Park Methodist Church
Forest Hill Methodist Church
Hither Green Methodist Church
Lewisham Methodist Church
Sunfields Methodist Church
Upper Norwood Methodist Church
Wesley Hall Methodist Church

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Finance and Property Committee with professional advice taken as required.

There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

Income and Expenditure is being monitored in total and is compared with the approved annual budget on a half yearly basis 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:

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults
- the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.

- We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.
- We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- We will seek to strongly encourage consideration for, and training in, principles of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.
- In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice

The Blackheath & Crystal Palace 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 Blackheath & Crystal Palace 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.

Brief financial review of the year

Income

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment of £203,247 paid in full by the Circuit churches.

Expenditure

Expenditure in the year was £269,139.

58% Of expenditure was on stipends, travel costs. etc.

18% was the Circuit contribution to the District and Connexion, of which a significant part is used to fund the work of the wider Methodist Church.

The other expenditure, 24%, includes administration and manse costs.

Fund balances

As at 31 August 2023, the net current assets of the Circuit (including the Circuit Model Trust Fund) were £179,852 compared to £206,600 at the start of the year. There was a slight deviation from the projections due to the major repairs done to the manses making them energy efficient, resulting in progressive reduction in Fund Balances in the future. Sufficient

reserves are held to cover day-to-day expenditure, unexpected maintenance costs and to provide funding for any projects required to meet the Circuit's Mission Statement.

Plans for 2023/24

Circuit financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that there are four full time ordained staff and one part administration staff with anticipated cost of living stipend increases.

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's gross income is less than £250,000 and so the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

Full Name of Charity: Blackheath & Crystal Palace Circuit

Registration Charity Number: 1137991

Date of registration: 1 September 2012

Main communication address: The Circuit Administrator, Burnt Ash Methodist Church Hall,
Burnt Ash Hill, London, SE12 0QD

The members of the Blackheath & Crystal Palace Methodist Circuit meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches.

Fully membership is shown as Appendix A to this report.

Active Circuit Ministers Rev Richard Grocott

Rev Charles ILunga

Rev Craig Gaffney

Rev William Davis

Circuit Stewards Dr Garry Young (Senior)

Mrs Jeannette Warren

Mrs Margaret Boreham

Mr Stuart Watkin

Mrs Helena Green

Mr Andrew Gibbs *ex officio* (retired 31 January 2023)

Mrs Jessica Matumika-Limba *ex officio* (with effect from 1 February 2023)

Administrator: Dr Linda Ryan

Names of the circuit stewards who acted as the principal officers overseeing the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the circuit during the year (treasurer) was Mr Andrew Gibbs (to 31 January 2023) and Mrs Jessica Matumika-Limba (from 1 February 2023)

Independent examiner Mr David West, 67 Heathwood Gardens, London, SE7 8ET

Investment Bankers Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
Trustees for Methodist Church purposes

Current bank accounts Barclays

Reserves Policy

As at 31 August 2023, the circuit had the following cash reserves:

	Balances at 31 Aug 2023
Bank accounts (General Fund)	£ 5,557
CFB account (General Fund):	£ 121,798
Circuit Model Trust Fund:	£ 52,397

In addition, investments valued at £23,395 were held in the Circuit Model Trust Fund, so that the total funds available to the Circuit were approximately £203,247

The Circuit holds the following sums as designated reserves:

1. District Assessment Reserve (£50,000), being the equivalent of one year's assessment payable by the Circuit to the London District.
2. Cash Flow Reserve (£100,000) being an operational reserve covering approximately 50% of normal annual cash flow of about £200,000, other than the District Assessment, provided for above.
3. Manse Repair Reserve (£40,000) to cover unforeseen expenditure above the regular programme of work so as to ensure the proper and adequate provision of ministerial housing.
4. Contingency Reserve (£10,000), to assist in meeting any shortfalls arising in the assessments expected from the individual churches, consequent upon the adverse financial effects of the Pandemic.

The Circuit considers this level of total reserves of £200,000 to be appropriate for its current needs. It is the expectation that the combined value of the General Fund and Circuit Model Trust Fund of £203,247 will reduce gradually in future.

Declaration

The trustees declare that

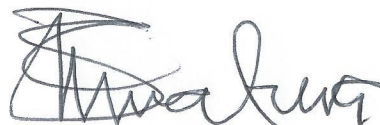
- they have understood all of the requirements associated with the submission of the annual return and all of the statements contained within it; and
- the information provided in the relevant parts of the annual return is correct and complete to the best of their knowledge and belief and has been brought to the attention of the charity trustees who have each individually verified this and given their informed express consent to this submission with full knowledge, understanding and acceptance of the contents of the privacy notice.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signatures:



Rev. Richard Grocott
(Chairman)



Mr. Jessica Matumika-Limba
(Treasurer)

Date: 8th February 2024

APPENDIX A

Names of the trustees who managed the charity in the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023:

Rev. Richard Grocott	Rev. Craig Gaffney
Rev. William Davis	Rev Charles ILunga
Mrs Jeannette Warren	Mrs Claire Pennycard
Mr Stuart Watkin	Dr Garry Young
Mrs Margaret Boreham	Mr. Milton Boothe
Mr Graham Sparkes	Mr Andrew Tredinnick
Mrs Marian Young	Miss Ruth Potter
Dr. Linda Ryan	Mrs Esme Russell-Mitra
Mrs Barbara Charlick	Mrs Megan Roberts
Mrs Marion Thompson	Ms Brenda Onatade
Mrs Brenda Renshaw	Ms. Janet Bartley
Mrs Saira Bonhan-Croft	Mrs Jessica Matumika Limba
Ms Bernadetta Banda	Mr. Winston Fraser
Mrs Alecia Austin	Mr Graham Green
Ms Cynthia Davis	Mr Andrew Gibbs
Mrs Juliet Gibbs	Mr Kwesi Eshun
Miss Maxine Yawson	Mr. Gerald Hardy
Mrs Margaret Price	Mrs Jean Taylor
Miss Sandra Clifton	Ms Sandra Floy
Mrs Evelyn Richards	Mrs Valerie Tredinnick
Mrs Hilary Waterhouse	Mrs Mary Sparkes
Mrs Comfort Oppong	Mrs Sibongile Mnguni
Mrs Helena Green	Mr Sylvester Oppong
Mr Alfred Macauley-James	Mr Chris Watkins
Mr Ebsen Amarteifio	Ms Eunice Millett

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

BLACKHEATH & CRYSTAL PALACE CIRCUIT	Circuit
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2023

LONDON DISTRICT	District	Circuit no	35/28
-----------------	----------	------------	-------

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1137991

If not a registered charity Her 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 Richard Grocott
Rev William Davis
Rev Charles ILunga
Rev Craig Gaffney

Circuit Stewards:

Dr Garry Young
Mrs Margaret Boreham
Mr Andrew Gibbs
Mrs Helena Green
Mr Stuart Watkin
Mrs Jeannette Warren

Treasurer:

Mr Andrew Gibbs & Mrs Jessica Matumika-Limba
--

SECTION A		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
a1 RECEIPTS	Note	£	£	£	£	£
a2	Assessment/Share	235,750			235,750	231,000
a3	Capital receipts					
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	3,496	2,345		5,841	1,425
a5	Grants					
a6	Other receipts	800			800	138
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS	240,046	2,345		242,391 (a8)	232,563

SECTION B		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
b1 PAYMENTS	Note	£	£	£	£	£
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs	155,330			155,330	152,743
b3	Manse Costs	29,432			29,432	23,677
b4	Administration etc	31,079	218		31,297	16,059
b5	District Assessment	46,348	1,916		48,264	47,024
b6	Grants & donations	2,000			2,000	3,140
b7						
b8	Other payments	2,816			2,816	19,417
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS	267,005	2,134		269,139 (b9)	262,060

SECTION C		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a7-b9)	211		(26,748)	(29,497)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	154,415	52,185		206,600 (c6)	236,097
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	52,396		179,852	206,600
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	52,396		179,852 (c8)	206,600 (c6)

SECTION D		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
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													
e5													
e6													
e7													
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds										(e11)		(e12)
e9	Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	242,391	(a8)	269,139	(b9)	(26,748)		(c7)		206,600	(c6)	179,852	(c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	242,391		269,139		(26,748)				206,600	(x)	179,852	(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		100		100	
f2	Bank Current Account		6,088		5,557	
f3	Bank Deposit Account					
f4	Central Finance Board		148,227		121,798	
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		52,185		52,397	
f6	Other funds					
f7	SUB TOTAL		206,600	(c6)	179,852	(c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance totals above) (e12)			(e11)		(e12)
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT		206,600	(x)	179,852	(y)

SECTION G OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

		At	At
		1 September 2022	31 August 2023
g1	Investments (include Endowments)	24,433	23,395
g2	Land and Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	2,200,000	2,200,000
g3	Other Assets -Amounts due re Forest Hill Repairs	16,498	16,498
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5	Other Liabilities		

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)

BLACKHEATH & CRYSTAL PALACE

Name of Circuit No. 35/28

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.

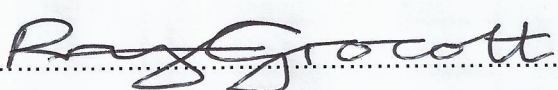
Signature of treasurer  Date 29/02/2024

Name and address of treasurer Jesslea Mahumua

30 WESTMEAD COURT Post Code SE6 4EB

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 29.2.2024

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting REV RICHARD GROCCOTT Date 29.2.2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

BLACKHEATH & CRYSTAL PALACE
..... Circuit

Charity Number 35/28

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2023 set out on pages ... to 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 BLACKHEATH & CRYSTAL PALACE No 35/28.

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 

Name of independent examiner DAVID WEST

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 67 HEATHWOOD GARDENS

..... CHARLTON LONDON Post Code SE7 8ET

Date 9/2/24

* delete or circle as appropriate

Form reviewed

May-23

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

BLACKHEATH & CRYSTAL PALACE CIRCUIT	Circuit
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2023

LONDON DISTRICT	District	Circuit no	35/28
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Rev Craig Gaffney

Circuit Stewards:

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Mr Andrew Gibbs
Mrs Helena Green
Mr Stuart Watkin
Mrs Jeannette Warren

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SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

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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)

BLACKHEATH & CRYSTAL PALACE

Name of Circuit No. 35/28

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 Date 29/02/2024

Name and address of treasurer Jesslea Mahumua

30 WESTMEAD COURT Post Code SE6 4EB

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 29.2.2024

Signature of the Chair of the meeting Ray Grocott

Name of the Chair of the meeting REV. RICHARD GROCCOTT Date 29.2.2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

BLACKHEATH & CRYSTAL PALACE Circuit

Charity Number 35/28

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2023 set out on pages ... to 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').

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* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Circuit BLACKHEATH & CRYSTAL PALACE No 35/28.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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Signature of independent examiner 

Name of independent examiner DAVID WEST

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 67 HEATHWOOD GARDENS

..... CHARLTON LONDON Post Code SE7 8ET

Date 9/2/24

* delete or circle as appropriate

Form reviewed

May-23

BLACKHEATH AND CRYSTAL PALACE CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1137991

Accounts

BLACKHEATH AND CRYSTAL PALACE CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

REGISTERED CHARITY No. 1137991

ANNUAL REPORT

for the period 1st September 2021 to 31st August 2022

Introduction

I am pleased to be able to present the Annual Report for our Methodist Circuit, and trust that you will find the contents to be of interest.

It is my strongly held belief that the churches of our circuit remain firm in faith and resolute in their determination to offer the Gospel message to the people of South London.

Revd Richard Grocott,
Superintendent Minister

The registered address for correspondence is:

Circuit Administrator,
Blackheath & Crystal Palace Circuit Office,
Burnt Ash Methodist Church Hall,
Burnt Ash Hill,
London, SE12 0QD

The trustees who serve the charity are those specifically appointed to positions within the circuit, those who represent each of the nine church communities, plus ministers of religion who reside within the circuit or who have served within the Methodist Church and who have retired to live in the area.

Aims and organisation

The registered objectives of the Charity for the Methodist Church:

The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been
since the Date of Union

the advancement of:

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

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

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

The charity's mission statement states that

The Blackheath and Crystal Palace Circuit promotes Methodism and Christian communities by actively Empowering, Supporting, Resourcing and Encouraging its member churches to increase awareness of God's saving grace through Christ and His everlasting love.

The Charity's approach to achieving that mission is by:

- Providing the best possible resources to enable Christian worship, witness and service in each of our nine Church communities.
- Organising and resourcing regular public acts of worship open to members of the church and non-members alike.
- The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.
- Encouraging training and preparation for all aspects of church life.
- The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.
- Exercising Christian ministry throughout the community without discrimination.
- Mutually encouraging and supporting the ministry of the whole people of God.
- Fostering the Connexional spirit of Methodism within the Circuit and beyond.
- Nurturing ecumenical and other faith relationships.

Public Benefit

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

Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document for the circuit is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976)

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD).

The practical management of the charity is undertaken by a Circuit Leadership Team comprising the ministers of religion, who are each appointed initially for five years - but who may stay for longer, the circuit stewards who are appointed each year by the Circuit Meeting and the Circuit Treasurer who is also appointed annually.

The circuit was successful in satisfying all of its key responsibilities, i.e. in the provision of ministers, co-ordinating the preaching plan, maintaining the manses, monitoring the governance of each of the nine churches, as well as supporting and encouraging each church in their mission of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. The circuit has been represented at District Synod.

Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the circuit, specifically the leaflet 'The Role of a Trustee in The Methodist Church' is available to all new Circuit meeting members via the Circuit website, as induction to their role as trustees.

The handbook 'Role of a Circuit Steward' has been made available to all Circuit Stewards.

Related Parties

The Circuit is part of the London District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The following Methodist Churches are linked to the circuit

Anerley Methodist Church
Burnt Ash Methodist church
Eltham Park Methodist Church
Forest Hill Methodist Church
Hither Green Methodist Church
Lewisham Methodist Church
Sunfields Methodist Church
Upper Norwood Methodist Church
Wesley Hall Methodist Church

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Finance and Property Committee with professional advice taken as required.

There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

Income and Expenditure is being monitored in total and is compared with the approved annual budget on a half yearly basis 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:

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults
- the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.

- We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.
- We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice

The Blackheath & Crystal Palace 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 Blackheath & Crystal Palace 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.

Brief financial review of the year

Income

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment of £231,000 paid in full by the Circuit churches.

Expenditure

Expenditure in the year was £262,060.

58% Of expenditure was on stipends, travel costs. etc.

18% was the Circuit contribution to the District and Connexion, of which a significant part is used to fund the work of the wider Methodist Church.

The other expenditure, 24%, includes administration and manse costs.

Fund balances

As at 31 August 2022, the net current assets of the Circuit (including the Circuit Model Trust Fund) were £206,600 compared to £236,097 at the start of the year. This is broadly in line with projections, showing a planned and progressive reduction in Fund Balances in the future. Sufficient reserves are held to cover day-to-day expenditure, unexpected

maintenance costs and to provide funding for any projects required to meet the Circuit's Mission Statement.

Plans for 2022/23

Circuit financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that there are four full time ordained staff with anticipated cost of living stipend increases.

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's gross income is less than £250,000 and so the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

Full Name of Charity: Blackheath & Crystal Palace Circuit

Registration Charity Number: 1137991

Date of registration: 1 September 2012

Main communication address: The Circuit Administrator, Burnt Ash Methodist Church Hall,
Burnt Ash Hill, London, SE12 0QD

The members of the Blackheath & Crystal Palace Methodist Circuit meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches.

Fully membership is shown as Appendix A to this report.

Active Circuit Ministers	Rev Richard Grocott Rev Charles ILunga Rev Craig Gaffney Rev Alberta Konadu-Yiadom
Circuit Stewards	Dr Garry Young (Senior) Mrs Jeannette Warren Mrs Margaret Boreham Mr Stuart Watkin Mrs Helena Green Mr Andrew Gibbs <i>ex officio</i>
Administrator:	Dr. Linda Ryan

Name of the circuit steward who acted as the principal officer overseeing the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the circuit during the year (treasurer) was Mr Andrew Gibbs

Independent examiner Mr David West, 67 Heathwood Gardens, London, SE7 8ET

Investment Bankers Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
Trustees for Methodist Church purposes

Current bank accounts Barclays

Reserves Policy

As at 31 August 2022, the circuit had the following cash reserves:

	Balances at 31 Aug 2022
Bank accounts (General Fund)	£ 6,088
CFB account (General Fund):	£ 148,227
Circuit Model Trust Fund:	£ 52,185

In addition, investments valued at £24,433 were held in the Circuit Model Trust Fund, so that the total funds available to the Circuit were approximately £231,000.

The Circuit holds the following sums as designated reserves:

1. District Assessment Reserve (£50,000), being the equivalent of one year's assessment payable by the Circuit to the London District.
2. Cash Flow Reserve (£100,000) being an operational reserve covering approximately 50% of normal annual cash flow of about £200,000, other than the District Assessment, provided for above.
3. Manse Repair Reserve (£40,000) to cover unforeseen expenditure above the regular programme of work so as to ensure the proper and adequate provision of ministerial housing.
4. Pandemic Contingency Reserve (£10,000), to assist in meeting any shortfalls arising in the assessments expected from the individual churches, consequent upon the adverse financial effects of the Pandemic.

The Circuit considers this level of total reserves of £200,000 to be appropriate for its current needs. It is the expectation that the combined value of the General Fund and Circuit Model Trust Fund of £230,000 will reduce gradually in future.

Declaration

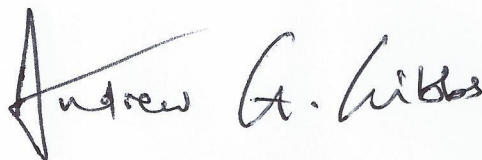
The trustees declare that

- they have understood all of the requirements associated with the submission of the annual return and all of the statements contained within it; and
- the information provided in the relevant parts of the annual return is correct and complete to the best of their knowledge and belief and has been brought to the attention of the charity trustees who have each individually verified this and given their informed express consent to this submission with full knowledge, understanding and acceptance of the contents of the privacy notice.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signatures:

Rev. Richard Grocott
(Chairman)



Mr. Andrew Gibbs
(Treasurer)

Date: 1. 3. 2023

APPENDIX A

Names of the trustees who managed the charity in the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022:

Rev. Richard Grocott	Rev. Craig Gaffney
Rev. Abe Konadu-Yiadom	Rev Charles ILunga
Mrs Jeannette Warren	Mr. David Maxwell
Mr Stuart Watkin	Dr Garry Young
Mrs Margaret Boreham	Mr. Milton Boothe
Mr Graham Sparkes	Mr Andrew Tredinnick
Mrs Marian Young	Miss Ruth Potter
Dr. Linda Ryan	Mrs Esme Russell-Mitra
Mrs Barbara Charlick	Mrs Megan Roberts
Mrs Marion Thompson	Ms Brenda Onatade
Mrs Brenda Renshaw	Ms. Janet Bartley
Mrs Saira Bonhan-Croft	Mrs Jessica Matumika Limba
Mr Peter Hewitt	Mr. Winston Fraser
Mrs Alecia Austin	Mr Graham Green
Ms Cynthia Davis	Mr Andrew Gibbs
Mrs Juliet Gibbs	Mr Kwesi Eshun
Miss Maxine Yawson	Mr. Gerald Hardy
Mrs Margaret Price	Mrs Jean Taylor
Miss Sandra Clifton	Ms Sandra Floy
Mrs Evelyn Richards	Mrs Valerie Tredinnick
Mrs Hilary Waterhouse	Mrs Mary Sparkes
Mrs Comfort Oppong	Mrs Sibongile Mnguni
Mrs Helena Green	Mr Chris Watkins

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

BLACKHEATH & CRYSTAL PALACE	Circuit
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2022

LONDON	District	Circuit no	35/28
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1137991

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 Richard Grocott
Rev William Davis
Rev Charles Ilunga
Rev Craig Gaffney

Circuit Stewards:

Dr Garry Young
Mrs Margaret Boreham
Mrs Helena Green
Mrs Jeannette Warren
Mr Stuart Watkin

Treasurer:

Mr Andrew Gibbs

SECTION A		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
a1	RECEIPTS	£	£	£	£	£
a2	Assessment/Share	231,000			231,000	231,000
a3	Capital receipts					
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	549	876		1,425	798
a5	Grants					
a6	Other receipts	138			138	
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS	231,687	876		232,563 (a8)	231,798

SECTION B		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs	152,743			152,743	158,763
b3	Manse Costs	23,677			23,677	4,961
b4	Administration etc	15,832	227		16,059	27,729
b5	District Assessment	47,024			47,024	49,323
b6	Grants & donations	1,150	1,990		3,140	
b7	Costs to be recovered / (recovered) from third parties					5,265
b8	Other payments Manse Renov.	19,417			19,417	
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS	259,843	2,217		262,060 (b9)	246,041

SECTION C		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(28,157)	(1,341)		(29,497)	(14,243)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	182,571	53,526		236,097 (c6)	250,340
c3	Sub total	154,415	52,185		206,600	236,097
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	154,415	52,185		206,600 (c8)	236,097 (c6)

SECTION D		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
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 2022 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)	232,563 (a8)	262,060 (b9)	(29,497)	236,097 (c6)	206,600 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	232,563	262,060	(29,497)	236,097 (x)	206,600 (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 2022**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1	100	100
f2	18,892	6,088
f3		
f4	163,580	148,227
f5	53,525	52,185
f6		
f7	236,097 (c6)	206,599 (c8)
f8	(e11)	(e12)
f9	236,097 (x)	206,599 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2021	At 31 August 2022
g1	26,071	24,433
g2	2,260,000	2,200,000
g3	16,498	16,498
g4		
g5		

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)

Name of Circuit ... BLACKHEATH & CRYSTAL PALACE No. 35/28

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2022 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 ... Andrew A. Gibbs ... Date 18/12/2022

Name and address of treasurer .. ANDREW G. GIBBS, 23 Shooters Hill Road, Blackheath, LONDON ... Post Code SE3 7AS

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 were/will be* presented to the Circuit meeting held on 1-3-2023

Signature of the Chair of the meeting: ... Rev. Richard Groot

Name of the Chair of the meeting: REV. RICHARD GROOT Date 1-3-2023

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

BLACKHEATH & CRYSTAL PALACE Circuit

Charity Number 1137911

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Blackheath & Crystal Palace circuit for the year ended 31 August 2022 set out on pages ... to 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

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 *David West*

Name of independent examiner DAVID WEST

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner NOT APPLICABLE

Name of firm (where appropriate) NOT APPLICABLE

Address 67 HEATHWOOD GARDENS, CHARLTON,

..... LONDON Post Code SE7 8ET

Date 18/12/22

* delete or circle as appropriate

Sep-22

BLACKHEATH & CRYSTAL PALACE CIRCUIT Reserves Policy

General Fund & Circuit Model Trust Fund

At 31 August 2022, deposits and cash totalled £206,600, as shown in the Receipts and Payments Account for the year. There was also a CFB investment held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes valued at £24,433, which was unrestricted. The Total Funds available to the Circuit were therefore £206,600 + £24,433 = £231,033.

Total Funds fell over the year from £262,168 at 31 August 2021, a drop of £31,135. The fall was made up of payments exceeding receipts over the year by £29,497 plus capital depreciation of £1,638 on the unrestricted CFB investments.

At the year end, the unrestricted General Fund, including the CFB investment, stood at £178,848 and the Circuit Model Trust Fund stood at £52,185. Total Funds were £231,033.

[Note, In 2022 the excess of payments over receipts was nearly £30k compared to a forecast in January of £5k. £20k of this shortfall is of a technical nature relating to 1. The intended transfer from the Circuit Model Trust Fund of £15k that was not implemented in time through an oversight. 2. In 2022, two payments were made in respect of the annual insurance premium payable to Methodist Insurance of c. £5k p.a., one for the year ended 31 08 2022 and one for the year ending 31 08 2023. This means the we incurred a combined cost under receipts and payments accounting of £10k, which was, of course, £5k more than the usual cost of £5k p.a.. The rest of the shortfall comes from net variations, the greatest of which was in manse renovation costs.]

Appropriate level of reserves

Reserve levels are listed below. They amount to £200,000.

Identified Reserves

District Assessment Reserve (£50,000)

The Circuit has an obligation to meet the annual District assessment, not only for the current year (to 31 August 2023) but also by forward agreement for the year to 31 August 2024. This commitment helps to ensure the orderly operation of the whole Methodist District. The assessment for the year 2022/23 is £47,024. The assessment for 2023/24 is expected to be similar. A reserve of £50,000 is set to cover the equivalent of one year's assessment.

Cash Flow Reserve (£100,000)

An operational reserve, of approximately 50% of annual cash flow, is required to ensure smooth and crisis free operation of the Circuit's finances and guarantee the payment of ministerial stipends as they fall due. Annual expenditure is c.£200,000, excluding the District assessment which is covered by the reserve in the paragraph above. Accordingly, at 50% of £200,000, the cash flow reserve is set at £100,000.

Manse Repair Reserve (£40,000)

There is a regular programme of work to maintain the Circuit's four manses within the framework of quinquennial inspections. This is recovered chiefly within the annual Circuit budget. It is recognised, as a precaution against unforeseen eventualities, that a reserve of, say, £40,000 is also needed to ensure that proper and adequate provision of ministerial housing.

Pandemic Contingency Reserve (£10,000)

The Circuit has initiated a contingency fund composed of sums promised by the Circuit Churches. A reserve of £10,000 is held as a contribution from Circuit funds, should it be required.

Note on the Circuit Model Trust Fund (CMTF)

Under Standing Order 917(2) the CMTF may broadly be used for most purposes within the Methodist Church, which normally includes expenditure on manses and churches. For a number of years up until 31 August 2021 the CMTF was used to cover the Circuit Administration, understating total circuit expenditure and thereby reducing the annual assessment. Because Circuit Administration is a core circuit expense it is now shown in full in the Receipts and Payments account.


Outcome of the review

The outcome of the review is that, after designating £200,000 in identified reserves, as above, the Church currently has a Total Fund (General Fund and CMTF combined) surplus of £31,033. It is expected that this surplus will gradually diminish in future years.

Periodic Review of the Policy

This policy is to be reviewed periodically.

Andrew G Gibbs, Treasurer, 9 January 2023


1 - 3 - 2023

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

BLACKHEATH & CRYSTAL PALACE	Circuit
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2022

LONDON	District	Circuit no	35/28
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1137991

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 Richard Grocott
Rev William Davis
Rev Charles Ilunga
Rev Craig Gaffney

Circuit Stewards:

Dr Garry Young
Mrs Margaret Boreham
Mrs Helena Green
Mrs Jeannette Warren
Mr Stuart Watkin

Treasurer:

Mr Andrew Gibbs

SECTION A		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
a1	RECEIPTS	£	£	£	£	£
a2	Assessment/Share	231,000			231,000	231,000
a3	Capital receipts					
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	549	876		1,425	798
a5	Grants					
a6	Other receipts	138			138	
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS	231,687	876		232,563 (a8)	231,798

SECTION B		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs	152,743			152,743	158,763
b3	Manse Costs	23,677			23,677	4,961
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b7	Costs to be recovered / (recovered) from third parties					5,265
b8	Other payments Manse Renov.	19,417			19,417	
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS	259,843	2,217		262,060 (b9)	246,041

SECTION C		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(28,157)	(1,341)		(29,497)	(14,243)
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c3	Sub total	154,415	52,185		206,600	236,097
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	154,415	52,185		206,600 (c8)	236,097 (c6)

SECTION D		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
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 2022 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)	232,563 (a8)	262,060 (b9)	(29,497)	236,097 (c6)	206,600 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	232,563	262,060	(29,497)	236,097 (x)	206,600 (y)
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2022**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1	100	100
f2	18,892	6,088
f3		
f4	163,580	148,227
f5	53,525	52,185
f6		
f7	236,097 (c6)	206,599 (c8)
f8	(e11)	(e12)
f9	236,097 (x)	206,599 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2021	At 31 August 2022
g1	26,071	24,433
g2	2,260,000	2,200,000
g3	16,498	16,498
g4		
g5		

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)

Name of Circuit ... BLACKHEATH & CRYSTAL PALACE No. 35/28

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2022 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 ... Andrew A. Gibbs ... Date 18/12/2022

Name and address of treasurer .. ANDREW G. GIBBS, 23 Shooters Hill Road, Blackheath, LONDON ... Post Code SE3 7AS

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 were/will be* presented to the Circuit meeting held on 1-3-2023

Signature of the Chair of the meeting: ... *Rev. Richard Groot* ...

Name of the Chair of the meeting: REV. RICHARD GROOT Date 1-3-2023

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

BLACKHEATH & CRYSTAL PALACE Circuit

Charity Number 1137911

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Blackheath & Crystal Palace circuit for the year ended 31 August 2022 set out on pages ... to 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

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 *David West*

Name of independent examiner DAVID WEST

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner NOT APPLICABLE

Name of firm (where appropriate) NOT APPLICABLE

Address 67 HEATHWOOD GARDENS, CHARLTON,

..... LONDON Post Code SE7 8ET

Date 18/12/22

* delete or circle as appropriate

Sep-22

BLACKHEATH & CRYSTAL PALACE CIRCUIT

Reserves Policy

General Fund & Circuit Model Trust Fund

At 31 August 2022, deposits and cash totalled £206,600, as shown in the Receipts and Payments Account for the year. There was also a CFB investment held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes valued at £24,433, which was unrestricted. The Total Funds available to the Circuit were therefore £206,600 + £24,433 = £231,033.

Total Funds fell over the year from £262,168 at 31 August 2021, a drop of £31,135. The fall was made up of payments exceeding receipts over the year by £29,497 plus capital depreciation of £1,638 on the unrestricted CFB investments.

At the year end, the unrestricted General Fund, including the CFB investment, stood at £178,848 and the Circuit Model Trust Fund stood at £52,185. Total Funds were £231,033.

[Note, In 2022 the excess of payments over receipts was nearly £30k compared to a forecast in January of £5k. £20k of this shortfall is of a technical nature relating to 1. The intended transfer from the Circuit Model Trust Fund of £15k that was not implemented in time through an oversight. 2. In 2022, two payments were made in respect of the annual insurance premium payable to Methodist Insurance of c. £5k p.a., one for the year ended 31 08 2022 and one for the year ending 31 08 2023. This means the we incurred a combined cost under receipts and payments accounting of £10k, which was, of course, £5k more than the usual cost of £5k p.a.. The rest of the shortfall comes from net variations, the greatest of which was in manse renovation costs.]

Appropriate level of reserves

Reserve levels are listed below. They amount to £200,000.

Identified Reserves

District Assessment Reserve (£50,000)

The Circuit has an obligation to meet the annual District assessment, not only for the current year (to 31 August 2023) but also by forward agreement for the year to 31 August 2024. This commitment helps to ensure the orderly operation of the whole Methodist District. The assessment for the year 2022/23 is £47,024. The assessment for 2023/24 is expected to be similar. A reserve of £50,000 is set to cover the equivalent of one year's assessment.

Cash Flow Reserve (£100,000)

An operational reserve, of approximately 50% of annual cash flow, is required to ensure smooth and crisis free operation of the Circuit's finances and guarantee the payment of ministerial stipends as they fall due. Annual expenditure is c.£200,000, excluding the District assessment which is covered by the reserve in the paragraph above. Accordingly, at 50% of £200,000, the cash flow reserve is set at £100,000.

Manse Repair Reserve (£40,000)

There is a regular programme of work to maintain the Circuit's four manses within the framework of quinquennial inspections. This is recovered chiefly within the annual Circuit budget. It is recognised, as a precaution against unforeseen eventualities, that a reserve of, say, £40,000 is also needed to ensure that proper and adequate provision of ministerial housing.

Pandemic Contingency Reserve (£10,000)

The Circuit has initiated a contingency fund composed of sums promised by the Circuit Churches. A reserve of £10,000 is held as a contribution from Circuit funds, should it be required.

Note on the Circuit Model Trust Fund (CMTF)

Under Standing Order 917(2) the CMTF may broadly be used for most purposes within the Methodist Church, which normally includes expenditure on manses and churches. For a number of years up until 31 August 2021 the CMTF was used to cover the Circuit Administration, understating total circuit expenditure and thereby reducing the annual assessment. Because Circuit Administration is a core circuit expense it is now shown in full in the Receipts and Payments account.


Outcome of the review

The outcome of the review is that, after designating £200,000 in identified reserves, as above, the Church currently has a Total Fund (General Fund and CMTF combined) surplus of £31,033. It is expected that this surplus will gradually diminish in future years.

Periodic Review of the Policy

This policy is to be reviewed periodically.

Andrew G Gibbs, Treasurer, 9 January 2023


1 - 3 - 2023

BLACKHEATH AND CRYSTAL PALACE CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1137991

Accounts

BLACKHEATH AND CRYSTAL PALACE CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

REGISTERED CHARITY No. 1137991

ANNUAL REPORT

for the period 1st September 2020 to 31st August 2021

Introduction

I am pleased to be able to present the Annual Report for our Methodist Circuit, and trust that you will find the contents to be of interest. The year which ended 31st August 2021 was not an easy year in the life of our churches in that Government response to the Covid epidemic, which included restrictions on public gatherings, including places of worship meant that there were periods in which our church buildings were closed. Nevertheless, the outreach and ministry of our churches continued with many acts of worship and fellowship conducted remotely, often in a virtual setting.

It is my strongly held belief that the churches of our circuit remain firm in faith and resolute in their determination to offer the Gospel message to the people of South London.

Revd Richard Grocott,
Superintendent Minister

The registered address for correspondence is:

Circuit Administrator,
Blackheath & Crystal Palace Circuit Office,
Burnt Ash Methodist Church Hall,
Burnt Ash Hill,
London, SE12 0QD

The trustees who serve the charity are those specifically appointed to positions within the circuit, those who represent each of the nine church communities, plus ministers of religion who reside within the circuit or who have served within the Methodist Church and who have retired to live in the area.

Aims and organisation

The registered objectives of the Charity for the Methodist Church:

The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been
since the Date of Union

the advancement of:

a) The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and discipline of The Methodist Church;

b) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, District, Circuit, local or other organisation of The Methodist Church;

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

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

The charity's mission statement states that

The Blackheath and Crystal Palace Circuit promotes Methodism and Christian communities by actively Empowering, Supporting, Resourcing and Encouraging its member churches to increase awareness of God's saving grace through Christ and His everlasting love.

The Charity's approach to achieving that mission is by:

- Providing the best possible resources to enable Christian worship, witness and service in each of our nine Church communities.
- Organising and resourcing regular public acts of worship open to members of the church and non-members alike.
- The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.
- Encouraging training and preparation for all aspects of church life.
- The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.
- Exercising Christian ministry throughout the community without discrimination.
- Mutually encouraging and supporting the ministry of the whole people of God.
- Fostering the Connexional spirit of Methodism within the Circuit and beyond.
- Nurturing ecumenical and other faith relationships.

Public Benefit

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

Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document for the circuit is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976)

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD).

The practical management of the charity is undertaken by a Circuit Leadership Team comprising the ministers of religion, who are each appointed initially for five years - but who may stay for longer, the circuit stewards who are appointed each year by the Circuit Meeting and the Circuit Treasurer who is also appointed annually.

The circuit was successful in satisfying all of its key responsibilities, i.e. in the provision of ministers, co-ordinating the preaching plan, maintaining the manses, monitoring the governance of each of the

nine churches, as well as supporting and encouraging each church in their mission of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. The circuit has been represented at District Synod.

Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the circuit, specifically the leaflet 'The Role of a Trustee in The Methodist Church' is available to all new Circuit meeting members via the Circuit website, as induction to their role as trustees.

The handbook 'Role of a Circuit Steward' has been made available to all Circuit Stewards.

Related Parties

The Circuit is part of the London District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The following Methodist Churches are linked to the circuit

Anerley Methodist Church
Burnt Ash Methodist church
Eltham Park Methodist Church
Forest Hill Methodist Church
Hither Green Methodist Church
Lewisham Methodist Church
Sunfields Methodist Church
Upper Norwood Methodist Church
Wesley Hall Methodist Church

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Finance and Property Committee with professional advice taken as required.

There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

Income and Expenditure is being monitored in total and is compared with the approved annual budget on a half yearly basis 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:

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults

- the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
- We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.
- We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice

The Blackheath & Crystal Palace 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 Blackheath & Crystal Palace 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.

Brief financial review of the year

Income

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment of £231,000 paid in full by the Circuit churches.

Expenditure

Expenditure in the year was £246,041.

65% Of expenditure was on stipends and the salary of the Circuit Administrator.
20% was the Circuit contribution to the District and Connexion, of which a significant part is used to fund the work of the wider Methodist Church.
The other expenditure, 15%, includes ministers' expenses and day-to-day maintenance of the manses.

Fund balances

As at 31 August 2021, the net current assets of the Circuit (including the Circuit Model Trust Fund) were £236,097 compared to £250,340 at the start of the year. This is broadly in line with projections, showing a planned and progressive reduction in Fund Balances in the future. Sufficient reserves are held to cover day-to-day expenditure, unexpected maintenance costs and to provide funding for any projects required to meet the Circuit's Mission Statement.

Plans for 2021/22

Circuit financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that there are four full time ordained staff with anticipated cost of living stipend increases.

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's gross income is less than £250,000 and so the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

Full Name of Charity: Blackheath & Crystal Palace Circuit

Registration Charity Number: 1137991

Date of registration: 1 September 2012

Main communication address: The Circuit Administrator, Burnt Ash Methodist Church Hall,
Burnt Ash Hill, London, SE12 0QD

The members of the Blackheath & Crystal Palace Methodist Circuit meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches.

Fully membership is shown as Appendix A to this report.

Active Circuit Ministers	Rev Richard Grocott Rev Rohama Asif Rev Paul Hulme Rev Alberta Konadu-Yiadom
Circuit Stewards	Dr Garry Young (Senior) Mrs Jeannette Warren Mrs Margaret Boreham Mrs Elsie Sutherland Mrs Helena Green Mr David Maxwell (Mr Andrew Gibbs from 1 September 2021)
Administrator:	Dr. Linda Ryan

Name of the circuit steward who acted as the principal officer overseeing the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the circuit during the year (treasurer) was Mr David Maxwell

Independent examiner Mr David West, 67 Heathwood Gardens, London, SE7 8ET

Investment Bankers Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church

Trustees for Methodist Church purposes

Current bank accounts HSBC and Barclays

Reserves Policy

As at 31 August 2021, the circuit had the following cash reserves:

	Balances at 31 Aug 2021
Bank accounts (General Fund)	£ 18,992
CFB account (General Fund):	£ 163,580
Circuit Model Trust Fund:	£ 53,525

The Circuit holds these reserves to:

1. Fund Ministers' stipends and associated costs, fund the circuit office and administrator, and generally administer the Circuit's affairs appropriately and diligently.
2. Maintain, on a long-term basis, the property of the Circuit (comprising four manses) and, if necessary, in exceptional circumstances, to provide grants for the maintenance of the nine churches in the Circuit. The reserves are required to cover potential shortfalls in income from the Churches and any large and unexpected costs as well as planned programmes of maintenance and improvements.
3. Provide funding to resource projects to meet the circuit's Mission Statement, as determined by the Circuit Meeting from time to time. Such projects have yet to be identified.

The intention for the year beginning 1 September 2021 is that the cost of the circuit administration is met from the Circuit Model Trust Fund and that all other expenditure is met from the General Fund.

The Circuit considers the current level of reserves to be appropriate for its needs. However, given the negative effects on Church finances of the pandemic, it is the current expectation that the combined value of the General Fund and Circuit Model Trust Fund will reduce gradually in future.

Declaration

The trustees declare that

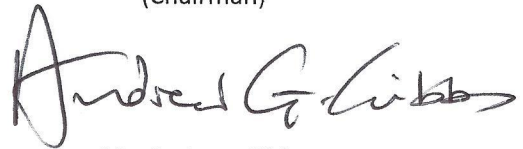
- they have understood all of the requirements associated with the submission of the annual return and all of the statements contained within it; and
- the information provided in the relevant parts of the annual return is correct and complete to the best of their knowledge and belief and has been brought to the attention of the charity trustees who have each individually verified this and given their informed express consent to this submission with full knowledge, understanding and acceptance of the contents of the privacy notice.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signatures:



Rev. Richard Grocott
(Chairman)



Mr. Andrew Gibbs
(Treasurer)

Date: 17 March 2022

APPENDIX A

Names of the trustees who managed the charity in the year 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Rev. Richard Grocott | Rev. Rohama Asif |
| Rev. Abe Konadu-Yiadom | Rev Charles ILungi |
| Mrs Jeannette Warren | Mr. David Maxwell |
| Mrs Elsie Sutherland | Dr Garry Young |
| Mrs Margaret Boreham | Mrs Helena Green |
| Mr Graham Sparkes | Mr Andrew Tredinnick |
| Mrs Marian Young | Miss Ruth Potter |
| Dr. Linda Ryan | Mrs Esme Russell-Mitra |
| Mrs Barbara Charlick | Mrs Megan Roberts |
| Mrs Marion Thompson | Ms Brenda Onatade |
| Mrs Brenda Renshaw | Ms. Janet Bartley |
| Mrs Saira Bonhan-Croft | Mrs Jessica Matumika Limba |
| Mr Peter Hewitt | Mr. Winston Fraser |
| Mrs Alecia Austin | Mr Graham Green |

Ms Cynthia Davis
Mrs Gloria Morrison
Mrs. Marjorie Boothe
Miss Maxine Yawson
Mrs Margaret Price
Mrs Rosie Dada
Miss Sandra Clifton
Mrs Judith Ward
Miss Marcia Moncrieffe
Mrs Hilary Waterhouse
Mrs Comfort Oppong

Mr Andrew Gibbs
Mrs Juliet Gibbs
Mr. Milton Boothe
Mr. Gerald Hardy
Mrs Sibongile Mnguni
Mrs Jean Taylor
Ms Sandra Floy
Mrs Valerie Tredinnick
Ms Taiwo Dayo-Payne
Mrs Mary Sparkes

BLACKHEATH & CRYSTAL PALACE CIRCUIT Reserves Policy

General Fund & Circuit Model Trust Fund

At 31 August 2021, deposits and cash totalled £236,097, as shown in the Receipts and Payments Account for the year. There was also a CFB investment held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes valued at £26,071, which was unrestricted. The Total Funds available to the Church were therefore £236,097 + £26,071 = £262,168.

Total Funds fell over the year from £272,367 at 31 August 2020, a drop of £10,199. The fall was made up of payments exceeding receipts over the year by £14,243 less capital appreciation of £4,048 on the unrestricted CFB investments.

At the year end, the unrestricted General Fund, including the CFB investment stood at £208,643 and the Circuit Model Trust Fund stood at £53,525.

Appropriate level of reserves

General Fund reserve levels are listed below. They amount to £200,000.

Identified Reserves

District Assessment Reserve (£50,000)

The Circuit has an obligation to meet the annual District assessment, not only for the current year (to 31 August 2022) but also by forward agreement for the year to 31 August 2023. This commitment helps to ensure the orderly operation of the whole Methodist District. The assessment for the year 2021/22 is £47,024. The assessment for 2022/23 is expected to be the same. A reserve of £50,000 is set to cover the equivalent of one year's assessment.

Cash Flow Reserve (£100,000)

An operational reserve, of approximately 50% of annual cash flow, is required to ensure smooth and crisis free operation of the Circuit's finances and guarantee the payment of ministerial stipends as they fall due. Annual expenditure is c.£200,000, excluding the District assessment which is covered by the reserve in the paragraph above. Accordingly at 50% of £200,000, the cash flow reserve is set at £100,000.

Manse Repair Reserve (£40,000)

There is a regular programme of work to maintain the Circuit's four manses within the framework of quinquennial inspections. This is recovered chiefly within the annual Circuit budget. It is recognised, as a precaution against unforeseen eventualities, that a reserve of, say, £40,000 is also needed to ensure that proper and adequate provision of ministerial housing.

Pandemic Contingency Reserve (£10,000)

The Circuit has initiated a contingency fund composed of sums promised by the circuit Churches. A reserve of £10,000 is proposed as a contribution from Circuit funds, should it be required.

Circuit Model Trust Fund

There are limited purposes for which, under standing orders, the Circuit Model Trust Fund may be used. For a number of years it has been, and up until 31 August 2022 it will be, used to cover the Circuit Administration. It is now timely to consider alternative ways in which the Fund may be deployed after 1 September 2022.

Outcome of the review

The outcome of the review is that, after designating £200,000 in identified reserves, as above, the Church currently has a General Fund surplus of £8,643, which is budgeted to be used up in the current year.

Periodic Review of the Policy

This policy is to be reviewed periodically.



Andrew G Gibbs, Treasurer

21 January 2022



17. 3. 2022